

11. External Audit 2022 - 2023 - Approval of the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements (Pages 45 - 50)

11.1 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022-2023

Members requested to approve the accounting statements as outlined in Section 1 of the Annual Return. The Annual Return must be signed by the Town Mayor, Councillor S Crundell, or in his absence, by the appointed Chair of the meeting. The document must also be signed by the Town Clerk/RFO. Full statement attached.

11.2 Accounting Statements 2022-2023

Members requested to approve, by formal resolution, the accounting statements as outlined in Section 2 of the Annual Return. The Annual Return must be signed by the Town Mayor, Councillor S Crundell, or in his absence, by the appointed Chair of the meeting. The document must also be signed by the Town Clerk/RFO. Full statement attached.

11.3 The Clerk is setting the commencement date for the exercise of public rights as Wednesday 28 June 2023 and ending on Tuesday 8 August 2023.

12. Insurance Policy Renewal (Pages 51 - 64)

Policy renewed on 1st June 2023 after review as the 2nd year of a 3 year policy.

13. Proposed lighting for Bowmans Court to Forest Community Centre Access Road (Pages 65 - 66)

To consider a proposal from Councillor Oatley to install lights in Bowmans Court to Forest Community Centre Access Road.

14. Remit of Melksham Assembly Hall Working Group (Pages 67 - 80)

On 5 June 2023 the Asset Management and Amenities Committee discussed a proposal from Councillor Ellis (see attached) and resolved as follows.

Minute 163/23.

That the town council register its interest in the Blue Pool site with Wiltshire Council, establish a timeline and find out whether any potential procurement would be pre or post demolition, enquire about access to the site from the Campus end of the site.

That the Assembly Hall Working Group Terms of reference are amended at the next Full Council meeting which will enable input from volunteers in the community on potential proposals for the site which will include the Town Hall, 31 Market Place and the Art House Cafe.

That the Friends of Melksham Assembly Hall are asked to come up with proposals.

That the matter be referred to Full Council to decide on the remit of the working

group.

Current terms of reference are attached.

A further proposal has now been received from Councillor Ellis as follows:

Request to Full Council to reconfigure the Assembly Hall Working Group, with members of the Friends of Melksham Assembly Hall, into a working group of the full council to investigate and progress the future of the Assembly Hall, the linked building currently the Blue Pool and the immediate surrounds bordering the Campus.

Next steps:

1. Authorise the Assembly Hall Working Group, to comprise current members and representatives of the Friends of Melksham Assembly Hall and museum and hub interests, to investigate the possible further with a structural survey leading to an outline business case and costing. We would request a budget of around £5000 for this initial professional work. The group will also be informed by the needs assessment, Cluster 1 research by the neighbourhood plan team, and further user and community interaction.
2. To gain access for members of FoMAH and AHWG already involved to the Blue Pool to help the team evaluate the possible and to get a measure of the building and opportunities so that we can fill in the details
3. To progress liaison with Wiltshire Council concerning the transfer of the Blue Pool to the ownership of the Town Council should an agreement be reached between the parties and that to be fitting with the strategic plans of the Town Council.
4. To allow these groups concerned to meet within the Assembly Hall or other available Town council rooms to progress their work, with internal accounting to cover the costs thereof as with other working groups.

The outcomes from the above will be a feasibility report to full council. Should the group consider option(s) practical and recommendable, it will include a road map to decide and progress the project looking at the ultimate use / needs for Melksham and how we would get there and provide an affordable and sustainable set of facilities into the future, looking ahead at the next 15 years.

A meeting of AHWG/FoMAH is proposed for the evening of Tuesday 4th July (or 5th if better) with an agenda to include composition, terms of reference, appointment of officers, allocation of initial roles and business plan.

15. Christmas Light and Fair Event

To consider and approve the resolution of the Community Development Committee on