

Committee: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 17 July 2022

Title: Rotary Clock

Purpose of Report

For members to consider the offer being made by Rotary for the Town Council to take on ownership of the clock that they have purchased to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee

Recommendation:

- a. Members resolve to thank the Rotary Club of Ilminster for their offer to take ownership of the clock but respectfully decline the offer in order that future public funds are available to assist the Ilminster community in other areas.
- b. Members resolve to take on the ownership of the clock should the Rotary Club of Ilminster cease to exist. Until that time any maintenance and insurance costs would be the responsibility of the Club.
- c. Members resolve to accept ownership of the clock and agree to be responsible for all cost in the future.

Background:

1. At the Full council meeting on the 21 December 2021 Mr Tony Walker from Ilminster Rotary Club spoke to the Town Council, informing them that Rotary Club were proposing to install a clock at 3 Silver Street in the town centre as part of the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations.
2. Mr Walker advised members that he had been working with the listing building and conservation officer and had submitted a planning application. He requested that the Town Council support this initiative when it came to the planning stage of the installation.
3. This item was then discussed later in the meeting, when Members **RESOLVED** by 8 votes for and 1 abstention to support, in principle, the Rotary Club installing a clock in the town. **(Minute 1104)**
4. During the debate on the matter, members discussed a number of aspects. The minutes of the meeting record that;

“The members discussed the proposal for a Jubilee Memorial Clock. Discussions included who would be responsible for the repair/maintenance of the clock, how would the clock be powered, who would pay for the electricity, if the clock would obstruct carnival floats.”

Report

5. During the course of June several members of the Town Council and the Town Clerk have been contacted by members of the Rotary Club to enquire if the Town Council would be willing to take on ownership of the clock once it has been installed. It was pointed out that whilst the Council was more than happy to support the principle of the clock a number of members had voiced concerns over the ownership and that it should not end up with the Town Council.
6. On the 17 June 2022 a letter was received from Mr E Wells, Secretary of the Rotary Club of Ilminster. **(Appendix 16A)**. In the letter you will see that the club are asking that the Town Council take over the ownership of the Clock once it has been installed.
7. The current owner of the building outside which the clock is to be situated, has provided permission for the clock to be installed. He has also agreed for a Plaque to be placed alongside the door to the building. **(Appendix 16B)**
8. In his letter Mr wells comments that the Rotary Club envisages that the medium to short term financial implications will be non existent. One could question this as at least twice a year the clock will be required to be adjusted by one hour. As the clock is also powered by electricity there will be costs associated with this resetting unless there is some form of remote method for resetting it.
9. There may also be insurance implications over the clock. These will involve not just the third-party cost to cover any damage to the building in the future, but also should it fall. As part of the insurance there will need to be inspections carried out. The council is not in a position to insure the clock on behalf of other organisations.
10. The council should also consider what happens should the clock suffer a catastrophic failure. Does it wish to take the responsibility of having to replace the clock? What would be the public's opinion on having it replaced?
11. What will be the future of the clock should any future owners of the building decide that they do not wish to have the clock on “their” building? Will they be willing to pay for the clock's electricity? Perhaps ownership of the clock should be offered to the building's owners?

12. Members may wish to consider one of the following resolutions or to come up with one of their own.
 - a. Members resolve to thank the Rotary Club of Ilminster for their offer to take ownership of the clock, but respectfully decline the offer in order that future public funds are available to assist the Ilminster community in other areas.
 - b. Members resolve to take on the ownership of the clock should the Rotary Club of Ilminster cease to exist. Until that time any maintenance and insurance costs would be the responsibility of the Club.
 - c. Members resolve to accept ownership of the clock and agree to be responsible for all cost in the future.

**Mark Tredwin
Town clerk
July 2022**