

TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL 2013/14 MEETING 03

Minutes of the meeting of **TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 1st JULY 2013 at 7.15 pm** in the Pump Rooms, off Teme Street, Tenbury Wells.

PRESENT: Mayor Cllr G. Price, Cllrs P. Brennan, S. Bowkett, Cllr S. Corfield, J. da Costa, M. Drummond, E. Hudson, D. Ingram, J. Morgan, J. Watson, E. Weston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Stuart Cooke, Cllr P. Grove, Cllr K. Pollock Town Clerk, 1 member of the press, 9 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Deputy Mayor Cllr M. Willis, Cllr A. Rigby, Cllr A. Penn

3.1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Rigby and Cllr Willis. Cllr Watson had given notice that he would arrive late.

RESOLVED that apologies be accepted.

3.2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Morgan declared an interest in relation to item 3.17 as a Member of Royal British Legion.

3.3. Presentation of the Town Council Annual Achievement Award to Mr Stuart Cooke, Headmaster of Tenbury High School

The Mayor presented the Award to Mr Cooke and gave a short speech praising Mr Cooke's commitment to involving the school in the life of the town and his contributions outside of his school responsibilities. Mr Cooke thanked the Council for the award and said he was very honoured to receive it. He said that people were lucky to have a great active community in Tenbury which is a wonderful vibrant place to be. He praised everyone from the street cleaner to the first responder and the great sports clubs and sports facilities. He thanked the Council once again for granting him this honour wished the Town every continuing success.

3.4. Public Participation. (15 minutes maximum duration)

Mr Paul Robinson addressed the council re. the new Tenbury Local Producers Market. The market had been started up on site beside Royal Oak on June 15th. It was being run as a not for profit to get market up and running. The popularity of the first market meant that it now needed a bigger site. The site attached to a public house also brought with it some constraints on what could be sold. Mr Robinson wished therefore to request use of Burgage in the summer months to hold future markets. The aim was to encouraging all types of local business. Pitches were only £12. Mr Robinson would need to know quite urgently before the next planned market scheduled for July 20th. Mr Robinson was thanked for his comments.

Cllr Watson entered the Chamber at this point.

3.5. Worcester County Councillor's Report – Cllr K. Pollock

Attached Appendix A.

Questions/Comments from Councillors

Cllr Drummond – felt the Poynton scheme shown on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzDDMzq7d0> was very interesting and a good idea. Cllr Pollock said that he was keen to incorporate some elements of the shared space concept in Tenbury and gateway features were now being considered.

Cllr Watson – need to create parking space how can that be accomplished? That is what the town really needs. Cllr Pollock said that if Councillors can identify any way to increase parking that would be most helpful. The revised scheme would seek to retain as many spaces as possible.

3.6. Malvern Hills District Councillor's Report – Cllr P. Grove

Taken out of order at the very end of the meeting due to late arrival of Cllr Grove.

Cllr Grove gave apologies for his late arrival.

- Mental Health Awareness Forum – First pilot meeting had been held in Tenbury and a second meeting would take place in the next couple of months
- Apprentice Scheme in Tenbury – working with High School to put this in place.

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- Recycling – Green Bins – After 7 weeks of the new scheme recycling totals have gone up by 5.1% on average. This may plateau after an initial start-up surge but was good news.
- MHDC needs to save money. SWDP has cost Rushwick appeal was lost at a cost of £67K.
- Public Sector Partnership with Sivica for rent collection

Cllr Ingram – Complaints had been received regarding pedestrian safety in the MHDC car park – were there any speed control measures which could be introduced? Cllr Grove agreed to look into this matter.

3.7. To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 3rd June 2013

The minutes of the meeting, held on 3rd June 2013, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of proceedings.

3.8. To approve the Monthly Accounts to June 2013 and the Outstanding Accounts for July 2013

See Appendix B.

RESOLVED that the Monthly Accounts be approved and the Outstanding Accounts be approved for payment.

3.9. To receive and approve the internal auditors report for year ending 31/03/2013

Not received in time for the meeting – item deferred until next meeting.

3.10. To receive the Minutes and approve the resolutions of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 10th June 2013

The Minutes of the meetings were received and resolutions approved.

