



# WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

### MEETING HELD AT 9.30AM ON 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2022 IN THE DEIGHTON ROOM, WETHERBY TOWN HALL

**Present:**

- Cllr P Bradley
- Cllr H Chapman
- Cllr D Frame
- Cllr R V Hawkins

**In Attendance:**

- Margaret Holmes (Deputy Town Clerk)
- Barry Riley (Acting Clerk)
- Cllr C Mulhall (for Item 12)

Councillor Chapman was appointed Chair for the meeting in the absence of Councillor Payne.

1. **Declarations of interests and requests for dispensations** - None.
2. **Apologies.**  
Apologies and reasons for absence were received and accepted from Councillors G Moss and D Payne.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.**  
The minutes of the last meeting, held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were **RECEIVED**.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes** – None.
5. **Bath House.**
  - a) The final design of the Bath House window was **NOTED**. It was confirmed that an order for the new windows had been placed.
  - b) The amended design for the railings of the Plunge Pool was considered. Following discussion it was agreed that health and safety considerations should be the priority and Option 1 was the preferred option, the railings to be in matt stainless steel if approved.
6. **Town Hall.**
  - a) **Repairs**
    - i) The Minutes of the Pre-Start Meeting held on 11/11/21 were **NOTED** and **RECEIVED**.
    - ii) The Acting Clerk confirmed that following a delay due to the LCC Conservation Officer contracting covid, the stone has now been approved and the Conditions discharged. The stone has been delivered to the contractors and is being prepared off-site to minimize the noise and dust around the Town Hall. Work on the roof has been completed and work has been undertaken on the windows, the joinery and gutters. So far as the timetable of work is concerned, the priority is for the scaffolding to be removed in time for the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. Some of the render has been removed from the walls and the stonework underneath was found to be in good order. This would result in a cost saving of approximately £20,000. Consideration should be given as to whether to ask other work to be undertaken by the contractors or the savings be retained, perhaps to fund other projects. During the recent service of the Town Hall clock it had been noted that some of the stonework around the front clock was in a poor condition. It was **AGREED** that a recommendation be made that the making good of the stonework around the clock be added to the contract (subject to satisfactory costings).
  - b) **WiFi**  
The offer from Touch Telecom to improve free of charge the internet access in the rooms of the Town Hall hired to the public was considered and **APPROVED** subject to

their being no work undertaken that would require Listed Building Consent. It was also **AGREED** that Touch Telecom be allowed to display a sign giving details of the WiFi log-in details and that the WiFi had been supplied by them.

**7. Garden of Rest**

**a) Old Man's Parliament.**

A request had been received from the Old Man's Parliament asking a one of the existing windows in the Whittaker Shelter be replaced to allow it to be opened. This had been considered by Full Council in February and it was agreed that it should be reviewed in the summer. The meeting endorsed this decision.

**b) Benches.**

A number of the commemorative benches in the Garden of Rest were in a state of Disrepair. Following discussion, it was **AGREED** that the families of those commemorated on the benches should be traced where possible and informed of the need for the benches to be replaced. They should be offered the opportunity of donating money towards a new bench. If there was space for additional benches after this exercise was concluded, the Deputy Clerk had names of members of the public who may be interested in donating money towards commemorative benches in this area. The new benches should conform to the existing metal benches in the town centre. It was requested that this item be added to the Property budget.

**8. Building Valuations.**

The Report from Barrett Corp & Harrington dated 30/09/21 was **NOTED** and **RECEIVED**.

**9. Property Issue Log.**

The Property Issue Log was **NOTED**.

**10. No Mow May.**

The Deputy Clerk outlined the purpose of this national initiative, ie to leave grass unmown during the month of May to encourage bio-diversity, pollinators, etc. The Deputy Clerk had spoken to the grass-cutting contractor who had said that if this policy was adopted it would take at least 2 months for the grass to get back to its normal state. The grass in the green space areas was community grass and would not encourage bio-diversity. After some consideration, it was **AGREED** that the Council should not adopt the No Mow May initiative in the green space areas but that it be drawn to the attention of members at the next meeting of full Council in case individuals would wish to support the initiative.

**11. War Memorial.**

It has been suggested that the War Memorial should be cleaned to commemorate the centenary of its dedication. The Acting Clerk reported that he had applied for a Grant from the War Memorial Trust towards the cost of cleaning the War Memorial. The Grant would cover 50% of the cost of cleaning but would not cover the cost of a road closure order obtaining permission for work on a Listed Building in a Conservation Order – the costs of which would amount to c£8,000. There was no money in the budget to support this.

The President of the Wetherby Branch of the Royal British Legion, Edna Hilditch, had suggested a re-dedication service of the War Memorial immediately prior to the Act of Remembrance in November 2022.

It was **AGREED** to support the suggestion of a re-dedication of the War Memorial as an appropriate commemoration of its centenary.

**12. Land at Walton Road** (This item was taken after Item 6 to accommodate Cllr Mulhall.)

Cllr Mulhall informed the meeting that the Wharfedale Rotary and the Boston Spa & Wetherby Green Group had offered to provide a tree to be planted to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was **AGREED** that an Oak tree be approved for planting on this site. The tree would need to be near Walton Road to allow access of the grass cutter.

An appropriate cage will be provided by the Wharfedale Rotary and Boston Spa & Wetherby Green Group if it advised by the supplier.

It was **AGREED** that Wharfedale Rotary be allowed to provide a commemorative plaque available from the Royal British Legion.

Councillor Mulhall was thanked for attending and helping to arrange the commemorative tree.

**13. Items for information - None**

The meeting closed at 10.45am .

These minutes were recorded and prepared by Margaret Holmes, Deputy Town Clerk.