

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE.

Committee Members present:

Councillors S Hayes (Chairman), S Buck, M Cooper, S Dhaliwal, D Matthews, J Smith, J Talbot

Also present:

E. Payne, Town Clerk, Ms C. Jenkins, Assistant Clerk

31/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor B Saunders.

32/23 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Councillor Hayes expressed an interest for item 5. He is now treasurer elect of the charity. Members were reminded that if at any time during the meeting they feel they have an interest in an item being discussed, they should declare it at that point.

33/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

34/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Buildings Management Committee meeting held on 19th July 2023 are confirmed as a correct record.

35/23 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

- Members received a request from the Need Project to temporarily use the Oak Hall for storage of their approx. 120 Christmas food parcels. Their normal location has been double booked this year.

RESOLVED: the Need Project will be given access to the Oak Hall free of charge to store their Christmas Food parcels for the public. Members saw this as not a hire of the hall, but a free of charge charitable donation to the project. The Need Project would be asked to check if their insurance covers their storage in the Oak Hall. The Town Council's insurance will also be checked if storage is covered. The Need project will be asked to use the kitchen entrance to the building. There would also be no public drop off or pick up.

It was also noted that this facility would be a one off facility for this year, as the Library move will be in place next year.

- Members received a request from Just Out Youth Centre to hire the Maple Room at the Greenacre Centre. Their normal location of the Roecroft Centre is closing due to renovations. The group have requested a special concessionary charge of £25.00 per session that they usually pay at the Roecroft centre, rather than the £17.00 per hour hiring fee for the Maple Room.

RESOLVED members agreed to a concessionary hire rate of £25.00 per session for the Just Out Youth Centre to match their hiring fee at the Roecroft Centre.

36/23 UPDATE ON ENERGY SUPPLY/COSTS

Members were updated on the Town Councils energy costs. We are advised of current rates of Gas and Electricity by Utility Aid. Seven of the Council's utility accounts are currently in need of renewal. Members felt that due to the current changes in tariffs for energy, a fixed 1 year contract would be a better option, to be reviewed in 1 year.

Utility Aid has quoted a total of £28,953 for a 1-year fixed contract.

A 2nd quotation has been sourced from another company of £34,400.

RESOLVED that the quotation from Utility Aid of £28,953 for a 1 year fixed contract be agreed. Gas contract will be with Crown Energy. Electric Contract will be with SSE.

37/23 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

- Stotfold Library Move – currently not on the list to be discussed at Development Management Committee of 18th October. The Application is also showing “undecided” online. There is a further discussion meeting being held on 4th October. Councillor Hayes thanked everyone involved in this community project for their help.
- It was also noted that the surface of the road leading into the Memorial Hall car park was breaking up in places. It was also noted that the electricity supply to the vehicle chargers in the car park had not yet been connected. The electric source will be taken from Hitchin Road and fed to the car park, meaning that the road surface will have to be dug up at some point.

Members agreed to patch any areas in the surface for the immediate future, until the road itself is dug up for the main electric work, then resurfaced.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.50pm.

MINUTES APPROVED (date):

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: