



**F.31 REFURBISHMENT OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

The Facilities Manager asked Members to note that no complaints had been received about the state of the toilets during the summer. He advised that the new weekly (fortnightly in winter) maintenance tour meant that there had been very few mechanical problems. The committee welcomed the improvements and asked that the Facilities Maintenance Officer be congratulated on his efforts.

It was reported that new floors had been laid in Dove Street and West Pier on the day of the meeting, meaning the toilets had to be closed for three days. Alternative facilities would be signposted for the public.

The meeting proposed that Wallgate machines should be installed in the Sloop and Porthgidden public toilets instead of the hand driers as they would reduce the amount of water and energy used. The Facilities Manager will act on that proposal. It was also mooted that Smeaton's women's toilets should be refurbished entirely, and that such an approach should be taken with all of the toilet blocks over time.

**RESOLVED** – that the committee

- 1) endorses the above works to improve the public toilets before the new season; and
- 2) agrees to the installation of Wallgate machines in the Sloop car park and Porthgidden public toilets.

**F.32 GUILDHALL – HEATING SYSTEM**

The committee acknowledged the need outlined in the report from the Facilities Manager for prompt action in view of the risk that a failure of the boiler could jeopardise the operation of the Guildhall over the winter months. Members noted that it was known that there were issues with the ageing boiler when the Guildhall was devolved to the town council, which had created a dilapidation fund to pay for its eventual replacement.

The Chairman reported that he had contacted Community Energy Plus, which had visited the Guildhall earlier in the day and would be making recommendations on heating options including a low-carbon option for the boiler and alternative energy solutions. The Facilities Manager reported that he was awaiting a quotation from the plumbing company that maintains the boiler which can be used as a specification for seeking further quotes.

**RESOLVED** – that the committee -

- 1) asks the Facilities Manager to prepare a paper on behalf of this committee that recommends to council that the boiler is replaced without delay, funded either from the dilapidation fund or from that fund and the General Reserve;
- 2) that the review includes considering potential changes to the heating system to improve control of heating across the building and to make efficiency savings; and
- 3) calls an additional Council meeting to have the matter considered, if the matter becomes urgent.

**F.33 STEP-FREE ACCESS TO THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE GUILDHALL**

The committee noted the Facilities Manager's report and the decision by the Big Lottery Fund not to give a grant for an installation of a lift in the Guildhall. It was noted that, with the transfer of the library to the town council, the council now owned a building with step-free access to a serviceable

meeting room which could be used. It was further noted that people with compromised mobility who worked in or visited the Guildhall might still have a need to get to the second floor of that building. This group included staff and councillors, as well as visitors to the architects' office and others attending meetings and ceremonies in the rooms when hired out. Members agreed that resolving this issue remains an aspiration, and that doing so would require more time than the Facilities Manager could currently commit while he is covering some of the Support Services Manager role.

**RECOMMENDED** – that

- 1) the Facilities Manager seeks alternative sources of part-funding for step-free access to the first floor of the Guildhall after the appointment of the Support Services Manager; and
- 2) the funds previously identified for part-funding the lift be placed in ear-marked reserves, pending the above.

Councillor Glanville requested that his name be recorded as voting against the resolution.

F.34 **CONCERT HALL REFURBISHMENT**

The committee noted the Facilities Manager's report on the state of the Concert Hall panelling, and its recommendation that a decision be made to improve it. He stated that the view of the staff was that the panelling should be painted to suit its prime use as a backdrop to markets, weddings and other functions, and that many visitors to the hall had the same view. He concluded that only painting the wood would match the council's aspiration for the building, and that simply varnishing would still leave the many imperfections visible and would mean that some holes etc could not be mended without whole panels being replaced. Members aired a range of views, and by a large majority said they wished the panelling to be retained unpainted, but re-varnished with a varnish that allowed the wood to breathe.

**RESOLVED** – that concert hall wood panelling be varnished with a clear, breathable varnish.

F.35 **INSTALLATION OF MICROPHONES ON THE TOP TABLE IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER**

In Councillor Messenger's absence, the committee noted that he had intended to propose that the Council investigates the installation of microphones and speakers in the Council Chamber. Members aired concerns about the potential conflict of such a system with hearing aids, and said that it should apply to the whole room, not just the Mayor's Bench.

**RESOLVED** – that the committee supports the proposal and asked Officers to investigate options (eg microphones, hearing loop) and bring a report back to committee for decision (with demonstration if possible).

F.36 **REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

The committee received reports on the 2019 St Ives Guide and the possibility that the number of toilets in the Guildhall may be reduced when the Community Rooms building is sold.

F.37 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** – that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meeting) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following matter on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government

Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

F.38 **COMMENCEMENT OF FORMAL LEGAL ACTION – GUILDHALL PROPERTY**

Members asked for further clarification of the situation pertaining to the storage of bins and barrels on council property, and received from officers assurance that efforts had been made to have them removed short of legal action. The Clerk stated that officers' efforts had been directed at removal, and stated that that approach had been council policy on the matter. Councillors expressed frustration that his long-running issue remained unresolved, and sympathy for the business that had insufficient storage space for its needs. The Facilities Manager reminded Members that the council had its own, significant storage problems but did not solve them by storing its property on other people's land. Councillors considered ways of making it impossible to store the bins and barrels in the alley including by narrowing it, but concluded that an effort should be made to talk to the business to seek a resolution before legal action is taken.

**RESOLVED** – that the committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman and one or two ward members and (who could be supported by an officer) meet the managers of the business face-to-face in a last effort to resolve the matter informally.

Meeting adjourned at 8.33 pm

Chairman