3.11. To receive the Minutes and approve the resolutions of the meeting of the Premises Committee held on 17th June 2013

The Minutes of the meetings were received and resolutions approved.

3.12. To receive the Minutes and approve the resolutions of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 3rd June and 24th June 2013

The Minutes of the meetings were received and resolutions approved.

3.13. To receive the Minutes and approve the resolutions of the meeting of the Finance & Staffing Committee held on 24th June 2013

The Minutes of the meetings were received and resolutions approved.

3.14. To consider the proposed Council statement to be made at the Public Enquiry scheduled for 23rd – 26th July 2013 regarding Planning Appeal - APP/J1860/A/13/2194904 - in respect of refused application 12/00876/OUT - Outline application for residential development of 44 dwellings. Land off Mistletoe Row, Oldwood Road, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire

Members had received a copy of the statement prepared by Cllrs Hudson, Price and Willis.

RESOLVED that Councillors were happy with the tone and the points being put forward and agreed to delegate powers to Cllrs Hudson, Price and Willis to complete the statement and present to the Public Enquiry.

3.15. To be updated on Public Realm proposals for Tenbury Wells.

Covered at item 3.5 in Cllr Pollock's report.

3.16. To consider a request from Tenbury Mistletoe Association to have use of the Pump Rooms free of charge in support of events during Mistletoe season

TMA had requested use for various events during the season. Members were concerned not to set a precedent for any one particular group and felt that if profit was generated some payment should be made however nominal. Cllr Hudson argued that as this was a tourism related event to encourage business in the town it should be supported wholeheartedly by the Council. Some felt this year free should be free but in future years a charge should be levied. Others argued that

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the Mistletoe festival was a really important way to raise the profile of the town and everything should be done to offer support. Churlish to ask for donations after the event when funds raised would go to support the following year's events.

RESOLVED with 7 For and 2 Abstentions that the Pump Rooms be provided free of charge for the Mistletoe events in 2013 as requested.

3.17. To consider a request from the Royal British Legion to become involved in organising an event to commemorate the WW1 centenary on September 13th 2014 and to allow use of the Burgage for such an event

Members felt this was a good idea and agreed to offer support with use of Burgage free of charge. The Council as a body would not like to be involved in the organisation of the event but individual councillors were willing to help. Cllr Ingram agreed to act as Council liaison to keep Councillors up to date as the event was developed.

RESOLVED that the Town Council agree to allow use of Burgage free of charge for this event. Cllr Ingram delegated to liaise with RBL and report back to Council on plans. Members happy to support on an individual basis.

3.18. To be updated on Council Representation on the Chamber of Trade.

The Chamber of Trade had formally requested that Cllr Corfield remain as their liaison. Cllr Corfield agreed to act as Council representative. Cllr Corfield reported that the CoT secretary was now Charlotte Barnett from Travel Trail. A new member had joined with lots of new marketing ideas. Still focussing on fund raising for lights. Upcoming Events : Quiz at Lodge Rooms 13th July, Summer Ball Cadmore Lodge on 19th July, Race Night 12th October.

3.19. To receive updated reports on the work of the Heritage Access Officer at the Regal See Appendix C. Members noted the report and were pleased with progress.

3.20. To receive an update on the Regal and its management by the Regal Tenbury Trust See Appendix D

3.21. To be updated on correspondence with Mr K. Griffiths with regard to points raised at the Annual Town Meeting.

A response to Mr Griffiths letter had now been sent on behalf of the Council. See Appendix E

3.22. To be updated on the sale of the Old Mortuary

Estate Agents had reported that quite a lot of interest shown had been shown since the property was advertised. Closing date for closed bids Friday 26th July.

3.23. To consider recycling facilities within the Town.

All agreed that the move to Bromyard Rd will greatly improve the facilities in town. Moving Town Council cardboard and newspaper skips may need to be considered so that the Town Council do not to lose income from card/paper recycling. Councillors were keen to ensure that good ease of access would be designed into any new site and were informed that this had been taken into account.

3.24. To be informed of any Licensing Applications from the MHDC Website

None

3.25. Correspondence for Information

- CPRE – transport tool kit
- The Portico magazine
- Notification that MHDC NARDC meeting would consider 13/00413/OUT for 30 houses at bottom of Oldwood Rd on 3rd July

3.26. Clerk's report including any Urgent Decisions since the last meeting

The Clerk updated members on a recent spate of break-ins/damage to Council Property. Items had been stolen from the Groundsman's shed and the Refs Changing Room had been broken into. All had been reported to the police and an insurance claim was in progress.

