



## WISBECH TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE

27 MARCH 2023 – 8.05 pm

### MINUTES OF MEETING

**Present:** Councillor Tierney, Chairman; Councillors Hoy, Human and Wallwork.

**Apologies:** Councillors Oliver and Prest.

**In attendance:** Councillor Tibbs.

**Public participation:** None requested.

The minutes of the meeting of the Wisbech Town Centre Committee held on 6 March 2023 were confirmed and signed.

#### **T25/22 Wisbech Castle**

Further to minute T21/22, members considered the outcome of the tendering exercise in relation to central heating works at Wisbech Castle.

The Chairman reminded members that the central heating boiler at Wisbech Castle is no longer working and that quotations for its replacement, together with the associated installation works, had been sought by the council.

Members remain of the opinion which they had expressed at minute T21/22 that, because of the impact that the absence of heating could have upon the fabric of this important historic building, as well as needing to be able to provide a comfortable environment for users of the building, it is essential that this work be undertaken as a matter of priority.

Members were informed by the Clerk (and Responsible Finance Officer) that, despite considerable efforts to obtain at least three quotations, it had been possible to obtain only quotation for this work. He informed members that he, as the council's Proper Officer, is satisfied that all had been done by the council to obtain additional quotations and, given the importance of this work being undertaken as a matter of priority, he is of the opinion that the council should spend no further time attempting to obtain additional quotations.

The Chairman explained to members the make and model of the proposed new central heating boiler and the nature of the installation works required. Members were informed by the Chairman that, to accord with current regulations, the new boiler could not be installed in the same location as the current one; he assured members that installation in the proposed new location would not require any permission or consent from the Local Planning Authority.

Members are hopeful that this work alone will be sufficient to achieve effective heating at Wisbech Castle but acknowledge that additional works could be needed, such as upgrading some radiators; this would not be known until the impact of installing a new boiler is known.

Members are of the opinion that, based upon research that they had undertaken and their own personal experiences of meeting the costs of central hearing works, the quotation for the works at Wisbech Castle appears to be at the "market rate".



The Clerk (and Responsible Finance Officer) informed members that the cost of the work could be met from the loan which had been provided to Wisbech Town Council by Cambridgeshire County Council to fund repair and improvement works to Wisbech Castle.

Members decided, unanimously, on the proposal of Councillor Tierney, seconded by Councillor Wallwork, that

- (1) the quotation submitted by AJ Build Property Maintenance and Renovations Ltd, the only one received, in the sum of £7,583.33 (plus VAT), for the central heating works at Wisbech Castle be accepted;
- (2) Council staff would liaise with the contractor as necessary, including making payment of the deposit required by the contractor, to facilitate these works.

*(Members resolved to exclude the public for this item of business on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)*

**Meeting finished at 8.20 pm.**

Signed.....

Dated.....

DRAFT