

Minutes of the Assets Management Committee
Held at the Civic Hall, Uppermill on Monday 12th September 2022

There were present: Cllr. G. Sheldon – Chairman
 Cllr. P. Lord
 Cllr. P. Byrne
 Cllr. D. Simpson
 Cllr. L. Dawson
 Mr. W. Lawton – Assets Manager
 Mrs. K. Allott - Clerk

605. Apologies for Absence – Cllr. B Beeley, Cllr. M Woodvine.

606. Declarations of Interest – None declared.

607. Minutes of the meeting held on 16th August 2022

The Minutes were agreed as a true record and signed at the meeting by the Chairman.

608. Dawson’s Field – update

The Chair asked the Clerk for an update. She advised that she had spoken to David Needham who was the organiser of the event in question; and he was happy to speak to the lady who sprained her ankle. He said he had already been in touch with his insurers in case there was a claim made. The following week the Parish Council received a claim for damages from Ms Thomason via Express Solicitors. This has now been forwarded onto our insurer Zurich, with all the details know of the incident and they are now dealing with it. Express Solicitors have also received a receipt acknowledgment from the Clerk.

609. Noise Nuisance – Civic Hall

Mr Lawton said that there hadn’t been any contentious evening bookings since the last meeting. The Clerk and Mr Lawton advised about the complaint received from the next door neighbours about the Zumba class held Tuesday mornings and the measures we have taken to mitigate going forward; turning down the volume and bass, shutting the curtains etc and they believe the noise should not be an issue going forward.

There was more discussion regarding the bookings that have caused issues with the neighbours.

Concerns were raised over the big bookings with the DJs often not starting their turn until 10pm.

Cllr Byrne said she thought the loud music should end at 11pm latest. Cllr Simpson also noted that at one of the events it was an exceptionally warm evening so people were constantly going outside to try and cool down which exacerbated the noise.

There was some discussion regarding this but the final consensus was that we recommend not to take these bookings going forward, and we will take this for approval at full council.

610. Future Bookings

Mr Lawton asked about the two bookings already taken over the Christmas period; a 60th birthday party 29th December and a concert on New Year’s Eve. It is currently under our booking conditions that the Civic Hall does not open over the Christmas period as we have a full shut down. There was some discussion around this and the consensus was that if it is a good money earner, we should be taking these bookings. So these two bookings will go ahead as Mr Lawton said he was happy to attend. The point was raised about lone working and the Clerk advised that if there wasn’t already a lone working policy in place, she would ensure this was done. **Action:The Clerk.**

Cllr Sheldon said it was up to the new Clerk and the Asset Manager to tighten up on booking deposits and payments. **Action:The Clerk.** This will also be addressed by the Task & Finish Group.

611. Civic Hall Charges – review

Mr Lawton advised that he believed Saddleworth Singers had this year booked Friezland Hall as it was cheaper than the price they had been quoted for the Civic Hall.

There was some discussion around this – at the last meeting a Task and Finish Group had been set up to look into it in more detail. Now the new Clerk has joined us it can move forward and a meeting of this group was arranged for Thursday morning at 10.30am (*post meeting note time of meeting moved to*

12noon to accommodate earlier Strategic Planning meeting). Cllr Simpson offered to bring a list of booking comparisons from other sites to the Task & Finish meeting.

Action: Task & Finish Group

612. Energy Usage – update

Cllr Sheldon advised he has been asked to feed back to the Finance Committee of any savings we can make on energy costs. There was some discussion around switching to LED lighting and about turning down the thermostat wherever possible. Different rooms are already on zones. The Clerk advised that in her experience it wouldn't be worthwhile moving to LED lighting unless the existing lights were at the end of their lifespan as they are very expensive to install and it would take years to recoup the cost savings. Cllr Dawson mentioned HIVE and whether it could be used by the Parish Council to monitor the spend on energy.

Cllr Byrne mentioned the 'warm space' initiative. We have been asked by Churches Together in Saddleworth whether it's something we would be able to support. The Clerk said that during office hours we are also heating the Council Chamber next door so we could offer this space at no extra cost to us. There was some discussion around offering tea/coffee and the health & safety issues around that. There was some discussion around installing a coffee machine in the foyer like we used to have before and asked the Clerk to look into it. **Action:the Clerk**

Cllr Sheldon said that as Uppermill was also offering the library and Church for a warm space the Civic Hall may not be needed, but we are able to help if needs be.

613. Allotments and waiting list

We have 27 people on the waiting list for an allotment garden. Cllr Sheldon would like to extend our plots into the adjoining field. There was some discussion around this and everybody agreed it was a good idea. Following this meeting the action needs approval at SPC full council, and then we can discuss at the next AM meeting and proceed with OMBC planning.

614. Any Other Business

Cllr Byrne asked whether we could have some discussion around updating the Civic Hall and there was some discussion around this. Everyone agreed it needed updating as it was dark, unwelcoming and very worn in places.

The Committee agreed for us to get 3 quotes for updating the entrance, the stairs and bar area, plus the Council Chambers. Suggested companies to go to: Steven Walton, Craig Lees and Ernest Watkins. Plus 3 local flooring companies.

It was agreed that Cllr Byrne and Cllr Simpson would get together to discuss ideas for the soft furnishing.

The meeting finished at 11.40am.

615. Date and time of next meeting – Monday 14th November 2022 at 10.30am