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Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on Thursday 25th February 2021 at 5.30pm

Present:

Councillor Chace (Mayor)
Councillor Blanchard-Cooper
*Councillor Buckland
Councillor Long
Councillor Molloy
Councillor Northeast
Councillor Price
*Councillor Rhodes
Councillor Tandy
*Councillor Turner
*Councillor Dr Walsh KStJ

2020/2021

This meeting is available to view using the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpG-VlbMzT0>

83. Virtual Meeting Protocol and Use of Mobile Devices

The Mayor welcomed Members, the press, officers, and members of the public to the meeting and explained how the meeting would be conducted.

84. Apologies

There were no apologies.

*Councillor Buckland joined the meeting at 5:42pm.

85. Declarations of Interest

Members and Officers were reminded to make any declarations of disclosable pecuniary or personal and/or prejudicial interests that they might have in relation to items on the Agenda. The standing declarations were noted, and no further declarations were made.

*Councillor Dr Walsh KStJ joined the meeting at 5:44pm.

86. Town Mayor's Report and Urgent Items

There were none.

87. Public Forum

In accordance with the Remote Meetings Protocol introduced by the Town Council, members of the public who wished to address the Council or any of its Committees during a remote meeting should have emailed their representations one clear working day before the meeting. There were none.

88. Exempt Business

It was **Resolved** that:

The public and accredited representatives of the press be excluded from the Meeting under Section 100 Local Government Act 1972 due to the confidential nature of the business to be conducted.

The following item is confidential for Members of the Council only in accordance with Paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, being information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

89. Officers Report- Exempt

89.1. New Youth Centre in Wick

*Councillor Rhodes joined the meeting at 5:58pm.

89.1.1. Members had before them a report (circulated to Members of the Council only) which set out details of the design and cost review in respect of the proposed new youth centre in Eldon Way. The Employers Agent proceeded to present the revised design proposals and outline the key changes. It was noted that a revised design concept retaining two stories had been considered by the Sub-Committee. Whilst this had resulted in a reduction in the estimated costs of the project, they were still at the maximum of the budget allocated. This had prompted a further examination of cost saving options which had led the Sub-Committee to recommend that the first floor be removed. Council also had the revised cost estimates which set out savings

which could be achieved through changes in the use of materials and also the removal of the first floor.

*Councillor Turner joined the meeting at 6:19pm.

89.1.2. Council proceeded to consider the revised design and cost estimates in more detail and Members views mirrored those of the Sub-Committee and additional points were made regarding the exterior design and toilet facilities. The revised cost estimates had demonstrated that whilst savings could be made and the two-storey concept retained, a more pragmatic resolution would be to adopt a single storey design. In reaching this decision, it was considered that the aspiration of an additional meeting space to provide education/ training facilities and kitchen facilities sufficient to facilitate a café could also still be achieved. Council agreed with the Sub-Committee that in adopting this approach, the core function of a building as a youth centre would not be compromised and in fact would deliver benefits in terms of managing youth sessions and the overall impact of the building on the surrounding area. noted that the architects had confirmed that the design changes required could be achieved within the existing contract.

89.1.3. Regarding the outdoor space provision, discussion focused on the boundary treatment of the site. It was acknowledged that the final decision on the outdoor facilities rested with the District Council as the landowner. However, it was also considered important that the boundary complemented the new building and respected the residential amenities of the properties on the eastern boundary. Members therefore also considered that a resolution was possible through the partnership with the District Council on this project. It was therefore **Resolved** that:

- 1. A single storey design concept for the new Youth Centre in Wick be progressed.**
- 2. The Sub-Committee report back to Council with a proposed layout for a single storey building and project timeline on 25th March 2021.**
- 3. Additional support for the overall upgrade of outdoor facilities be included in the scope of the project.**
- 4. The work to bring the project within the maximum budget allocated of £1,554,657 be endorsed.**

The meeting closed at 6:53pm

TOWN MAYOR