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Cllr Grove entered the chamber at this point. See item 3.6

3.27. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

- Cllr M. Willis – Proposal to hold a regular Council Surgery at the Pump Rooms for members of the public to discuss any issues with members of the Council.
- Consider installation of security cameras & lights
- The Mayor called and Extraordinary meeting for 8th July at 7:15pm to consider the request made by Mr Robinson regarding use of the Burgage for a local producers market.

Meeting closed at 8:45 pm

Signed

Date

TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL**REPORT BY CLLR DR KEN POLLOCK**1st July 2013**1. Tenbury High School**

I would like to start by endorsing all that has been said about Stuart Cooke and his contribution to Tenbury High School during his period as its head teacher. I have been a governor at the school for some 6 years and have observed Stuart closely. He is a first rate head, much loved by staff and pupils alike. He has built an excellent team around him and the results show steady and strong improvements.

These days, heads and school live and die by league tables. It is a shallow estimate of the value of a school and local people know the value of Tenbury High. In fact its reputation spreads outside its catchment area and that maintains its pupil register above the numbers of local children. It is essential that this reputation is maintained once Stuart retires.

Stuart's departure has been precipitated in some measure by last year's league table results. They would have been excellent, if it were not for the regrading of English. Let me remind you that the High Court judged that lawful but unfair. Personally, I think it was unforgivable. The impact was not only on pupils that may have changed lives but also on staff, like Stuart, who are bowing out, in part because of it. May that remain on the conscience of those responsible for the rest of their lives.

I and a colleague talked to the school council, made up of representatives of each year group, about various matters including Stuart as a head. Their respect and love for Stuart spoke volumes as they recognised his leadership, inspiration, discipline and good humour. As a governor, one could not have heard a more ringing endorsement of the head teacher. He will be sorely missed.

2. Police station

As I said at last month's meeting, I had aimed to speak to Bill Longmore, the Police and Crime Commissioner, at the Parish Conference in County Hall the following day, but he did not appear. His deputy knew nothing germane to the Tenbury situation. Last Wednesday, I received a reply from the police estates office, a Mr William Owen, giving the requirements for a "drop in location" to replace the existing police station in Berrington Road.

The list is so long and detailed it is actually a good description of the existing station. By coincidence I was able to meet the PCC later that day, when he came to visit the Boxing Club, at the invitation of Cllr Brennan. I showed him the list and said they might as well keep the existing station. He promised to pursue the matter with the Chief Constable. I will keep you informed.

3. The Public Realm

The steering group met County officers again on the 18th June and discussed costings on the various designs under consideration in the light of the expectation of imminent developments on the Tesco's site. The meeting was very positive with good agreement on many aspects although some details of the costings and material need to be agreed. I will be pursuing that with County officials in the coming weeks.

4. Bus services

The new weekly bus services run by the Tenbury Transport Group came into service on the 4th June and my limited research on the subject is that it is running smoothly and the team are keen to see it expand.

Cllr Ken Pollock,
1st July, 2013

Tenbury Town Council Bank Accounts Summary as at

24/06/2013

Financial Year ending 31/3/14	Petty Cash	Barclays Current A/C - 023	Barclays Current A/C - 007 Savings	Barclays Re-cycling A/C - 104	Barclays HLF grant A/C - 143	WCC Deposit A/C	TOTALS
Closing balance per May Statement	20.81	49594.06	6221.28	11206.99	1064.5	946.83	69054.47
Closing balance per June Statement (cash at bank and in hand)	11.09	42307.31	6221.97	11208.39	2971.2	946.83	63666.79
							-5387.68

