

Minutes of the meeting of the Service & Amenities Committee held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on Monday 16th January 2023.

Present: Councillor D Reynolds in the Chair
Councillors K Ambrosini, J Graham, S Quinn, A Farlow, D Childs, S Townsend, D Bell, G Mather, D L Mather, H M Hanratty, J Miller and P Quinn.

SA 51/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M Johnson, R Nicholson and N Hanratty.

SA 52/22 Declarations of Interest

Councillor S Quinn declared an interest in item 4 – Shildon Civic Hall – The Bellingring Band of St John's and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

SA 53/22 Civic Hall Financial Performance

Members were provided with the Civic Hall Financial Performance report for the month of December which indicated that both food and bar sales exceeded budget. However, costs also exceeded budget primarily due to the payment of the salaries and wages arrears resulting from the acceptance of the pay award from April 2022.

The financial performance was £2.5k over budget for the period to the end of December which reflected the position reported to Members in the projected outturn for 2022/23 during the recent consideration of the draft budget for 2023/24.

Recommended that the report be received.

Councillor S Quinn left the meeting.

SA 54/22 Shildon Civic Hall

The Town Clerk informed Members that a letter had been received from the Bellingring Band of St John's, Shildon to consider the closing times for the Civic Hall (Letter circulated to Members).

Members debated the issue and reasons on the closing time of the Civic Hall bar/lounge area on a week day when there were no function bookings.

Councillor P Quinn proposed and Councillor D Childs seconded that the current practice of allowing the Civic Hall Manager/Bar and Catering Supervisor discretion to close the lounge/bar area be retained.

Members unanimously agreed and **recommended** to allow the Civic Hall Manger/Bar and Catering Supervisor discretion to close the lounge/bar area if there was no demand for the facilities.

Signed
Chairman.....

SA 55/22 Civic Hall Managers Report

The Civic Hall Manager presented a report to Members and advised that Christmas events at the Civic Hall had been a success and had received positive feedback.

Members were informed that following the end of month bar stocktake a price increase would be implemented in line with product prices.

The Civic Hall Manager informed Members that planning for the Civic Hall's 50th Birthday celebrations was in progress.

Recommended that the report be received.

SA 56/22 Durham County Council: Planning Applications

No planning applications had been received.

SA 57/22 Durham County Council: Planning Decisions

Recommended that the decisions taken since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

SA 58/22 Public Conveniences, Cheapside, Shildon

The Town Clerk updated Members on the demolition of the public conveniences at Cheapside, Shildon and of a suggested community toilet scheme. Members were informed that the cost of demolition had increased since the initial quotation and work was to start on the demolition of the toilet facilities in February 2023.

Following a discussion, Councillor H M Hanratty proposed and Councillor J Miller seconded that a community toilet scheme not be pursued at the present time. A majority vote took place in favour of the proposal.

Recommended that:

- a. The increased cost of demolition of the public conveniences at Cheapside, Shildon be noted.
- b. the Town Council does not pursue a community toilet scheme at present.

Signed
Chairman.....