

# Penistone Town Council

## Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure, Amenities and Town Services Committee held in the Bar Room, St John's Community Centre on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7.00pm

**PRESENT** Councillor J. Cutts in the Chair, and Cllr M. Barraclough, Cllr W. Chadburn and Cllr R. Hinchliff

Brian Barnsley – Paramount Manager  
Nigel Bailey – Town Clerk  
Elaine Miller – Assistant Town Clerk

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Cllr Cutts (Chair), Cllr G. Millner (Vice Chair), Cllr W. Chadburn, Cllr H. Hayton, Cllr R. Hinchliff, Cllr A. Kimberley, Cllr A. Rusby, Cllr R. Trotman

There were no members of the public in attendance.

#### **1. LATS 2022/8 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs G. Millner and A. Kimberley.

#### **2. LATS 2022/9 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS**

2.1 In accordance with Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 members to declare any disposable pecuniary interests in items on this agenda.

It was **NOTED** and **RECORDED** that there were no declarations of interest.

2.2 The Town Clerk to report any written dispensations in respect of items on this agenda.

The Town Clerk reported that there were none.

#### **3. LATS 2022/10 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC – PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS ACT 1960) S. 1 (2)**

Meetings shall be open to the public unless their presence is prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for the other special reasons. The public's exclusion from part or all of a meeting shall be by a resolution which shall give reasons for the public's exclusion in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960.

There were no members of the public and press present there were no items to be excluded.

#### **4. LATS 2022/11 REPORT OF THE PARAMOUNT MANAGER**

BB stated that he would not recommend an increase in ticket prices in the current economic climate; with the proviso that this issue may have to be revisited later in the year when the impact of increased energy bills can be evaluated. Hire charges for commercial concerns have been increased slightly, although to date there has been no increase in hire charges for community

groups. Again this may need to be reviewed at a later date due to increased energy costs. The Council is mindful that the availability of the Paramount for community groups is a condition of their leasehold; and to this end in 2023 the Warm Bank project has been extended to after school groups. This has been facilitated by the Town Clerk obtaining a grant from Barnsley MBC; and these showings have seen an increase in attendance for the Warm Bank. BB stated that he will be initiating social value data collection which will assist in evaluating the effectiveness of the project as well as being potentially useful for further grant applications.

The possibility of appointing an external stocktaker was discussed, however BB feels this is unnecessary as the Paramount staff already undertake a weekly stock count. Some stock items such as draft beers are harder to evaluate but BB is not concerned that there is any significant discrepancy between sales and stock reserves.

BB reported that the Paramount currently has a full complement of staff; however many of the relief staff have reduced their availability so there is a need to recruit further. He is also considering the appointment of a relief duty manager.

BB reported on the ongoing efforts to reduce waste and plastic usage at the Paramount. They have recently replaced some snack items for others with more easily disposable/recyclable packaging and this has considerably reduced the volume of waste. Since the pandemic the Paramount has used 8000 plastic cups *per annum* but these are difficult to recycle. BB has been investigating new cups/glasses made of washable and recyclable plastic (guaranteed for 100 washes). Glasses cost 50p per item and wine glasses £1.19. Some of the purchase costs could be offset by raising the price of a glass of wine to £4.50. BB to provide costs to stock the Paramount with these before the Ordinary Town Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February next.

BB referred to the development of "Screen 2" under the Principal Towns initiative. This has revealed that there are numerous leaks in the radiator system in the building and much of the hardware will need to be replaced. BB is investigating whether this is the financial responsibility of Barnsley MBC. The roof leaks in the Paramount building have improved due to maintenance of the guttering but there are still leaks which need to be addressed.

The remodelling of the Paramount Bar is ongoing; a design is currently under consideration. Issues with plumbing, drainage and sewage have emerged. BB stated that while these are being addressed the stage toilets and cleaners cupboard should be replaced. They also need to remove the old dumb waiter which is currently sealed off due to asbestos hazard. BB reported that it may be possible to get financial assistance from some of the beer suppliers but he is investigating whether this would be viable as it may be conditional on undesirable commitments to their products.

BB reported that he and the Paramount staff are constantly reviewing the effectiveness of advertising methods (including social media); however these can be difficult to evaluate.

