

**WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL – TOWN AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2010**

TF103/09 Present: Cllr A Clamp (Chairman), Cllrs K Frith, D Haspel, A Pollock, I Ratcliffe, M Ratcliffe. In attendance – Cllrs F Bark, S Maskrey; Mrs J Walls (Town Clerk).

TF104/09 Apologies: Cllr C Whittall.

TF105/09 Members' Interests in Agenda Items:

The following interests were declared:

<i>Cllr</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Personal/ Prejudicial</i>	<i>Reason if any</i>
A Pollock	7	Prejudicial	Event involvement
D Haspel M Ratcliffe	12	Personal	
A Clamp	14	Personal	

TF106/09 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of the Town and Finance Committee dated 11 January 2010 were confirmed as a correct record.

TF107/09 Monthly Balance Sheet & Bank Reconciliation:

The monthly balance sheet and bank reconciliation was circulated for information.

RECOMM: That this be noted.

TF108/09 Monthly Budget Balance:

The monthly budget balance was circulated for information.

RECOMM: That this be noted.

TF109/09 Planning & Environment Recommendations to Full Council:

None submitted.

TF110/09 Request for concessionary lettings at Town Hall/Memorial Hall:

A request had been received for approximately 16 concessionary lettings of accommodation in either the Town Hall or Memorial Hall, for rehearsals for a planned performance of Midsummer Night's Dream in Stoney Wood. It was reported that any profits made would go to the Stoney Wood Group.

Cllr A Pollock had declared a prejudicial interest, and left the meeting. Cllrs discussed the matter and agreed to grant the concessionary lettings, subject to conditions.

RECOMM: That the concessionary lettings be granted, but that if a booking for the Main Hall is received, the performance group relocates to an alternative available space.

Cllr Pollock returned to the Council Chamber

TF111/09 Town Hall/Memorial Hall Improvements – Update:

It was reported that the Chair was now in a position to redraw the capital plan, in the light of quotations received, and it was hoped that this could be circulated at the next full Council meeting. The plan reveals an available sum of £35,000 (£15,000 of which is grant funding) for the first stage of improvements to the Main Hall. This figure covers the provision of modular staging, to 7 metres; complete curtaining (black box effect) to the Main Hall, plus 3 curtains to stage (backdrop, intermediate and front); roof structure to include 4 lighting bars and wiring. Further quotations are being sought for other work itemised on the capital plan, including the kitchen refurbishment.

RECOMM: That the expenditure of £35,000 as itemised above, be authorised, and the appropriate quotations accepted.

TF112/09 Briefing Paper – Wirksworth Children’s Centre:

A briefing paper had been received relating to the Wirksworth Children’s Centre, giving details of the service provided, and making reference to the lease of the Memorial Hall. A discussion took place on this, and the Clerk advised that the DCC Valuation Office was seeking a meeting with Town Council representatives, in order to discuss the proposed lease. A date had been proposed for the meeting, and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor would attend, together with the Clerk.

RECOMM:

- a) That the paper be noted, and negotiations with DCC be authorised for the lease of the Memorial Hall;
- b) That a request be made for a Town Council representative to be appointed to the Advisory Group being set up to support the governance and performance of the Centre;
- c) That a rental value be sought from a local estate agent, prior to the meeting with DCC officers.

TF113/09 Tenancies – Update:

It was reported that the current tenants were voluntarily relocating from the Memorial Hall upper floor at the end of March.

RECOMM: That the report be noted.

TF114/09 Memorial Hall Radon Eradication – Cost of Sump Pump:

Members were reminded that following the installation of radon monitors in the Memorial Hall, DCC advised that remedial work was required, to reduce the level of radon recorded. DCC had therefore been asked for advice on the best way forward with this work, and a specification had been drawn up by DCC for radon

eradication works. DCC had also sought a quotation from a local contractor, in the sum of £6250 plus VAT.

RECOMM: That DCC be asked to obtain two further quotations, and that the Mayor, Deputy and Chair of Committee be authorised to consider these documents, and accept the most suitable tender.

TF115/09 Future of Christmas Lights:

Cllrs Haspel and M Ratcliffe had circulated an overview and recommended annual programme in relation to the Christmas lights scheme. Cllr Haspel gave details of the present financial position, and said there was currently a shortfall of £39. Discussions took place on the best way forward, as there were other events in the town, including the Scarecrow Festival, which would need to be managed. However, it was suggested that the Christmas lights scheme should remain under the control of the Town Council.

RECOMM:

- a) That Cllrs Haspel and M Ratcliffe be thanked for all the hard work they have put into the Christmas lights scheme over past years;
- b) That the Town Council meets the shortfall of £39;
- c) That the Christmas lights scheme remains under the Town Council's control to ensure health & safety and financial regulations are implemented;
- d) That Cllr Clamp asks New Opportunities for Wirksworth whether they might wish to head a committee of interested parties - NOW, Rotary, traders – to take forward town promotion projects including the Scarecrow Festival.

TF116/09 Request for Financial Support – Windproof Lantern for Peace Ceremony:

Cllr I Ratcliffe drew attention to the problems currently being experienced with the present candle holders used at the Peace Ceremony. She asked if the Town Council could consider funding the purchase of a windproof lantern, for use at future Peace Ceremonies.

RECOMM: That £100 be authorised for the purchase of a windproof lantern for use by the Town Council at the Peace Ceremony and other suitable events.

TF117/09 New Opportunities for Wirksworth:

Cllr Clamp reported that with the loss of the concessionary lease of an office at the Memorial Hall, NOW were losing their address. A request had therefore been received seeking authority to use the Town Hall as a registered address for the company.

RECOMM: That the Town Council agrees to this request.

TF118/09 Outdoor Music in Wirksworth - application for Entertainment Licence for Outdoor Events (to include Memorial Gardens and Stoney Wood):

A request had been received from Outdoor Music in Wirksworth to include the Memorial Gardens and Stoney Wood in their list of venues when seeking an Entertainment Licence for Outdoor Events. Restrictions had been applied to ensure suitable use of the venues.

RECOMM: That no objections be raised to this request.

TF119/09 Open Gardens 2010 – Request for Financial Support:

A request had been received for financial support to assist with the setting up of an Open Gardens Group in the town. It was hoped that once this group has been established, further financial assistance will not be necessary.

RECOMM: That a donation of £100 be granted to the Open Gardens Group to assist with setting up costs.

TF120/09 Wyvern Rail – Incident Management Plan:

A copy of Wyvern Rail’s Incident Management Plan had been circulated to relevant statutory organisations, including the Town Council.

RECOMM:

- a) That this document be placed on the appropriate file for future reference;
- b) That the specimen emergency plan provided by DCC be completed on behalf of the Town Council;
- c) That Cllrs be issued with emergency contact numbers of relevant staff members.

The meeting closed at 7.55 p.m

.....Chairman