

## Minutes of Estates Meeting held Remotely 19 July 2021

There were present Cllrs: G. Sheldon (Chairman)  
P. Lord (Vice Chairman)  
B. Beeley L. Dawson  
R. Knotts M. Woodvine  
W. Lawton (Assets Manager)

**578. Apologies for absence Cllr. D. Simpson**

**579. Declarations of interest – None**

**580. Approval of Minutes 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Proposed, Seconded and APPROVED**

**581 Roofing** – This item was referred to the report by the Assets Manager

**582. Alternative Energy**

Cllr Knotts outlined two methods of alternative energy that were currently being looked into One through heat pumps extracting heat from water and from air. This method is effective and quite costly, albeit Government grants are available for households. We need to check with NALC to see if grants are available for public buildings. Additional costs will be incurred in replacing radiators, larger ones are needed. The other method is Hydrogen which is not cheap to produce but could be pumped through existing gas piping. Both these methods are some way off as yet being put into general use, but are being tested to calculate the effectiveness of reducing the carbon footprint. Costings will be prepared (eg: current usage in normal times with North Sea Gas and the estimated cost of Hydrogen and the costs involved in converting the boiler.

**583. Phone Boxes, Milestones and Gas Lamps**

Members discussed the various uses of the red telephone boxes currently owned by the Parish Council.. Suggestions from planters, mini libraries and even an ATM were discussed and it was suggested that these could be donated to local communities for local projects.

Maintenance of local milestones were discussed by Committee and agreed that these were the responsibility of Oldham Highways, being part of Oldham's assets and not the Parish. It was agreed that information would be obtained as to whether or not these milestones were 'Listed'

The maintenance of the remaining gas lamps in Saddleworth was discussed and Cllr. Byrne said that she would look into the situation.as most of these were in her Ward

**584. Update on Signage**

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting

**585. Report by Mr. Wayne Lawton (Assets Manager)**

a) Civic Hall Chairs – Repair/Replacement costs

Members were informed that some of the chairs in the Civic Hall are badly in need of repair.

Quotes had been obtained for the recovering of the chairs and also for the purchase of 300 new chairs, costings of which could be offset by the sale of the existing chairs.

Replacement costs: Possible sale of existing chairs @ £7.50 each = £2,100.00

To re-cover existing chairs (300 @ £15.00 each) £4,500.00

To buy brand new chairs (300 @ £25.00 each) £7,500.00

b) Update on Cemetery

It was reported that one particular grave has encroached over the permitted limit of 3ft from the headstone. The Clerk to write to the owners of the grave and ask them to reduce the size in accordance with cemetery regulations. The row of memorial stones at the entrance to the cemetery has room to be extended. A quotation of £490 had been given for the replacement of the cemetery gate with a farmers gate. **The Committee agreed to approve this quotation.** Grids in the cemetery need looking at and the remnants of a bench (metal posts) need to be removed as they are a trip hazard.

b) Roof work expenditure

The Insurance company had sent up a drone to assess the damage on the Civic Hall Roof. They would not accept that this was due to storm damage. Repairs were in progress, but a new problem had been found that could be the cause of damp seeping into the ballroom., Lead soakers had been inserted into the brickwork, which had doubled the initial cost to **£4290.00, (£3575.00 plus £715.00 VAT)**, but this work was vital to prevent any future work needed. **This was APPROVED by Committee.** Whilst this work was in progress a large active wasp nest was found which needed immediate removal before work could continue. This was removed at a cost of £180.00.

d) Replacement of footpath flags at front of Civic Hall. = This work has now been completed.

e) Potential future repairs

Wayne gave a brief slideshow of repairs that needed attention., Whilst these were not urgent, they would need attention sometime in the future.

The garage door

The Boiler House door

The wall at the back of the offices was leaning –wall supporting car park

The banisters to the flat roof at the front of the building

The fascia at the front of the building

Costings will be obtained for the repair of these items to be repaired and given at the next meeting

f) Dawson's Field/Land opposite the Three Crowns, Austerlands

Some of the dry stone wall around Dawson's Field was in need of repair. A price of £250 had been quoted initially to tidy up the piece of land opposite the Three Crowns, Austerlands, and then £80.00 per visit to cut the grass, and £30.00 per visit to cut Dawson's Field. A price had been quoted of £110.00 to cut the grass on the land opposite The Three Crowns and Dawson's Field.

**This was APPROVED by Committee**

It was reported that the fencing around this piece of land was in need of urgent repair, but this was a Highways responsibility and Cllr. Byrne agreed to report this to Oldham

g) Allotments

The cost for one strim of the paths etc. on the Allotment site would be £200.00. This would be payable through the Allotment Fees

**586. Greater Manchester Statement of Principles under the Gaming Act 2005.  
Consultation Document July 2021**

It was reported to the meeting that this Document had been studied but it's content wasn't relevant to events at the Civic Hall

A statue had been donated to the Parish Council by a local resident. This was quite a large statue and discussion took place as to where this could be situated. This item was a piece of modern art and was probably quite valuable. The committee accepted the donation and the weight, value, dimensions and site of the item to be discussed at the next meeting.

A portrait of 'The Grey Lady' that once hung in the Chairman's room was currently being kept by Mr. Mike Buckley. who was anxious to return this to the Civic Hall. It was agreed that this should be returned