



Saxmundham Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Gannon Institute Trust held on Monday 11th September 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Market Hall, 29 High Street, Saxmundham

Trustees in Attendance:

Cllr Di Eastman (Chair), Cllr Jeremy Smith, Cllr Elizabeth Clark, Cllr James Sandbach, Cllr Marianne Kiff, Cllr John Fisher, Cllr John Findlay, Cllr Charlotte Hawkins, Cllr Benjamin Gulliford

Also Present:

Sharon Smith – RFO
County Cllr Richard Smith
Two members of the public.

12/23GIT **Apologies**

Cllr. Tim Lock was absent from the meeting – no apologies received.

13/23GIT **Declaration of Interest:**

There was a non-pecuniary Declaration of Interest in item 17/23GIT by Cllr Di Eastman as a Trustee of IP17 GNS.

14/23GIT **Open Forum**

None.

15/23GIT **Minutes**

It was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the minutes of 12th June 2023 and 19th July 2023 as true and accurate records.

16/23GIT **Refurbishment Works**

The Chair of the Management Committee reported that the Committee were advised at its meeting held on 23rd August 2023 that the loan from the Public Works Loan Board had been agreed in principle.

The Management Committee requested that the Trustee consider and approve its recommendation to proceed with the further refurbishment works and to request the Town Council to transfer the PWLB loan balance.

It was proposed by Cllr Jeremy Smith, seconded by Cllr John Findlay and **unanimously RESOLVED** to proceed with the further refurbishment works and to request the Town Council to transfer the PWLB loan balance.

Signed _____ Date _____

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17/23GIT Future Use of The Main Hall

The Chair of the Management Committee reported that the Committee received a request from IP17 GNS for a licence for exclusive use of the main hall. The term of the licence was not specified nor the fee payable. It is intended that the whole enterprise will move from the Town House to the Gannon Institute including the social supermarket.

The Chair of the Management Committee reminded the Trustee that the Trust instrument provides for the Gannon Rooms to be used as a community hall. The Management Committee considered the proposed significant use of the hall by IP17 GNS and the impact of this on other users. It was noted that the Town House is not ideal on a long-term basis for IP17 GNS however the Gannon Rooms offers the community a medium sized hall compared with the Fromus Centre and the Market Hall. Cllr John Findlay raised concerns about IP17 GNS continuing to use office and storage accommodation in the Town House.

The Management Committee requested that the Trustee consider and approve its recommendation to open further discussions with IP17 GNS, as a community organisation, to offer preferential use but not exclusive use as the Management Committee consider it appropriate to hire the hall to other users.

It was proposed by Cllr Jeremy Smith, seconded by Cllr James Sandbach, and **RESOLVED** to open further discussions with IP17 GNS to offer preferential use, but not exclusive use, of the main hall. Cllr John Findlay abstained and Cllr Di Eastman, having previously declared an interest, did not participate in the discussion or vote.

18/23GIT Finance

- a) The Trustees noted the payments and receipts for July and August 2023.
- b) The Trustees noted the bank balances as at 31st August 2023.
- c) The Trustees reviewed the budgeted versus actual income and expenditure report as at 31st August 2023.

The meeting closed at 7:15 pm

Sharon Smith – Acting Town Clerk/RFO

Signed _____ Date _____