

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 18 November 2013, at 6.45 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Armstrong, Burton, Hey, Hurlley, Marshall (Chairman), Stannard & Vendy. Also DCllr Barrington & the clerk Mrs Burton and 1 parishioner

127. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Cllr Handford

128. To Receive Declarations of Interest from members present
Cllr Marshall declared an interest in item 130, under Appendix B, as a member of the Town Team.

129. To Receive Comment & Concerns – none

130. To Consider a Request by Craven District Council to become the Project Deliverer for the ‘Paintings In Windows’ Project for the Town Team and to hold the relevant funds until completion.

Cllr Marshall explained that the Town Team had received Leader funding for the Fingerpost Project, which had subsequently come in under budget. As a result various projects had been considered and approved by NYCC (who hold the funding) but as yet had not been paid for, and the money must be spent by Craven District Council by the end of November or it will be lost.

An artist has been commissioned to paint 6 paintings in empty windows at an agreed fee of £400 / window. Cllr Marshall also had an initial quote for the provision of the materials (di-bond aluminium), fitting and fixing, at £2015 +VAT.

The clerk had a request from Sharon Sunter at Craven who is project manager for the Town Team requesting the Council to agree to provide two invoices - the first for the art work for a value of £2400, and the second for the fitting and fixing at £850.

Since the agenda had been posted NYCC had also approved the Improvement to Welcome Wall project that the Council had already agreed to proceed with, so a third invoice for £700 was requested from the Council for which 75% of the funds would be paid (the Leader contribution).

The clerk agreed that the invoices, if issued, would be subject to VAT but that this would not be a problem as all grant funding was considered ex VAT, and Craven would reclaim the VAT part of the invoice.

Cllr Marshall left the meeting and Cllr Burton took the chair

The Council expressed concern that this matter had been left until such a late stage and that full details were not available, and that some of the information provided appeared to be conflicting.

It was agreed that there was no real problem with issuing invoices 1 & 3 as the projects were clearly defined, quoted for and approved. However there was considerable discussion around invoice 2, where Ms Sunter had asked the Council to provide an invoice for £850 which was considerably at odds with the figure quoted by Cllr Marshall, and did not seem to be based on fact – nor did the Council know whether sufficient funds were available to cover the extra spending or whether the £850 was the remaining grant funding.

In order for the funding not to be lost, the Council reluctantly agreed to provide all three invoices, with the proviso that it would not be liable for any overspend on the project and that it was guaranteed that the whole sum would be spent as specified.

RESOLVED: That the Council issue an invoice to Craven District Council for the sum of £2400 for the design and painting of artworks in empty windows

RESOLVED: That the Council issue an invoice to Craven District Council for the sum of £700 for the improvements to the Bentham Welcome Walls, noting that the amount payable as grant funding will be 75% of this figure.

RESOLVED: That the Council issue an invoice to Craven District Council for the sum of £850 for the purchase of materials, & fitting and fixing of paintings in empty windows

RESOLVED: That the Council will only issue the invoices if guaranteed that it will not be liable for any overspend, and that all funding will be spent as specified

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.30pm