

Liskeard Town Council

AT A SPECIAL MEETING of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Emily Hobhouse Room on Monday 21st August 2023 at 7.30 p.m. there were included:

The Mayor - Councillor Simon Cassidy

Councillors – David Braithwaite, Rachel Brooks, Nick Craker, Ian Goldsworthy, Lori Reid, Julian Smith and Naomi Taylor.

Town Clerk – Stephen Vinson

Facilities Manager – Jacqui Orange

Member of the Public – Charlotte Kelshall - (Architectural Interior Designer / Le Page Architects – see agenda item 7).

177 / 23 **APOLOGIES** – Councillors David Ambler, Kerry Cassidy, Richard Dorling, Annette Lee-Julian, Jane Pascoe, and Tony Powell.

178 / 23 **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS’ INTERESTS REGISTERABLE AND NON-REGISTERABLE** – None.

179 / 23 **MAYOR’S REMARKS** – The Mayor updated on some of his recent engagements.

- 12th August – The Mayor attended and supported the Scouts Summer Fayre at Castle Park which was unfortunately adversely affected by the weather.
- 13th August – The Mayor had led the wreath laying at the War Memorial to mark VJ Day.
- 20th August - The Mayor together with former members of the Rifles had at the Liskeard Royal British Legion (RBL) marked the 35 years since the Ballygawley bus bombing.

The Mayor indicated and the Council were in agreement that the report and discussion and consideration be in open session with PARTII used only if necessary.

180 / 23 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – No members of the public other than Charlotte Kelshall Architectural Interior Designer / Le Page Architects).

181 / 23 **PHASE 2 REFURBISHMENT OF THE PUBLIC HALL (REFERRED FROM 8TH AUGUST 2023 FACILITIES COMMITTEE)** – **To receive the architect’s report and consider the feedback on possible value engineering of the specification and advice on the VAT situation. To consider the letting income and reserves situation and make a decision within the overall context of the operation of the Public Hall.** – The architect’s report had first been considered by the Facilities Committee. The lowest tender was more than the Project Budget (£41,000). A number of Councillors inspected the current facilities with the Facilities Manager and Charlotte Kelshall (Architectural Interior Designer / Le Page Architects) to consider the condition and operation of the facilities as is and consider the possible improvements.

During the discussions and considerations it was observed:

- Facilities – appeared not to have been substantially improved for 30 years+
- Reactive Repairs – were an expensive way to deal with things and disruptive for the hirers.

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- Public Hall Phase 1 Upgrade – raised the quality of some of the buildings. This makes the unimproved parts look more dated. Phase 2 will prompt the need for other improvements in for example, in the Public Hall and Mayors’ Parlour / Members’ Room.
- Reserves – whilst held for occasions such as, this would need to added to as so as to retain the ability to intervene in the future.
- Other Works Also Needed – for example, the dry rot remediation of the Members Room.
- Works – planned for a quieter time to help reduce disruption.

Following consideration of the reports and mindful of the discussion, Councillor Smith proposed, Councillor Braithwaite seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the recommendation of the Architects’ Report that the Council **ACCEPT** the lowest tender (A C Worth) and proceed with the contract. This to be covered financially as per the Town Clerk’s report recommendations and proposals made in the discussion.

NB: that given the VAT advice had not been finalized that the amount taken from the Property and General Reserves should cover the amount of VAT that might not be able to be reclaimed.

- £41,000 – Facilities Committee Public Hall Project Budget.
- £5,000 – Value Engineer Reduction.
- £20,000 – Facilities Committee – Booking Income Uplift (current year).
- £5,000 – Facilities Committee – Property Reserve
- Up to £8,000 – General Reserve – (if 33% £4,346 – not reclaimable)

182 / 23 **CORRESPONDENCE** – None.

183 / 23 **DATE OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING** – 29th August 2023 at 7.30 pm