

**WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL – TOWN AND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MONDAY 20 APRIL 2009**

**TF164/08 Present:** Cllr A Clamp (Chairman), Cllrs F Bark, K Frith, D Haspel, I Ratcliffe, M Ratcliffe. In attendance – Cllr A Pollock, Mrs J Walls (Town Clerk).

**TF165/08 Apologies:** Cllr C Whittall.

**TF166/08 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 Clamp A Pollock	11 – Depot	Personal	Glee Club Members

**TF167/08 Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of the Town and Finance Committee dated 9 March 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

**TF168/08 Monthly Balance Sheet & Bank Reconciliation:**

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

**RECOMM:** That this be noted.

**TF169/08 Monthly Budget Balance:**

The monthly budget balance was circulated for information.

**RECOMM:** That this be noted and the Clerk be asked to redraw the budget, in the light of over/under spends in the year 2008-9.

**TF170/08 Twinning – Financial Support for Receptions:**

Cllr M Ratcliffe advised that two Mayoral receptions would be held, for visitors from Die and Frankenau, and a request was therefore being made for a donation from the Town Council for each of the receptions. A discussion took place on this matter, and it was felt that the Council should support these receptions.

**RECOMM:** That £100 be donated to each reception.

**TF171/08 Town Hall/Memorial Hall Improvements – Update:**

A copy of the current Action List was circulated (attached) for information and confirmation of recommended action. The sub group have sought expressions of interest in project management and recommend that a project manager be appointed for the proposed improvements.

**RECOMM:** That the sub group's recommendations be accepted.

**TF172/08 Request from potential tenant of therapy rooms to remove internal wall:**

The Clerk reported that interest had been expressed in the therapy rooms, with a view to taking a lease from 1 May. However, the prospective tenant had requested permission to remove the dividing wall at the rear of the premises, in order to expand the therapy room. The Mayor had inspected the premises and agreed that removal of the dividing wall would cause no problems.

**RECOMM:** That the work proceeds.

**TF173/08 Poster Display Stand:**

Cllr I Ratcliffe had proposed that the Town Council may wish to invest in freestanding poster display stands, for the foyer and top landing, which can then be used to promote functions, etc. Cllr Haspel advised that the Rotary Club had two new stands which were currently surplus to requirements, and suggested that the Town Council may wish to borrow them to see if they fitted the purpose.

**RECOMM:** That the Council accepts the offer of a loan of the boards, to use on a trial basis.

**TF174/08 Internal Clock for Town Hall:**

Cllr M Ratcliffe pointed out that there was no internal clock in the Town Hall, and suggested the Town Council might like to provide one, to be sited on the top landing. Prices had been obtained for suitable clocks, and a discussion took place on this matter. It was felt that whilst the provision of two clocks, in the Main Hall and Club Room, would be beneficial, the prices were rather high.

**RECOMM:** That the Clerk be authorised to purchase two suitable clocks, at a maximum cost of £50 for both clocks.

**TF175/08 Depot, Town Hall Yard:**

Cllr I Ratcliffe drew attention to the poor state of repair of the Depot, currently leased by the Glee Club, and felt that the premises should be refurbished, with a view to them then being used as community arts/theatrical space. Cllrs discussed this matter, and it was agreed that some refurbishment is necessary. It was felt that until refurbishments had been completed, the annual rental for the Depot should be reduced.

**RECOMM:** That refurbishment of the Depot be included in the Town Hall improvements scheme (together with a Type 3 asbestos survey), and that in the meantime, the annual rental be reduced by 50% from 1 April 2009.

**TF176/08 Regular Review and Retendering of Open Contracts:**

Cllr Haspel raised the question of reviewing open contracts on a regular basis, to ensure competitive prices are obtained. The Clerk drew attention to the scheme already in progress whereby several contracts are placed via the County Council,

who have a procurement department that negotiates best value contracts. A discussion took place on this matter, and the need to ensure good service was not lost in the pursuit of lower prices.

**RECOMM:** That the DCC negotiated contracts represent best value, but the Clerk reviews two non-DCC open contracts each year, on a rolling programme.

**TF177/08 Malicious Damage at Memorial Hall:**

Members were advised that malicious damage had been caused at the Memorial Hall at the end of last month, when a member of the public had gained access to the roof, and had thrown a considerable number of tiles from the roof. Some tiles had penetrated the roof space also, and caused damage to the ceiling on the upper floor of the Memorial Hall, and some damage had also been caused to the electrical supply to the building. Cllrs Clamp, Maskrey and Pollock had attended at the time of the incident, to offer assistance where possible, and the Clerk had contacted a local contractor to assess the situation with regard to making-safe for the night.

**RECOMM:** That the information be noted.

**TF178/08 External Electrical Socket, Memorial Hall:**

Quotations had now been received for the provision of a further external electrical socket at the front of the Memorial Hall. However, the Clerk was unsure as to whether the contractors had tendered to the same specification, as the content of the quotations was rather technical.

**RECOMM:** That subject to the tenders reflecting the same specification, the lower tender be accepted.

**TF179/08 Waltham House Railings:**

Cllr I Ratcliffe advised that it was proposed to replace the railings at the front of Waltham House, and asked whether the Town Council would submit the planning application on behalf of Housing 21. However, the Clerk had felt unsure as to whether the Town Council had the power to do this, and had therefore taken advice from DALC, who advised against the Council making the application on behalf of Housing 21. A discussion took place on this matter, and it was

**RECOMM:** That the Town Council are happy to put their name to the application, but will not meet the cost of the application.

*Cllr K Frith left the meeting at 7.45 pm*

**TF180/08 Retailer Training:**

Cllr Clamp reported on retailer training courses to be run this year for independent business. She felt that it would be useful to invite the DCC representative along to either the Annual Towns Meeting or the Annual Council meeting, to expand on this scheme, and local traders be invited to attend.

**RECOMM:** That the Clerk invites the DCC representative to one of the May meetings.

**TF181/08 Town Council Targets – Update:**

Cllr M Ratcliffe asked that this matter be deferred, as he hoped to have a full discussion on this matter at the Council meeting next week.

**RECOMM:** That this matter be deferred.

*The meeting closed at 7.55 p.m*

.....Chairman