

TOWER CLOCK REPORT

To: Meeting of the Town Hall Committee

From: Town Clerk Cathy Kennedy

Date: Tuesday, the 3rd of October 2023 at 7pm

1. Reason for Report

To receive a report of recommendations prepared by the town council's clock engineer.

2. Background

The Town Council holds responsibility for maintaining and preserving the Town Hall Tower Clock.

Following the recent replacement of its strike mechanism, the clock contractor has compiled a set of recommendations aimed at improving the safety of those who access the clock.

Additionally, he suggests the original 1836 mechanism which is currently held in St Fagans Museum is returned to its rightful place in the Town Hall. Currently, the original mechanism is in storage and not on public display. It would be important to have this back at Cowbridge Town Hall and on show, a great advert for the town and positive news for the town council.

However, there are several obstacles to address in making this return a reality. The primary challenge is that the mechanism cannot simply be handed back but would require a formal loan agreement with the museum. Moreover, it must be accessible to the public. To facilitate its display, the clock should be mounted on a stand, allowing viewers to see it at eye level. It would serve as a non-functional exhibit, necessitating some basic protective measures to prevent unwanted interference. The specifics of these protective measures would be outlined by the museum as part of a formal loan agreement.

3. Financial Implications

None

4. Recommendation

3.1 To approve the list of recommendations provided by the clock engineer.

3.2 To make a formal loan request to the museum who will respond with their 'requirements'.

5. Summary

The majority of redundant clocks just get scrapped. The 187-year-old clock that was built specifically for Cowbridge is still in existence. Not only is this remarkable but the mechanism is also historically important.