

Liskeard Town Council

AT A MEETING of the **FACILITIES COMMITTEE** held on 21 November 2023 at 7.30pm there were present:

Councillors Julian Smith (Chair), Richard Dorling (Vice-Chair), David Braithwaite, Kerry Cassidy, Ian Goldsworthy, Annette Lee-Julian, Lori Reid and the Deputy Mayor Councillor Christina Whitty.

In attendance – Stephen Vinson (Town Clerk)

The Chair opened the meeting and advised those present of housekeeping matters. The Chair noted that the Facilities Manager was sick.

307/23 APOLOGIES – The Mayor Councillor Simon Cassidy and Councillor Jane Pascoe.

308/23 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS REGISTRABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE – None.

309/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – Councillor Braithwaite proposed, Councillor Dorling seconded, and the Committee **APPROVED** the minutes of the Facilities Committee meeting held on 19th September 2023.

310/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None.

311/23 FACILITIES MANAGERS REPORT – The Committee noted the Facilities Managers report.

312/23 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT – Income was higher than anticipated and expenditure lower. Noted.

313/23 BUDGET 2024/2025 – Some factors were beyond the control of the Town Council e.g. the Castle Park transfer date. The Town Council would be applying for grants to support the various intended capital projects. There was a requirement from grant bodies, to see that the Town Council had put resources into the projects. Following consideration, Councillor K Cassidy proposed, Councillor Braithwaite seconded and the Committee **APPROVED** the draft budgets be put forward to Council for consideration in the 2024/2025 budget and precept setting.

314/23 TOILETS (PUBLIC HALL) – The project had come in on time and largely on budget. It was noted, that subject to some “snagging” items, that the project was practically complete. The Councillors inspected the toilets and considered the scheme a great improvement with members of the public hiring the Public Hall commenting very positively.

315/23 DATA CABLING – It was reported that two inspection related corrections remained outstanding before the Certificate could be issued. Deductions would be made in respect of the Mayor’s Parlour and Members Room.

316/23 SOLAR PV AND BATTERY SYSTEM – Councillor Dorling spoke to his written report. There was a discussion. It was noted that there were some variables such as, reviewing deals on current contracts and the possibility that other companies might be prepared to offer the same sort of PV / battery system. It was agreed to continue researching the item and working up options.

317/23 FLAGPOLES – Two other sources of help and possible service providers were raised in the discussion. It was decided to approach those first and then bring back a report if necessary.

318/23 STAFFING – Following consideration, Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor K Cassidy seconded and the Committee **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Administration Assistant (Facilities) post is increased from 20 hours to 28 hours per week for an initial period of 3 months renewable thereafter.

319/23 DEVOLUTION – The process for Castle Park had not yet been completed. Despite the fact, that it did not involve difficult and contentious actions. A sign-off from the Department for Communities and Levelling up was still required in relation to the making space for nature grant. Other Devolution prospects were being progressed by Cornwall Council and we are waiting for their proposals.

320/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 16th January 2024.

Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor Reid seconded, and the Committee **APPROVED** going into **PARTII**.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 Pursuant to Section (2) of the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 and having regard to the confidential nature of the businesses to be discussed, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business.

15. GUILDHALL – To approve the draft project brief and timescales for the feasibility study for the refurbishment and repurposing of the Guildhall.

Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor K Cassidy seconded, and the Committee **APPROVED** leaving **PARTII** and confirming the decision that, subject to the amendments, the draft project brief and timescales for the feasibility study be approved.