Employment Costs for June £ 5,988.72

Payments made in June

Payee	Invoice No:	Ref	Total	VAT	NETT	Cheque No:	Issued	Cleared
Public Works Loan Board	612 0873 12	Bi Annual Loan Repaymen	1,978.79	0.00	1978.79	101942	05/06	07/06
Barclays	15/04/13 - 1	Bank Charges - 63885143	7.08	0.00	7.08	DD	04/06	04/06
Barclays	15/04/13 - 1	Bank Charges - 13218023	46.47	0.00	46.47	DD	04/06	04/06
Malvern Hills District Council	120026651	Rates Palmers Car Park	416.00	0.00	416.00	DD	15/06	17/06
Malvern Hills District Council	101107255	Rates Pavilion Burgage	32.00	0.00	32.00	DD	15/06	17/06
Malvern Hills District Council	120048559	Rates Pump Rooms	296.00	0.00	296.00	DD	15/06	17/06
M Partnership	2134	Mistletoe Reels Silent Film	1,278.00	213.00	1065.00	100161	05/06	07/06
Entanet		Broadband June	16.64	2.77	13.87	DD	27/05	06/06

CLEARED ACCOUNTS £ 4,070.98

Roundabout Stationary		Cinemonkey's Display Iten	15.58	0.00	15.58			
Crew Safe Ltd	CS-139-388	Buoy and Throw Line (Rive	59.45	9.91	49.54			
Sainsburys		Cocktail sticks	3.59		3.59			
Mr A.James	15	Cleaning of Buss Shelter	16.00		16.00			
UK Fuels Ltd	1248255	Swann Garage - Unleaded	16.50	2.75	13.75			
British Gas Business	61921483/1	Gas for Pump Rooms	91.77	4.37	87.40			
Mr C. Bunn	41395	Work carried out by Lengt	210.00	0.00	210.00			
West Mercia Supplies	9129764	Scissors, Blu Tack etc - Reg	71.96	12.01	59.95			
A.H. Caldicott & Sons	28118	Hose Pipe & 2 connectio	28.95	4.83	24.12			
J. G. Banfield & Sons Limited	4300	Glass cut, white putty etc.	22.20	3.70	18.50			
Stannah Lift Services Ltd	R035020502	Supply and fit new motor	1,550.40	258.40	1292.00			
Advantage Business Supplies Ltd	11/IZ2891	100gm Paper	9.58	1.59	7.99			
Advantage Business Supplies Ltd	11/IZ3887	Laminator, Pouches, Shrec	115.41	19.23	96.18			
Advantage Business Supplies Ltd	11/IZ4508	Shredder Oil	4.28	0.71	3.57			
Advantage Business Supplies Ltd	11/IZ5006	A4 Pioneer paper	17.94	2.99	14.95			
Advantage Business Supplies Ltd	11C28462	Advantage A4 Laser Copie	-29.37	4.89	-24.48			

NOT YET CLEARED ACCOUNTS £ 2,204.24

TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR JUNE £ 6,275.22

Approval for payments due in July

Payee	Invoice No:	Ref	Total	VAT	NETT	Cheque No:	Due
A.J. Wait	41	1 Air Element - Strimmer	12.00	0.00	12.00		
West Mercia Supplies	2530522	Charges for Copier	183.73	30.62	153.11		
Herefordshire Fire Protection Se	135000	Fire Log Book	13.80	2.30	11.50		
Pump Master UK Limited	65405	Service Saniflow - Pavilion	105.60	17.60	88.00		
Teme Valley Times	TVT 37005	Mini Cinemonkeys Ad Ma	20.00	0.00	20.00		
Amazon.co.uk		Display Easel	15.37	0.00	15.37		
Amazon.co.uk		Corex Boards for Window	47.90	0.00	47.90		
Amazon.co.uk		DVD Collection	29.81	4.97	24.84		
Sainsburys		Tripod Lights	37.50	0.00	37.50		
Green Magic Co Ltd	57942	Snap Display Frames	69.60	11.60	58.00		
Regal Tenbury Trust Ltd	164	Q3 Brochure Ads	282.00	47.00	235.00		
Orange Phone Top Up		Groundsman's Phone	20.00	3.33	16.67		
Paul Harris - Access 24/7 Locksm	43318	New Lock Changing Room	65.00	0.00	65.00		
MTM Contracting Ltd		Mowing April & May	1,521.50	254.00	1267.50		

CURRENTLY OUTSTANDING FOR JULY £ 2,423.81

Regal Heritage Access Officer June 2013 Report

This report covers activities between mid-February and end-May 2013

Education Projects

Burford Primary School have been continuing their Lights Camera Action groups on Fridays. These groups involve 10-12 students at a time, coming up with their own ideas for short films and then filming them. The fourth group is now working on their films; in total, 12 short films will have been produced. There will be a screening event for these later in the year.

