

TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL 2012/13 – XTC12

Minutes of the **Extra Ordinary TOWN COUNCIL** meeting held on **Monday 25th March 2013** at **7.00 pm in the Pump Rooms, off Teme Street, Tenbury Wells.**

PRESENT: Mayor Cllr S. Corfield, Deputy Mayor Cllr G. Price, Cllrs M. Brennan, J. Da Costa, M. Drummond, E. Hudson, D. Ingram, J. Morgan, J. Watson, E. Weston, M. Willis

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk, Cllr K. Pollock, Cllr A. Penn, 1 member of the public

APOLOGIES: Cllr S. Bowkett, A. Rigby, Cllr P. Grove

12.1. Apologies. To receive apologies and to approve reasons for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Bowkett and Cllr Rigby.

RESOLVED that apologies be accepted.

12.2. Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Watson declared a personal interest as volunteer for the Regal Tenbury Trust.

12.3. To be made aware of new information received from the Town Council Solicitors with regard to the ownership of the Swimming Pool on Palmers Meadow and the Scout Hut on Palmers Meadow.

As previously agreed by Council the Clerk and Deputy Mayor had been in discussion with the Town Council Solicitors with regard to updating the lease for the Swimming Pool on Palmers Meadow. In the course of these discussions it had been made clear that while the original lease was drawn to allow the Pool to be built on land owned by the Council, under the law over time any building erected on land would be deemed to be part of the land holding and that therefore in the end effect the Town Council would be deemed the owners of the Swimming Pool. It was not clear whether the Councillors involved in the drawing up of the original lease document in 1968 had understood the implications of this but whether the lease was amended or not, the fact remained that the ownership eventually rested with the Town Council. This had not been the previous understanding of Councillors and it was for this reason that the meeting had been called.

Both the current and proposed lease are full repairing and all responsibilities rest with the Tenant (Tenbury Swimming Pool Guild/Tenbury Swimming Pool Company) and not with the Landlord.

Cllr Price was concerned however that while support had always been given to the Pool by District Councils there was very real danger that this could be withdrawn at some future date if budgets were constrained. While the new Tenbury Swimming Pool Company had been set up to look at raising funds to renovate the Swimming Pool the annual running costs might be very difficult to cover without continued subsidy. Should it prove impossible and the Company be forced to give up on the Pool it would be the Town Council who inherited the problem. As the sums involved were in the region of £60K per year this would be a very big problem. To raise such a sum from the Town Council Precept would mean an extra cost of £6 per month to every household in Tenbury. Members felt this would be very unfair if other pools in the district continued to be subsidised.

Cllr Price suggested that Members needed to lobby their District Representatives to ensure long term funding for Tenbury Pool. The Mayor asked Cllr Penn whether he could comment on this. Cllr Penn stated that both he and Cllr Grove fully supported long term MHDC funding for Tenbury Swimming Pool and that he would be attending a meeting on Leisure Strategy after 2015 on 26th March and would be raising the issue of Tenbury Pool. He pointed out however, that Tenbury Pool was the oldest facility of the six pools in MHDC and was in need of a lot of work. Nonetheless he felt that the new initiatives being taken to try and address this would stand in good favour when future support was considered. Cllr Penn suggested that the amazing fundraising efforts which had been put into making Tenbury Hospital such a good facility might now be directed toward the Pool. Members agreed this was a very good idea. Cllr Pollock commented that he was not sure whether any funding would be available at County level since Leisure facilities were covered in District budgets.

All present were in full agreement that Tenbury Pool was very important to the community and must continue to be supported

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Members felt that it would be useful to meet with the new Tenbury Swimming Pool Company to understand their plans and aims for the pool and the associated costs. It was agreed that an informal meeting would be arranged by the end of April. Further consideration would then be given at a future Council meeting.

12.4. To consider a request from the Regal Tenbury Trust to have the following works carried out at the Regal at the expense of the Trust.

- Installation of an intruder alarm system
- Provision of a 3-Phase electrical supply to the stage
- Reconfiguration of 3-Phase electrical supply to the dimmer racks in the projection room
- Re-siting of the cinema sound cabinet nearer to the digital projector.

Members were all in favour of these works being carried out as it would improve the safety and security of the building.

RESOLVED that approval for works be granted as requested.

Meeting closed at 7:55 pm

Signed

Date