

RECREATION AND PROPERTIES COMMITTEE
14 NOVEMBER 2017

Present: Chairman: Councillor Wooldridge
Mayor: Councillor Carter

Councillors: Burton S Evans Gay
 Geddes Johnson Rowland
 Shaw Greenwood

Officers: Simon Fisher, Deputy Town Clerk
Heather Bond

Members of the Public: One

375. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3 October 2017 having been circulated to all Members were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

376. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Giraud-Saunders.

377. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

378. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

379. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – VENUES INCOME FIGURES

The committee received and noted the report,

380. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – VENUES OCCUPANCY FIGURES & MARKETING INFORMATION

The committee received and noted the report.

381. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – VENUES – CUSTOMER SATISFACTION FEEDBACK, VENUES OCCUPANCY FIGURES & MARKETING REPORT

The committee received and noted the report.

382. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – BUSINESS CHRISTMAS TREE SCHEME

The committee received and noted the report.

383. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR EXPLANATION

The committee received and noted the report.

384. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – LOO OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The committee asked for consideration to be given to the comments then received and noted the report.

385. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – CEMETERY LODGE, ROTHERSTONE, DEVIZES

It was proposed by Councillor Wooldridge, seconded by Councillor Carter and UNANIMOUSLY agreed

THAT the fees and charges in respect of Devizes Cemetery are increased by 5% for the financial year 2018/2019.

386. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – PRICE INCREASE IN VENUES CHARGES FOR 2018/2019

It was proposed by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Geddes and UNANIMOUSLY agreed

THAT the committee agrees to increase the venue charges for 2018/2019 by 2.8% and to adjust the historical pricing anomalies.

387. REPORT FOR DECISION – VENUES MARKETING OFFICER

It was proposed by Councillor Geddes, seconded by Councillor Greenwood and UNANIMOUSLY agreed

THAT the committee agrees to the principle of recruiting a sales/marketing officer and therefore wish to make budget provision within the 2018/19 budget for this position.

388. REPORT FOR DECISION – POLICY DOCUMENT ON DISCOUNTING COMMERCIAL PROPERTY RENTS

It was proposed by Councillor Greenwood, seconded by Councillor Johnson and UNANIMOUSLY agreed

THAT The Council should not adopted a formal policy on how it should support a tenant, when making an application for a rental discount, as committee dealing with the request should have the necessary freedom to agree a support strategy based on appropriateness for the circumstances presented. However, in decided if support should be given to a tenant it must be satisfied the following conditions are met to ensure Council interests are protected, and where they are not, minute why they have not been met;

1. That there is evidence that the business has in the past had a sound financial position and therefore any support will not deferring an inevitable business failure.
2. That as part of the request for support, the tenant provides a clear recovery strategy that will provide evidence the business will be able to return to a profitable position by the end of the support period.
3. That the Council is satisfied that the cost of supporting a tenant is not grater then the cost it would incur should the business fail, which would include a potential period of vacancy, any lease negotiation and legal fees.

389. REPORT FOR DECISION – REVISION OF ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR THE CERES HALL

It was proposed by Councillor Geddes, seconded by Councillor Carter and UNANIMOUSLY agreed

THAT the committee wishes officers to explore the possibility of increasing the capacity in the Ceres Hall of music events for standing only and very limited seating.

399. REPORT FOR DECISION – ROUNDWAY WARD NOTICE BOARDS

It was proposed by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Wooldridge and UNANIMOUSLY agreed

THAT the Town Council's Parks Department inspect the notice boards in Roundway and where they are found to be in good condition utilise them for Town Council. In addition, at a future meeting a separate report investigating the siting of notice boards in all wards will be presented.

400. QUESTION TIME

Councillor Burton asked if the Town Council exploring the possibility of getting a grant from the Woodlands Trust tree planting. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that it was.

Councillor Burton asked if there were any plans to stop vandalism happening in the park when events are taking place. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that it was difficult to police as staff are not in place when the damage occurs, normally during late into the night.

401. PROCEDURE: CONFIDENTIALITY OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

It was proposed by Councillor Wooldridge seconded by Councillor Geddes and agreed

THAT In view of the confidential nature of the remaining exempt items of business to be considered, this is dealt with In Committee in the absence of the press and members of the public.

CHAIRMAN