

## Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Malmesbury on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2007 at 6pm.

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**PRESENT:** His Worship the Mayor, Councillor J R Lawton  
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor A C R Woodcock  
Councillors: W G Blake, J A Bowen, S Cox, Mrs A L Davis, Miss E A Davis  
Mrs C C Doody, P J Goldstone, S Killane, J E F Poole,  
R F Sanderson, M H Snell, and C M Vernon

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors B Denley, M J Thomas.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Three members of the public.

Prayers were offered by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor A C R Woodcock

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mr R Griffin from Friends of Athelstan Museum enquired if Councillors had received a letter about the financial situation of the organisation and were aware of the current situation.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Mrs C C Doody and C M Vernon declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item No. 3.

22. The Town Clerk presented his report on the financing of the Town Hall Project and explained the action taken by the Project Board and Professional Team since opening the tenders for the refurbishment work. Clarification was provided by the Professional Team about how the lowest tender had been reduced during negotiation to achieve a contract price within the previously agreed budget. The Town Clerk advised members of the Town Council that it would be necessary to use the borrowing approval for an additional £150,000, at least until such time as the section 106 funding had been received. It was explained that whilst a grant of £95,000 had been agreed with Rural Renaissance this figure was based upon a total capital and revenue expenditure of £890,568 and would be reduced if the expenditure did not equal that amount by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

It was **RESOLVED** that the contract for the first stage of refurbishment of the Town Hall be awarded to Beam Construction (Cheltenham) Limited for the total sum not exceeding £744,066.00.

It was also **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be authorised to make application to secure £150,000 from the Public Works Loans Board in accordance with the borrowing approval at such time as the funding was required.

It was proposed, seconded and approved that consideration be given to securing the additional loan of £150,000 irrespective of receipt of the section 106 payment and that a report be presented to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

Councillor Mrs A Davis proposed and it was agreed by the Town Council that a vote of thanks be recorded for the work undertaken by the Town Mayor, Councillor J R Lawton, the Town Clerk, and members of the Project Board in securing the commencement of the project.

- 23.** The Town Clerk presented a report on the outcome of discussions with the Friends of Athelstan Museum and the Town Council's legal advisor and informed the Town Council of the recommendation made by the Policy and Resources Committee. Councillors Mrs C C Doody and C M Vernon remained in the Council Chamber during debate but withdrew before a vote was taken.

It was **RESOLVED** that a fifteen year lease be granted to the Friends of Athelstan Museum in exchange for an annual rental of £2,500, this figure to be reviewed annually and increased in accordance with any rise in the Retail Price Indices. The members of the Town Council considered the letter received from the Friends of Athelstan Museum but it was **RESOLVED** that in addition to the rental fee the Friends of Athelstan Museum would be required to pay an annual service charge as outlined in the report.

In reaching this decision the members of the Town Council indicated that they would consider on an annual basis the level of any grant that may be made to the Friends of Athelstan Museum to assist with payments associated with the lease.

**Meeting closed at 19.00 hrs.**