

MINUTES
of the
**Buildings & Moorings Committee meeting held on 17th November 2021 at 6pm in the
Town Hall, Tewkesbury**

Present: Cllrs C Danter (Chair); H Bowman, P Devine, R Gurney, K Powell, S Raywood, J Raywood

In attendance: D Hill (Town Clerk)

B&M.21.043 Receive apologies for absence
None.

B&M.21.044 Receive declarations of interest
None.

B&M.21.045 Receive dispensations
None.

B&M.21.046 Approve the minutes of the Building & Moorings Committee meeting held on 22nd September 2021
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Buildings & Moorings Committee meeting held on 22nd September July 2021. Proposed by Cllr Bowman, seconded by Cllr Brennan.

B&M.21.047 Matters arising from the minutes
B&M.20.093 – Defibrillator quotes: Ongoing enquiries as to best locations. Potential location on High Street to be investigated and one to be sited at Watson Hall. If this cannot be outside then one will be installed inside the building. Carried forward.
B&M.20.127 – Repairs to windows at museum: Croft to attend site to rectify a couple of issues with the downstairs window they replaced. Town Clerk has chased this outstanding item. Carried forward.
B&M.20.139 – Watson Hall balcony handrail: The Events Officer has spoken to Building Control but needs to revert to Structural Engineer as the handrail is not in a new environment. Carried forward.
B&M.20.143 – Back of Avon retaining wall: awaiting quote for work

B&M.21.048 Receive correspondence relating to the Buildings & Moorings Committee
The Assistant Town Clerk has been in correspondence with SUP Gloucester concerning the possibility of as suitable Town Council owned location for paddleboards, kayaks etc to use. **Action** arrange a meeting with SUP Gloucester.

B&M.21.049 Public Participation
There was participation from two members of the public as follows:

1st item

The removal and/or the reduction in height of the then newly installed replacement mooring poles on the Mill Bank Landing Stage. This was first raised within committee on January 27 2021 in the form of a written question from a neighbour and again in a presentation made by Friends of Mill Avon on February 18 2021.

The proposed use to which the Mill Bank Landing Stage will be put.

The timing and plans for the renovation of the Landing Stage.

I formally enquired in July and August of this year as to what progress had been made but received no assurance that anything had been considered and/or done. We, at Mill Bank, are aware that TBC have asked TTC to submit a Planning Application should they wish to retain the mooring poles, that are widely agreed to be an "eye-sore", but we are not aware of any further developments or email correspondence other than the Planning Enforcement email of July 26 from Joe Gibbons at TBC. There was no consultation with local residents as to their installation, nor with the Land Registration of the moorings in front of our cottages in 2017. We hope that the same mistake will not be continued; we are willing participants. What is the current situation please?

In our estimation the Landing Stage has remained underutilised this year, when it could have been a good response to the need for a safe alighting point, near a dangerous weir, for visiting craft to this end of town and for paddle boarders and canoeists to tranship to the lower Mill Avon. Ten months on from when these matters were first raised, nothing has changed, other than the deterioration of the Landing Stage and its riverbank. A minimal response has been given to members of Friends of the Mill Avon's requests and suggestions. Between ourselves we have over 100 years of living on Mill Bank and feel that as locals we might deserve a little consultation on what happens on our patch.

We courteously enquire when will TTC act and when will TTC respond?

2nd item

It is of considerable concern to the Civic Society that an opportunity to improve the Riverside Walk experience is being missed. We note that you are proposing investing nearly £2000 in replacement fencing around your riverside land on St. Mary's Road near the old Halifax Works. The existing fencing does need replacing and you are to be congratulated for recognising that but to simply replace one unattractive cheap looking fence with another such would be a great shame anywhere but on the Riverside Walk is really something that should not be done. It also completely ignores the set of Public Realm standards that were developed at some cost and effort by a sub-group of TTRP comprising an architect, councillors and appropriate skilled officers. The resultant documented set was not adopted as an SPD but was recognized as a set that should be sensibly followed. We sent you copies of these standards some weeks ago in case you had not been appraised of them.

In knowledge of these standards the Riverside Partnership, of which TTC was a member, promoted heavily the use of three-bar railings along the riverside, as existed already at Mill Bank, to give a sense of unity. This standard was followed along the "Missing Link" and around the slipway on the Hangings and the expectation was that all publicly funded future riverside fencing would take that form unless there was an over-riding reason otherwise.

Additionally, the Riverside Partnership, as did the Civic Society, saw an opportunity for TTC to give greater access for the public to that riverside stretch of ground on St. Mary's Road. There are several ways fencing (three bar fencing) and possibly bollards could be arranged that would both allow pedestrian public access whilst also providing security to the moorings. It just requires imagination and the will to do it, in our view. If done that way it would greatly enhance the Riverside Walk experience and respond to public concern, last expressed at a Residents' Consultation some ten or so years ago, that too little was being done to exploit the rivers and riversides for the benefit of the community and visitors alike.

So, our question is:

"Will the committee reconsider this matter and study, with others, the ideas here documented before committing irrevocably to any expenditure?"

B&M.21.050 Review the budget reports and earmarked reserves report and to agree release of earmarked reserves

The budget reports were reviewed. It was RESOLVED to move £11,240 from museum maintenance in earmarked reserves to museum maintenance and £1,697.50 from museum roof project in earmarked reserves to museum maintenance. Proposed by Cllr Brennan, seconded by Cllr S Raywood.

B&M.21.051 Approve payments to be made

It was RESOLVED to approve payments totalling £6,561.61. Proposed by Cllr Devine, seconded by Cllr S Raywood. Members queried the format of the report in respect of the amounts showing under the column heading 'paid'. **Action:** Town Clerk to look into this.

B&M.21.052 Consider budget requirements for 2022/23 and the forward budget as discussed at the working group meeting

The budget requirements and suggestions from the working group meeting were discussed in detail. The committee agreed on their draft budget for consideration by the Finance Committee.

B&M.21.053 Agree the preferred specialist to undertake painting repairs to the damaged portrait in the Council Chamber

Item deferred.

B&M.21.054 Agree to purchase 10 rectangular tables and 4 café style tables for the Town Hall

Item deferred.

B&M.21.055 Review of grant funding and expenditure to date on Watson Hall improvements

Item deferred.

B&M.21.056 Agree to replace lighting in the main hall, under the balcony and the front of the stage at the Watson Hall in order to satisfy the remaining C2 concern identified in the electrical installation inspection report

Item deferred.

B&M.21.057 Agree expenditure related to additional specialist reports at Priors Court

B&M.21.058 Receive updates on the following ongoing matters:

- i. Health & Safety inspection of pictures and hangings in the Council Chamber – item deferred
- ii. Lighting in the Town Hall garden – item deferred
- iii. Improvements to heating in the Town Hall – item deferred
- iv. Historic England funding and work progress in respect of 64 Barton Street – item deferred
- v. 64 Barton Street water ingress – item deferred

B&M.21.059 Agree working group to review the work programme

Item deferred.

B&M.21.060 Consider whether future Moorings working group meetings are required at this point in time

Item deferred.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8 pm.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes 1st December 2021