

WHALEY BRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

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CLERK'S REPORT

To: All Town Councillors
Date: 2 March 2023
From: Andrew Fox
Town Clerk
Subject: Town Council Meeting to be held
on 9 March 2023

Dear Councillor,

Please find attached background papers for the Town Council meeting.

7.15pm Cheque signing
7.30pm Town Council Meeting

Budget 2023/24

I will provide an updated draft budget to Cllrs as soon as possible, hopefully at the beginning of next week. At this meeting we must confirm the budget for the upcoming financial year which starts in April.

Ownership of Path by the Cock Pub into the Linear Park

I have contacted DALC and HPBC regarding the ownership of the path by the Cock Pub and they have both informed me that the way to proceed is to register the land with the Land Registry. There are numerous costs associated with registering land which would need to be agreed beforehand. Firstly there is a flat fee with will be either £45 or £95 for a postal application depending on the rateable value of the land which unfortunately I do not know. There is a discount for using the online portal where it would be £20 or £40 depending on the value. I have contacted the Land Registry and been given general information about registering the land. The guidance does not specifically relate to our circumstances as it was an automatic message sent to anyone enquiring about registering land. I have contacted them again asking for specific assistance in our case. In any event there is a large quantity of forms, documents and evidence which is required for an application to be made. My recommendation, depending on what I hear back from the Land Registry, is that the Council seeks the services of a professional conveyancer who will have a much greater knowledge of the process and will have insurance to cover any potential issues which arise in the registration process. I will provide a further update at the Town Council meeting.

Shallcross Incline

I have asked for an update from DCC regarding the planned works to the Shallcross Incline. Once the additional information is received I will forward it to Cllrs.

Brookfield Pond

I have received an additional quote for the repair to the fishing platforms, this will be presented at the meeting. I have also received correspondence from the residents of Brookfield House regarding the agreed fence at the back of Brookfield Pond. They have requested if the Council would consider extending the fence along their boundary wall. I have included a plan in the meeting papers, their boundary highlighted in the dotted red line.

King Charles III Coronation

I placed this item on the agenda to consider the Risk Assessment for the Coronation event and any other items such as the purchase of flags. Prices for the flags vary depending on size and other factors. Just to note the HPBC grant for the Coronation is £750.00 and the deadline is the 22nd of March. I will make the application

Staff Working Arrangements

I will provide a report regarding this item before the Town Council meeting.

Network Rail Work to Bridge 42

I have placed this item on the agenda so Cllrs can bring up any topics regarding this work if desired.

Electrical Work at the Sports Pavilion

We have received quotes from Stanway's to do the recommended electrical work identified in the fixed wiring test. They have identified some significant issues with unfortunately all Code C1 and C" faults requiring rectification. The emergency lights also do not operate correctly as they were wired incorrectly. There is a total of nine replacement lights and alterations to the wiring to ensure we are compliant. The total cost for the work is £1,180.00 plus VAT.

Closure of Post Office Cash Deposit Services

On the 1st of May 2023 Unity Trust Bank announced that they will be closing their Post Office cash deposit agreement. This means we will no longer be able to deposit cash with the Post Office and instead will have to go to NatWest. Unfortunately, the nearest branch is in Hazel Grove or Macclesfield so staff would be required to travel some distance to deposit cash. Therefore, we are asking users to pay with card, cheque or bank transfer whenever possible.

Bus Shelter at the Solider Dick

Our insurance company is in the process of making a claim through the other parties' insurance.

Rubber Crumb Quotes

We have been informed that we require more rubber crumb for the 3G pitch. The administrator has got multiple quotes for the supply of the crumb. Last time Genan supplied the crumb, per tonne with delivery their price is £255 plus VAT. As we are looking for 5 tonne of rubber crumb the total cost would be £1,530.00 including VAT.

We have got a quote from Murfitts will supply 5 tonne for £1,685.00 including VAT. Finally we got another quote from the Resin Mill which came to £4,146.00 for 5 tonne delivered. Our recommendation is to go with Genan as they quoted the cheapest price and we have a good working relationship from our previous orders with them.

Quotes for Work

We have a number of quotes for work items such as the installation of thermostats in the Mechanics Institute and plumbing work at the Pavilion and Mechanics. The quotes received for these items will be provided in the meeting papers were applicable.

Spreader Attachment for the 3G Pitch Tractor

We have been looking at the purchase of a spreader attachment for the Sports Association Tractor as the Caretaker currently has to distribute the rubber crumb for the pitch by hand. As we are looking to replenish the pitch with several tonne of rubber crumb as recommended to us we have looked at purchasing a spreader attachment. We would be able to acquire an attachment for the tractor for £89.99 exclusive of VAT from Amazon. We are also looking at other suppliers and hope to have a wider price range at the meeting.

Compensation for Business from the Closure of Buxton Road

I was asked by Cllrs to contact DCC, HPBC and Network Rail to ask whether any compensation would be provided for the businesses due to the closure of Buxton Road. I was informed that no compensation would be provided due to the work. As requested, I have added an agenda item to discuss this.

Grit Bins

Just to confirm the Council's grit bins have all been filled before any potential bad weather.

Furness Vale COGS Request for Funding

I sent Cllrs the additional information provided by COGS via email. As the reports forwarded to Cllrs are quite long, I have not placed them in the meeting papers.

Town Council Newsletter

I have received a quote from PearTree Print for the printing of the previous number of newsletters the Council used to provide. For 3200 A4 double sided newsletters the cost in black and white would be £160.00 and the cost for the same in colour would be £225.00. I have been looking into delivery costs as well and have yet to receive a quote, previously it cost us £134.00 for the distribution of the newsletters.

Town Clerk, 2 March 2023