

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Property Committee
held in the Council Chamber, Yaxley Parish Council on 12th February 2015.**

Present:- Councillor R Butcher – Chairman

Councillors G Bellamy, C Bolton, K Gulson, M Oliver, D Porteous, A Rees, and J Willis.

In attendance – H Taylor.

PR35. Apologies

No apologies were received.

PR36. Declaration of interests

No declarations were received.

PR37. Public Participation

No Member of the Public wished to speak.

PR38. Minutes

Councillor Rees proposed approval of the Minutes of the Committee held on 18th November 2014. This was seconded by Councillor Bolton and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

PR39. Structural Inspection Chimneys and Bell Tower, 48 Main Street

With the aid of a report by the Clerk, Members were apprised of the outcome of a structural inspection of the 3 chimneys and bell tower on the Owen Pooley Hall undertaken by Brierley & Co Structural Engineers (a copies of which are appended in the Minute Book).

In discussing the report's recommendations some confusion surrounded the findings for chimney No.1 and Members requested the Clerk to clarify with the author whether this chimney was acceptable or raising concern. In the meantime, Members felt that the cost of stabilising the chimney with some steel rods should be investigated.

Referring to Chimney No.2 and the bell tower it was the view of the meeting that the recommended maintenance work, using lime mortar, should be undertaken by a skilled bricklayer.

With regard to chimney No. 3, Members were of the opinion that this should be reduced in height and maintenance work carried out to the remainder of the brickwork.

Attention also was drawn to the outcome of a structural inspection of the Old Chapel, Dovecote Lane. (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book). Members were advised that the stability of the building was not considered to be at risk because the extent of the movement was limited to cracking in the substantial masonry walls. It had been suggested that a pointing up exercise be undertaken this year and perhaps repeated in five years time.

Whereupon, it was proposed by Councillor Bolton that quotations be obtained for the work to the Chapel, Owen Pooley Chimneys and Belltower, as outlined above, to include the coating of the brickwork with sealant where necessary. This was seconded by Councillor Porteous and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

PR40. Review of Hire Fees for Queens Park Hall

By way of a report by the Clerk (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) Members reviewed the hire charge for Queens Park Hall. In doing so, Members attention was drawn to the cost to hire the Owen Pooley and Austin Halls which was less than Queens Park and therefore attracted more bookings. Having agreed that income for Queens Park should be maximised it was proposed by Councillor Porteous that the hire charge for Queens Park be £14.00 per hour Sunday to Friday - £112.00 day rate, £17.50 per hour on a Saturday, £140.00 day rate to be introduced with immediate effect. This was seconded by Councillor Bolton and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

At the same time attention was drawn to an approach by 2 local child minders to use Queens Park during the week for a temporary period. Although, they were not in position to hire the hall at the moment they could like to revisit the idea in the autumn. With this in mind and given the discount available to another daily long term hall user, it was proposed by Councillor Bolton that a discount of 20% be awarded to regular long term daily hall users (Monday to Fridays). This was seconded by Councillor Porteous and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

PR41. Little Cuckoos – hire of the pavilion

Having been advised of a discussion between the Clerk, Councillor Gulson and Little Cuckoos Pre-School regarding the hiring of the pavilion, it was proposed by Councillor Oliver that the Pre-School not be charged for using the facilities between 2.00pm and 3.00pm, amounting to a 20% discount. This was seconded by Councillor Rees and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

PR42. Water tank at the Chapel.

Consideration was given to a suggestion that the water tank abutting the outside wall of the Chapel be removed. Whereupon, it was proposed by Councillor Porteous and seconded by Councillor Gulson that the Clerk investigate the options available and report back to a future meeting.

Meeting closed at 6.50pm

Signed

Chairman.