The Paramount Manager's report and recommendations with regard to ticket prices and hire charges were approved by the Committee.

## **LATS 2022/12 GALA COMMITTEE REQUEST - PARAMOUNT**

Cllr Barraclough reported that the Gala Committee had made some enquiries in relation to the Gala Concert which will be held at the Paramount on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023. These were: the removal of some of the front rows of seating to allow standing/dancing room and ensuring that the Bar remains open and is adequately staffed until the end of the event. BB reported that the front rows

cannot be removed for practical reasons; however this year he will ensure that there is extra space at the front. Last year the back rows of seating were removed and placed in the open front area to allow space for the technical equipment to be installed at the back. This year BB will ensure that the back seats are not placed in the front area so there will be extra space for clients who wish to stand, dance etc.

Regarding the Bar, the Gala Committee had reported at their last meeting that last year's concert was spoiled by the Bar closing early and having only 2 staff working which meant people were queuing for a long time for drinks and many patrons left the event in frustration. EM reported that the Gala Committee would be able to supply volunteers to work in the Bar to assist the Paramount staff but BB was adamant that this would not be desirable or necessary. He undertook to ensure that the Bar will remain open for the duration of the concert and that it will be adequately staffed.

### **LATS 2022/13 ST JOHN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE HIRE CHARGES / DISCOUNTS / CLIENTS STORAGE**

The Town Clerk and Assistant Clerk reported that they did not feel an increase in hire charges would be feasible due to the current economic climate; however there are some long standing clients who receive substantial discounts and concessions. These discounts are inconsistently applied and the Town Clerk recommended that they be reviewed. The Chair requested a report detailing the current discounts and the potential increase in revenue should these be discontinued/amended. The Assistant Clerk to prepare the report.

The Town Clerk further reported that some clients have free use of storage cupboards in the Community Centre. Some clients have several cupboards meaning that there are none available for other clients or indeed the PTC staff; again the granting of free use of storage space has been inconsistently applied. The Chair requested that all clients be contacted and asked to provide comprehensive lists of what is contained in each cupboard. Clients also to be informed that the Council is reviewing its policy on the provision of free storage and this is likely to be restricted in future. The Assistant Clerk to add this information to the aforementioned report.

The Committee agreed that the hire charges should not be increased for 2023/2024 and approved the actions requested by the Chair.

### **LATS 2022/14 REPORT ON THE ALLOTMENTS**

The Chair stated that in accordance with the Council's usual practice, the allotment rents will be increased commensurate with any increase in hire charges at St John's Community Centre; therefore there will be no increase for 2023/2024.

The Town Clerk reported that he is meeting the Chair and Secretary of the Allotment Society on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 to visit both plots.

The Committee approved the Chair's recommendation that the allotment rents should not be increased for 2023/2024.

### **LATS 2022/15 SPONSORED HANGING BASKETS, PENISTONE**

The Town Clerk explained that he and the Assistant Clerk have put in substantial time in planning this project with the local company First Impressions. On the advice of the Director of First Impressions the Town Clerk informed the Barnsley MBC Technical Manager (Highways & Street Lighting) that we would be starting this project. BMBC advised that they are conducting a policy

review due to health and safety concerns relating to hanging baskets and PTC could not proceed until the outcome of this review. The Town Clerk to continue to press BMBC for a decision.

**LATS 2022/16 PENISTONE ARCHIVES – MILLHOUSE GREEN SCHOOL BELL**

The Chair reported that the original school bell from the Millhouse Green Primary School has come into the hands of the Penistone Archives Group. The bell was acquired many years ago by a resident (now deceased) who gifted it to the Archive Group. The Group has now requested that Penistone Town Council should arrange for the bell to be placed on the St John’s Community Centre building. Further to discussion the Committee’s view is that Penistone Town Council should decline to do so and that the Archive Group should retain the bell.

**LATS 2022/17 TOWN CLERK’S REPORT**

The Town Clerk gave a detailed verbal report; a hard copy of this report will be circulated to full Council and presented at the Ordinary Town Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

The Committee approved the Town Clerk’s verbal report.

Signed..... Chair, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023