A one-off session took place at Lindridge Pre-School in May, comprising just over an hour of activities themed around the 1936 cartoon "Mickey's Circus" which was played to the group at the end of the session. The session included craft activities and games. Feedback from the staff and the children was very positive. This work also helps inform the preschool activity pack.

Heritage Interpretation in Public Spaces

Work has been undertaken to improve the heritage value of the decoration within the public spaces at the Regal. This has included putting up black and white headshots of classic actors and actresses, in the 1930s style. As well as being a reference to some of the most famous stars of the last hundred years of film, it also shows how cinemas like the Regal would have displayed similar material in years gone by.

Classic film posters have been put up in the foyer, and some original film reels and film have also been put on display, along with some film reel photo frames which highlight scenes from famous classic films.

A5 laminate sheets have been produced for the foyer and auditorium, which can be loaned to members of the public who drop into the cinema when there are no free members of staff to show them around. They give details of some of the highlights of the cinema's history and the restoration project, and complement the story told in the museum spaces upstairs.

Heritage Film Programming

The Q3 film programme includes some 'heritage' films, including a showing of "Went the Day Well", a 1940's propaganda film, and Disney's Cinderella, both in July. In August, the summer holiday season ticket includes three older films; The Lion King, How To Train Your Dragon, and Ponyo, a Studio Ghibli Japanime film.

The Regal's library of classic films continues to be added to, and now includes, amongst others, Singin' in the Rain, The Artist, Breakfast at Tiffany's, the complete James Bond, Alice in Wonderland, Meet Me in St Louis and The Wizard of Oz. The aim of the collection is to provide a broad overview of films which are in some way landmarks or representative of an aspect of film history. Sometimes they are classics, sometimes they are more modern films. Private hires of the Regal can choose titles from these for their functions; in May, a group from Age Concern watched Singin' in the Rain.

Community Projects

A short film project is underway with Shoot for the Stars, an advocacy group for local young adults with learning difficulties. So far, the group have done some preliminary work outlining their film and done some filming. It is the intention to let the group steer the direction of the work, with only practical and skills support from the heritage access officer. So far, this approach of allowing them as much control as possible over the project has really paid off, and the group are very engaged in the film-making process. It is hoped to produce a finished short film, comprising of some group work already filmed and some individual 'talking heads' segments still to be produced, by the end of the summer.

The 2013 Mistletoe Bride film project has been conceived. Called Mistletoe Reels, it is a competition which any school may enter, with the prize of some film editing software for their school and their film being shown as part of the 2013 Mistletoe Festival. PR for this is being handled by the M Partnership, and has included the printing of some introductory leaflets. A full resource pack is available to interested schools, to help them create their film.

The Flash Fiction project, in association with Writing West Midlands, is well underway. Local authors are providing short (<150 word) pieces which relate somehow to the films in the Q2 programme. As a result of the project, so far three members of the public have shown an interest in writing further flash fiction pieces for the Q3 programme.

CineMonkeys continues to run before family films in the holidays, and gets a good to excellent uptake depending on the film and the weather on the day. MiniCineMonkeys, the under 7s club with a free cartoon, is so far doing very well, with the group size growing each week. Many parents have noted that it is their child's first time in a cinema, and have said what a lovely opportunity it is to introduce them to film in such a child-friendly way.

The Regal Film Unit has launched, with approximately 16 people who are a range of ages and come from different backgrounds. Within the group is some significant experience, including people who have directed, acted, done storyboarding and more. Flying Machine Media, the company leading on the delivery of this project, are very excited about the project's prospects.

Meetings have taken place with the Tenbury Youth Council, to explore what the Regal can provide for the youth of Tenbury. So far, it seems that they are satisfied with the film selection and do visit the Regal for films and other events. It is intended to continue this conversation to see what else can be done to encourage young people to use the Regal.

Online Activities

Currently, the project has a following of 234 users on twitter and 236 on Facebook.

The Facebook page now produces a range of content, including 'what's on' listings for the Regal, photographs of activities taking place within the building, opportunities for the public to give their opinion and comment, and more. Positive views of the Regal have been received through Facebook and Twitter.

