

Committee: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 20 June 2023

Title: North Street

Purpose of Report

For members to consider a request from the Ilminster History Society to use North Street Offices

Recommendation:

Members **Resolve** to allow Ilminster History Society to use North Street for the monthly sum of XX

Report:

1. In August 2022 the Town Council relocated to the Old Magistrates keeping the North Street building available for meeting use and other activities linked to local authority business.
2. Officers receive requests from other agencies to use the building when they wish to carry out activities that require a neutral base or when they have no Ilminster premises of their own. On average this may be 2 or 3 times a month and can be the chamber or the upstairs offices.
3. A request was received from a member of the Ilminster History Society asking if they could use one of the upstairs offices of premises on a temporary basis so that they could spread out their artefacts and catalogue them.
4. After being assured that they had their own insurance the clerk agreed that they would be able to use the building for a temporary period of approximately two weeks. At the end of this period he checked and was told they needed it for several more weeks and would this be agreeable.
5. A number of weeks after this officers became aware that shelving had been placed in one of the offices unknown to them and items stored therein.
6. As a result of this a formal request has been made to the Town Council by Mrs Bennett from the society seeking permission to use one of the upstairs offices. This request is appended to the end of the Report.

7. Members will need to consider that by allowing one organisation to store and use the building they may then receive additional requests from others who are equally struggling for facilities.
8. Because of the need for other organisations to use the building on an infrequent basis there are no guarantees able to be given with regards to the security of their items stored.
9. By subletting the rooms there are additional insurance and lease considerations that may be encountered. These would need to be investigated. There may be even be change of use issues in respect of planning consideration.
10. It would be appropriate for a monthly charge to be levied. Members may wish if they are in agreement for the use then they could choose to levy a nominal charge or to seek a more commercial figure.
11. Members **Resolve** to allow Ilminster History Society to use North Street for the monthly sum of XX

Mark Tredwin
Town clerk
June 2023

21/05/2023

Dear Mark

Firstly, I would like to thank you for kindly allowing the Ilminster History Society to temporarily use the old Council Offices to get our collection in order. I am pleased to say that the initial sorting of this has now been completed and is stored neatly on shelving in one of the rooms upstairs.

We are now wondering if it would be possible for us to continue using one of the rooms for the foreseeable future to allow us, as trustees, to work on projects and have small meetings? There would be a maximum of 5 people but more often than not, only 2 of us at a time.

We would, of course, be willing to make a monthly contribution to the running costs of the building.

Please could we ask that you take this to your next full council meeting for consideration by councilors.

In the meantime, if you need any more information, please do get in touch.

Many thanks

Jacqueline Bennett