



WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL

WISBECH MARKET PLACE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

17 SEPTEMBER 2018 – 7.30 pm

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Councillor Tibbs, Chairman; Councillors Balsevics, Hill, Miss Hoy, Lynn, Oliver, Tierney and Wing.

Apologies: Councillor Maul.

Public participation: None requested.

The minutes of the meeting of the Wisbech Market Place Management Committee held on 13 August 2018 were confirmed and signed.

M8/18 Wisbech Market – operational issues

The Clerk reported briefly on the general operational situation applying to Wisbech market.

Members were informed by the Clerk that he had no matters of significance to draw to their attention at this time. He did mention that trading levels remain constant (with the busiest days still being Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and that officers are taking action to promote and publicise the market through the use of social media, such as publishing photographs and video footage on Facebook. Officers are also in the process of seeking to encourage Casual traders to become Licensed traders; such an arrangement is beneficial to both traders, in that it guarantees provision to them of a pitch on certain days, and to the council, in that it guarantees income.

Councillor Hill mentioned that he had heard positive comments from members of the public regarding the cleanliness of the Market Place and that, through conversations with traders, he is aware that traders are generally happy with the manner in which the market activities are operated by the council.

Members decided that the information reported be noted.

M9/18 Wisbech Market Place enhancement scheme

Further to minute M7/18, members considered further the design and delivery of an enhancement scheme for Wisbech Market Place.

Further to minute M7/18, members reported on the results of their investigations into the provision of various elements of the enhancement scheme, as follows:

- Councillor Wing had made further enquires in terms of seeking quotations for the manufacture of a Tidal Clock and his assessment of the responses that he had received is “how long is a piece of string”. He made the point that potential manufacturers require a design (including size, types of materials etc) upon which to base a quotation.

Councillor Tierney commented that the College of West Anglia (CWA) is looking for a project for its Art and Design students and he expressed the opinion that the design of a Tidal Clock could “fit the bill”. He undertook to provide to Councillor Wing the contact details of the relevant person at the CWA, to enable this matter to be progressed.



- Councillor Maul (on whose behalf the Clerk reported) and the Clerk had met (again) on 16 August 2018 with a representative of a local civil engineering company to discuss further the provision of gates; as a result of that meeting, the company's representative had provided a "ball park" cost of around £3,500 but would provide a more accurate quotation once he had been provided with more details of the design and size of the proposed gates. That information had subsequently been provided by Councillor Maul and the more accurate quotation is awaited.
- Councillor Miss Hoy commented that she had made contact with someone who had led her to believe that he represented a company which manufactures and installs play equipment; in fact, he merely "sources" such companies and then charges a fee to the customer (e.g. Wisbech Town Council) for "matching" a customer with a supplier. She expressed the opinion that the most difficult part of the play area element of the scheme would be the "living wall". She commented that she would seek advice from the Parks and Open Spaces Manager at Fenland District Council in terms of progressing this matter.
- Councillor Balsevics had obtained details of some possible seating options etc, photographs of which he shared with members.

Members expressed preferences for certain options, on the basis of which Councillor Balsevics would seek quotations.

- Councillor Tibbs informed members that there are two options available with regard to water features; either self-contained units or ones which are connected to a water supply; obviously, the latter option would require additional groundworks to be undertaken.

Councillor Oliver expressed a preference, which was supported by other members, for self-contained water features. Councillor Tibbs undertook to obtain quotations for such units.

- Councillor Lynn had made contact with a company which undertakes landscaping and civil engineering works; the company had stated that is likely to be able to undertake all of the types of groundworks required to facilitate delivery of the Market Place enhancements scheme but it is not able to provide any quotations until the council is able to provide information as to its exact requirements. Councillors Lynn and Tibbs would meet to discuss this matter.
- Councillor Tierney commented that it is extremely difficult to identify an "off the shelf" structure to provide a covered area at the Market Place. Councillor Oliver mentioned that, at some time in the past, Fenland District Council had given thought to providing a semi-permanent covered area (with a canvass roof) to part of the Market Place but had not pursued the matter. He undertook to seek to obtain, from Fenland District Council, details of such and to see if that information could assist this committee in delivering such a structure.

With regard to funding for the enhancement scheme, the Clerk reminded members that he had sent "applications/enquiries" to the office of the Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (as had been suggested by the Mayor when he attended 23 July 2018 meeting of Wisbech Town Council; minute 40/18 refers), the Deputy Chief Executive/Chief Finance Officer of Cambridgeshire County Council and the Chief Executive of Fenland District Council; the level of funding being sought is £200,000. In addition, the Clerk had begun the process of making an application to the Department for Communities and Local Government for a Funding Approval, as a pre-cursor to an application to the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB); application to the PWLB would be made in the event that none of the other options proved successful. He mentioned that he had received a response from the Chief Executive of Fenland District Council (FDC), stating that he would arrange for Wisbech Town Council's application/enquiry to be discussed by FDC. The Clerk is aware that the office of the Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority



would be considering this matter as part of the CPCA's Market Town Strategy work for the towns within Fenland.

The Clerk reported that he had informed the relevant officers of the Local Highway Authority of this committee's latest proposal in relation to traffic management in the Market Place area (as set out at minute M7/18) – in summary, "pedestrianisation" of the Market Place area but without the inclusion of Hill Street and High Street to the area from which vehicles would be prohibited between the hours of 7.00 am and 4.00 pm; instead of closing Hill Street between those times (as had been suggested by officers of the Local Highway Authority), parking restrictions (double-yellow lines) be introduced along both sides of Hill Street, the existing loading bays be removed from that street and that a 5 tonnes weight limit be introduced on Hill Street. Consequently, Wisbech Town Council had been invited by the Local Highway Authority (LHA) to submit a Privately Funded Highway Improvement (PFHI) application in respect of these proposed traffic management changes; a non-refundable application fee of £500 would need to be paid to the LHA.

Councillor Miss Hoy commented that some members of the public had asked why Wisbech Town Council had not engaged the services of a Project Manager to "drive forward" the delivery of this scheme and her response had been that such an arrangement would have incurred an additional cost to the council; such money would be spent more effectively on the scheme itself. The other members of the committee expressed their concurrence with Councillor Miss Hoy's comment.

As a result of considering a question from Councillor Tierney as to a realistic timescale for the full implementation of the enhancement scheme, members concluded that (because of the need to obtain quotations for the various elements of the scheme, obtain consents and permissions where necessary, secure the necessary funding and then manufacture/installation of items) it would most likely be during the summer of next year.

Councillor Oliver expressed the opinion, with which there was concurrence by other members, that this committee would need to agree a definitive final scheme (once all of the investigations had been concluded and the associated quotations had been received for all of the elements), for the purpose of project delivery and the allocation of financial resources.

Members decided

- (1) that the current situation be noted and that work would continue in terms of obtaining quotations for the various elements of the scheme;
- (2) unanimously, on the proposal of Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Tibbs, that the Clerk would submit to the Local Highway Authority a Privately Funded Highway Improvement application in respect of the proposed traffic management changes;
- (3) that at the next meeting of this committee they would evaluate the further progress achieved, (hopefully) accept some quotations, and determine any other actions necessary to facilitate delivery of the scheme.

Meeting finished at 8.00 pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....