The blog is being used to showcase the Flash Fiction project, along with volunteer role profiles, general news and other aspects of the Regal.

Regal Birthday Celebrations

The Q3 programme includes two events to mark the Regal's 76th birthday, on July 29th. The first is a gala evening, with food and drink and smart dress, for a streamed screening of Jeff Wayne's 'War of the Worlds' live stage show. As a story which was particularly popular in the 1930s and remains so today, it was felt to be a good choice for our celebrations.

Following on from the success last year, the Regal will again host a family birthday party on the Sunday afternoon of the birthday weekend. As last year, the event will be ticketed but free. There will be some party games in the auditorium, with party bags and cake to take home at the end. The classic Disney film, Cinderella, will be shown as the main feature of the party, as the theatrical licence for Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (the original choice as it was released in 1937) is not currently available.

Report by: ***Sarah Fellows***
Regal Heritage Access Officer
Tenbury Town Council

Regal Trust Report July 2013

June was a very busy month for live entertainment at the Regal. We saw fantastic shows by Fairport Convention, Pam Ayres, The Fortunes & a really great evening of community entertainment from the Teme Valley Band & Little Hereford Voices Community Choir.

17,000 tickets have been sold for films & shows and an even more ambitious program has been planned leading up to Christmas.

This Thursday we are showing the wartime film, *Went The Day Well* and will be welcoming a large group of volunteers and enthusiasts from the Severn Valley Railway who plan to arrive in a period coach and I believe in period dress.

At the end of July we are holding two events to mark the Regal's Birthday and to mark the first year of trading. The first is a Gala Performance of the musical version of the *War of the Worlds*, originally recorded at the O2 arena. The second is a Free family birthday party, with party games, cake and a screening of *Cinderella*.

We are pleased to announce that the broadcast of *Pompeii Live* from the British Museum was a great success, both the rather racy "adult" version and the schools version.

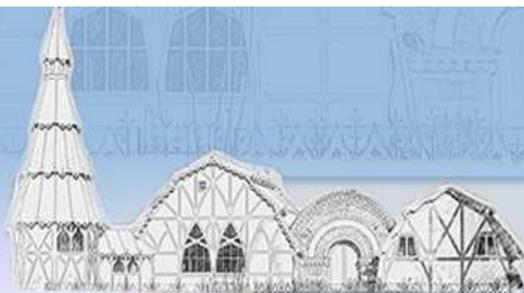
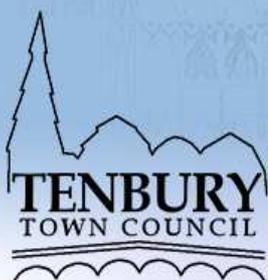
We now also have contracts with

- The V&A Museum to show *David Bowie* is happening now.
- The Glove Theatre, London, to show their 2013 season.
- We're thrilled to be screening the first ever live cinema broadcast from the stage of the Royal Shakespeare Company with the sellout production of *Richard II* (the fastest selling show in the RSC's history), with David Tennant in the title role.
- and will be screening *Peter Grimes* on Aldeburgh Beach.
- We are still in negotiations to screen content from the National Theatre.

We continue to seek out as wide and as interesting programme as possible, and welcome suggestions and ideas from our customers.

The Trust recently held it's first AGM. Chris Davis was reappointed as Chairman, but has indicated he doesn't intend to stand again next year. Peter Drew was appointed Deputy Chairman. The Trustees are looking to strengthen their team, and would be interested to hear from anyone interested in becoming a Trustee, in particular people with experience in the following fields:

- Legal
- Accountancy / Finance
- Fund Raising
- Property Management



Contact the Town Clerk on (01584) 810118

The Pump Rooms, Teme Street, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire WR15 8AH email:clerk@tenburytown.org.uk

K Griffiths Esq.,
17 Bromyard Road,
Tenbury Wells,
Worcs.
WR15 8BZ

26th June, 2013

Re: Regal Cinema

Dear Mr Griffiths,

Thank you for your letter dated 26 May 2013. You will have received a letter from the Clerk explaining that I would be away on holiday but that I would discuss your letter with the Mayor and Clerk on my return.

