

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Property Committee held in the Council Chambers,
the Amenity Centre, Main Street, Yaxley on 4th July 2023 at 7.00pm.**

Present:- Councillors R Butcher, D Chapman, K Gulson, S McMullon, M Oliver and A Wood.

In attendance – Mrs H Taylor – Clerk.

PR1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

On the proposition of Councillor K Gulson, seconded by Councillor R Butcher, it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor M Oliver be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor M Oliver – Chairman in the Chair.

PR2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors R Doncaster and A Minns.

PR3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

On the proposition of Councillor R Butcher, seconded by Councillor A Wood, it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor D Chapman be elected Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

PR4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

PR5. MINUTES

Councillor R Butcher proposed approval of the Minutes of the Committee held on 28th March 2023. This was seconded by Councillor A Wood and **RESOLVED** unanimously.

PR6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No Member of the Public wished to speak.

PR7. REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

By way of a report by the Clerk (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), Members noted the repairs and maintenance carried out on the facilities since the last meeting, along with that planned. Special mention was made of the water temperature controls and testing undertaken at Queens Park to manage the risks of legionnaires which requires the water to be at a certain temperature. Members were advised that the cost of heating the water daily was expensive due to the electric water heating system in place and that the building was also subject to an agreed supply capacity charge. Members agreed that alternative hot water systems needed to be investigated along with other possible energy saving measures such as solar panels. The Clerk was requested to investigate this and the legality of the agreed supply capacity charge further and report back to a future meeting.

Attention was then drawn to the spates of vandalism at the public toilets in the pavilion which was becoming a problem during school holidays. The meeting reiterated that these acts of anti social behaviour puts a question mark over the future of the facility and that the situation should be monitored over the summer. At the same time, the Clerk was requested to publicise the risk of the toilets closing should the vandalism continue via social media and notices at the pavilion.

PR8. USE OF BUILDINGS BY REGULAR HIRERS

In receiving a list of regular hirers for the Council's halls (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), Members were impressed by the increase in regular hirers using the Austin Hall during the weekday.

PR9. ELECTRICITY AND GAS RATES

The Clerk reported that she was in discussions with the Council's energy suppliers over renewing the contracts. With prices for wholesale electricity and gas being very volatile at the moment, the energy costs would be rising with the likelihood that current prices would double.

PR10. FEES AND CHARGES

By way of a report by the Clerk (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) Members reviewed the hire charge for the Pavilion, Austin Hall, Owen Pooley Hall and Queens Park, along with the discount awarded to Stretton Pre School and other charitable groups.

In doing so, Members were advised that of the 72 weekend parties held in the halls over the past 12 months, 49 were booked by non-residents. With increases in energy prices and staffing costs it was recommended that all the hourly rates be increased and non-resident rates be introduced for one off bookings.

Whereupon it was proposed by Councillor R Butcher that

- the proposed hire rates as outlined in the report, including a non-resident rate, be introduced from the dates suggested and a review be undertaken again in 12 months;
- the discount awarded to Stretton Pre School remain at 5% from 1st January 2024;
- the bank holiday hall hire be charged as a weekend rate; and
- the Clerk uses her discretion to award a 5% discount for regular weekend users of the hall where she sees fit.

This was seconded by Councillor A Wood and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signed ...**Mark Oliver 19th September 2023**.....

Chairman.