

**MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2017 AT 6.30PM AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE
OLD CONVENT, 8 BROAD STREET, OTTERY ST MARY**

PRESENT Mayor Councillor Dobson (Town Ward)
Councillors Giles, Holmes, Pang, Edwards
and Carter (Town Ward)
Bartlett and Gori (North Ward)
Bailey, Hall, (West Hill Ward)
together with the Clerk

The Mayor advised that the meeting was being recorded

PRAYER

The Clerk read the Council Prayer.

17/02/35

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Harding, Talbot and Pratt

17/02/36

COUNCILLORS ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES HAVING BEEN RECEIVED

Cllrs Faithfull and Mitchell

17/02/37

**TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND
RECEIPT OF REQUESTS FOR NEW DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIS)
DISPENSATIONS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were none

17/02/38

**IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT
1960 (PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY
REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE
TRANSACTIONED): TO RESOLVE THAT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED
FROM ITEM 4**

It was **RESOLVED** that the following be taken in Confidential Session

An estimate for the works for the new public conveniences had been received from Dave Strawbridge in the sum of £13,850. It was understood that this would include the men`s urinal. However the estimate did not state whether the sum excluded or included VAT. The Mayor would investigate this

A copy of the proposed JCT contract had been e-mailed to all councillors for consideration with the estimate attached and a hard copy had been tabled

.....Mayor`s Initials

The Mayor confirmed that the contract for the library had been completed satisfactorily. However final invoices were still awaited. A snagging list had been produced and fully addressed. Cllr Bailey enquired as to whether Libraries Unlimited were aware of the payment arrangements. (The subcontractors were paid individually in order that the main contractor – Dave Strawbridge did not go above the VAT threshold and therefore had not charged the Council VAT). Cllr Bailey questioned whether this arrangement was appropriate and whether potentially it put the Council at risk particularly as HMRC were keen to investigate Vat avoidance . The Mayor replied that the original contact had been varied to provide for the sub-contractors to be paid directly and also legal advice obtained regarding the VAT issue, which as far as he was aware gave the assurance that the arrangement presented no risk to the Council.

*The Deputy Mayor at this point walked out of the meeting.

*He subsequently advised the Clerk to record on the minutes that the reason for his walking out of the meeting was due to the conduct of certain councillors which he considered was inappropriate and questioned (without just cause) , the integrity of both the Mayor and himself who had dedicated an enormous amount of their time to the project

It was subsequently **RESOLVED** that the Recommendations contained in the Property and Land Working Group Notes dated 21st February 2017 be approved whereby :-

i. Mr Strawbridge`s estimate be accepted subject to Cllr Bailey being provided with evidence in writing that Mr Strawbridge`s VAT position presented no risk to the Council. A vote was taken resulting in 6 in favour and 2 abstentions

ii. the JCT contract be approved and authority be given to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to enter into the same on behalf of the Council.

A vote was taken resulting in 7 in favour and 1 abstention

and in addition the following also be approved:-

iii the quote from Bishop for a CCTV System for the library in the sum of £740 inc of Vat be accepted

Cllr Bartlett requested that it be recorded on the Minutes that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor both be thanked for all their hard work and commitment to the library project

17/02/39

TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

There were no councillors questions raised

Meeting ended at 6.58pm

Mayor's signature: Date:.....

**THE NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 6TH MARCH 2017
AT 7PM AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE OLD CONVENT, 8 BROAD STREET,
OTTERY ST MARY**

.....Mayor`s Initials