I am sorry that it has taken a little time to respond but our meeting has now been held and I am pleased to try to address the points that you have made.

I should make clear that whilst you have written to me personally, this reply is on behalf of Tenbury Town Council.

Firstly, by way of background information, when my wife and I moved to St. Michaels in March 2008, we both felt fortunate to have an authentic cinema in the town. We observed that the films were put on by a small group of volunteers. It seemed to us that their efforts to provide a community amenity were so important, that we both decided to join and help. We may have sold you a ticket or an ice cream when you visited.

In getting to know the building and through talking to the other volunteers, it became clear that certain past actions to do with the building and its maintenance programme could have been handled differently if more investment had been available. Some decisions by the council seemed to have been based on specialist advice received.

The cinema equipment was becoming obsolete and together with David Hambelton and Stewart McGuinness, I became involved in the process of investigating means of obtaining digital equipment for future film projection.

I was also able to have sight of the proposals for the Heritage refurbishment scheme. Along with my colleagues, it seemed to me that there were shortcomings in the proposals, particularly in respect of disabled persons' access and the failure to exploit the spaces adjacent to the existing foyer in order to provide a more functional and welcoming reception appropriate to a multi-purpose cinema/theatre.

I am pleased to say that concerns about wheelchair users having to use an external ramp in the side alley were noted and the proposal to incorporate the platform lift as part of the main entrance and the opening up of the foyer, together with the provision of a separate disabled WC were incorporated.

This involvement, together with the award of the Heritage Grant led me to feel that my professional background as an architect could be of service to the Town Council, in consideration of practical aspects relating to the Regal building, which is one of the principal reasons for my agreeing to join the Council.

The purpose of this long introduction is to try to demonstrate that, given your own record of service to Tenbury and the Regal, I feel that we have a common purpose in trying to safeguard the Regal for the future.

I understand that you have had meetings with the Clerk and visited the Pump Rooms where you have been given access to minutes of meetings, flagged for ease of reference, together with accounts and details of income and expenditure relating to the Regal.

One of the principal reasons in considering the future of the Regal was the increasing cost to the Council, of running the Regal. I understand that it is your contention that, during your time as a Town Councillor, the Regal did not make a loss. It is the current Councils' view that when costs such as heating and lighting at the Regal are taken into account, then past figures indicate that expenditure did exceed income. I am advised that the audited accounts of the particular years support this view.

You have seen the sheet dated 11th February 2011, prepared by the Clerk, itemising Expenditure and Income for the years 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, together with explanatory notes. It is interesting to note that the cost of heating and lighting in the years 08-09 and 09-10 were £6,194 and £7,930.

Chris Davis was given access to this information to prepare his presentation to the Town Council (5th September 2011) and for the public meeting held by the Trust at The Royal Oak on 7th March 2012. He presented figures showing a comparison between the Regal being operated by the Town Council and the Regal being operated by a Trust. My recollection is that they showed a substantial overall saving to the Council, even allowing for a grant allocation from the Town Council to the proposed Trust.

However, the report presented to the Town Council at their meeting on 7th November 2011, was prepared by the Clerk and it is the figures contained therein that were considered by members.

You will know that three options were proposed for discussion and included the Income/Expenditure figures of the year 2010/2011 as the base for comparison. The report detailing these options is included with the minutes of the Council meeting dated 7th November 2011.

The first option was for the Town Council to carry on running the Regal as before. I won't restate the pros and cons as they are recorded in the document that you will have seen. This option gave an anticipated annual deficit of £16,750.00. Given the Town Council's responsibility to make the building more accessible under the terms of the HLF grant funding this option to do nothing was not felt to be viable.

The second option was for the Town Council to run the Regal and to appoint a Manager to run the activity. This gave an anticipated annual deficit of £32,000.00.

The third option was to allow a Management Trust to run the Regal with grant support from the Council. This indicated an anticipated annual deficit of £17,000.00.

Based on the foregoing, the third option showed a reduction of the anticipated annual deficit of £ 2,530.45.

Given the pros and cons of the respective options and the reduced deficit, I find it difficult to conclude that the Town Council could do anything but choose the third option.

I hope that you will agree that the appointment of the Trust has led to an improved and much more varied programme of events that have been welcomed and enjoyed by the people of Tenbury and the wider region.

