



Be kind



Byddwch yn garedig

COWBRIDGE (ANCIENT BOROUGH)
with LLANBLETHIAN TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF Y BONT FAEN
(Bwrdeistref Hynafol) gyda
LLANFLEIDDAN

Minutes of the Meeting of the extraordinary Town Hall Committee held in the Council Chamber and remotely by Microsoft Teams at 6.30pm; Wednesday the 11th of October 2023.

Attendees in the Council Chamber: Cllr John Andrew, the Mayor Cllr Malcolm Wilson (left the meeting at 7pm), the Deputy Mayor Cllr Heather Weddell & Town Clerk Cathy Kennedy.

Attending by Microsoft Teams: Cllr Trousdell

Apologies: Cllr Ian Watkins

Absent: Cllr Geraint Baty, Cllr Dave Breen, Cllr Gwen Baty

Committee Members: Chair of the Committee Cllr David Breen, Deputy Chair of the Committee the Mayor Cllr Malcolm Wilson, Cllr John Andrew, Cllr Gwen Baty, Cllr Alec Trousdell, Cllr Geraint Baty, the Deputy Mayor Cllr Heather Weddell & Cllr Ian Watkins.

In the absence of the Committee Chair, a vote took place and Cllr John Andrew was approved as Chair for this particular meeting

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Cllr Watkins.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. TOWN HALL FACADE

Matt Jones, a trustee of the Cowbridge Charter Trust, introduced himself and his role in the project to improve the town hall facade. He mentioned his work with Vale Consultancy Structural Engineers, which allows him to use the company's resources for the project. He went on to say that he considered this endeavour a Cowbridge Charter Trust Project, taking advantage of the expertise of Vale Consultancy.

Matt shared drawings on Teams and outlined initial plans for cleaning the frontage of the town hall, which included refurbishment of the doors, walls, rehangng the repaired lantern, and the plan to fix scaffolding to clean the clock tower. He then presented a schedule of work, comprising 10 key stages.

He summarised that the proposals aim to enhance the front elevation, making it more symmetrical and classic. The proposals include additions to the original project such as uplighters, railings around the war memorial and new benches.

Cathy Kennedy

Town Clerk

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He went on to present cost estimates which included quotes from various local companies, which led to a discussion on funding options, particularly the use of Section 106 (S106) monies.

It was highlighted that following initial enquiries, the Vale Council have indicated that S106 monies may be used to fund the proposed lighting and railings around the war memorial. The requirement for Listed Building Consent (LBC) was mentioned, but it was mooted that it may not be required for the DOFF steam cleaning process as per the recent refurbishment of the Old Hall Gardens.

A considerable debate took place over the proposed railings and uplighting. Some members had concerns about the aesthetics and practicality of railings, while others expressed individual preferences for a less or more illuminated facade. Cost considerations will play a role in the final decision-making process.

It was agreed to go ahead with the project, however, to take into account the differences of opinion on the benches, railings and lighting. The drawings will be presented to the full council to initiate a wider debate. If the full council agree in principle, the next step will be to look in more details at funding streams, for example, CADW Grants, Heritage Lottery funds and to secure commitment on S106 monies. In the meantime, the town council will build monies for the project into the 2024/25 budget. The town clerk explained that in accordance with the financial regulations, there may not be a requirement to go out to tender if the proposed costs do not exceed £35,000.

Matt said he will provide various images for the lighting proposal.

RESOLVED

Proceed with the project, bring the matter to the full council for additional discussion, and investigate potential sources of funding.

Cathy Kennedy

Town Clerk

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