You will know that the Regal Trust has appointed Ian Little as a General Manager and his involvement is apparent in the efficient manner that he carries out his duties. The result of this is that the Town Council can see the benefits that were contained in the aforementioned option two but at a significant saving to council expenditure.

Turning now to the financial agreement with the Trust. Once the Council had voted to proceed with option three at their meeting on November 7th 2011, negotiation of the agreement to be put in place was delegated to a small sub-committee, comprising Councillors Rigby, Corfield and Drummond and the Clerk.

Discussions identified that there would be rigorous duties and commitments required of the Trust, in respect of the provision of regular cinema, live and broadcast performances, both amateur and professional. Responsibility to make available the building in respect of the Heritage Learning Activities and the use of the venue by schools and community groups was required. It was also stipulated that a subsidised non-commercial rate should be available to not for profit and charitable organisations.

All parties to the discussion took note that with the Trust offering to start an operation from scratch there was concern that in taking on responsibility for the Regal, there was no guarantee that the venture would be supported such that income would be sufficient. In this event the Trust might have to cease to function with the prospect of the failed venture and responsibility being handed back to the Town Council,

Accordingly, in exchange for the Trust complying with its required responsibilities and duties, a period of financial support was agreed to enable the Trust to become established and financially viable. Given the large input of local volunteers at the Regal, the Town Council felt bound to provide as much support as they were able, to ensure that the efforts of the volunteers and the aspirations of the Tenbury community were met by a successfully operated and managed Regal. Based upon all previous discussion a period of ten years was formalised and the Council agreed to what amounts to a net contribution of £5,600.00 for the first five years and £5,995.00 for the subsequent five years.

I feel very strongly that if the Town Council had not taken a commercial and realistic view of the financial support necessary then the Trust would not have formed and the Regal would not have become the success that it demonstrably is today.

With regard to the Lease between the Town Council and the Regal Trust in respect of the building, I understand that you have been given access to this and that you photocopied some pages.

The Lease was prepared by the Town Council's legal advisors and is understood to be a conventional Landlord and Tenant Agreement. The building is listed and the murals are a notable feature. It has received a substantial Heritage Refurbishment Grant and the works have been completed.

The Town Council were aware of their responsibilities in respect of the Heritage Grant and that HLF would maintain a watching brief to see that the building was appropriately cared for. These points were of relevance in the drawing up of the Lease terms, particularly in respect of the responsibilities of the Landlord. If you are suggesting that the murals and the external fabric should have been made the responsibility of the tenant then, with respect, I do not think that is a realistic expectation.

With regard to continuing maintenance, this was considered in light of a substantial refurbishment having just been completed. It is reasonable to expect that the external envelope and services that were refurbished will provide a long period before significant maintenance work is required. This will allow a period for the Town Council to build up a sink fund for the future.

With regard to the rental terms included in the Lease, I think that it is unhelpful to consider these sums in isolation. The Town Council viewed the arrangement with the Regal Trust as a whole where particular financial elements have to be balanced by community and amenity benefits arising from a successful operation.

In earlier correspondence, I understand that you have made reference to representatives of TADS and TAOs, not being included in a Regal Steering Committee. I should point out both Liz Weston and Peter Mound served on the Heritage Learning Management Committee and they also, along with the Clerk and myself, served on the Regal Project Steering Group, that reviewed the Project pre-commencement procedure and who were involved in the construction contract phase.

Your principal area of concern seems to relate to the financial aspects of the procedure agreed with the Regal Trust. Your correspondence seems to imply that The Regal ran at a profit under previous Council membership, that an uneconomical rent has been set and that the Council is granting sums of money to the Trust.

As previously stated, when all relevant costs are included, the Council believes that the Regal has shown an annual deficit for many years previous to the current Council membership. The rental level agreed and the grant monies offered are not additional burdens on the Town Council. They come from the budget previously set aside to cover the annual deficit and indeed, show a saving.

In addition there is the great benefit of seeing a well-run, popular and successful Regal, bringing in much needed visitors to Tenbury. I am convinced that could not have happened if we had not acted responsibly in negotiating the handover of the management of the Regal to the Trust.

I may not have answered the points in the order that were raised but I hope that I have addressed them satisfactorily.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Eric Hudson
On Behalf of Tenbury Town Council