

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**11 JULY 2011**

**S.137 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK**

1. The Town Council at its meeting on 23 May 2011 considered a request for financial assistance from the Trustees of the Bolitho Club.
2. However, the Trustees have now provided some additional information in support of a further application.
3. The building was left to the town by the Bolitho family for the benefit of the town's residents and has been administered by a Board of Trustees. They receive no funding and give their time to support the running of the building and obtain monies by which to ensure the upkeep of the building.
4. In the past the building has been used as a cinema, reading room and until recently the local play group used the building, which provided the income to cover some of the running costs. A snooker club and bowling club also provide much needed income. Each of these clubs provides benefits to the local community.
5. The relocation of the playgroup removed much needed income to meet the running costs.
6. You will recall that trustees were seeking financial assistance from the Town Council towards the costs of the works in respect of their recent planning approval to convert one of the windows into a door to provide access to the ground floor, enabling the use of the ground floor as a gallery / workshop for public use for a local business.
7. The club has limited funds and the works are needed to be completed quickly to allow a tenant to take occupancy and provide much needed rental income. The intention was that the rent would then be used to enable the club to complete and continue maintenance work to ensure that this historic town building is kept in good order and available for use.
8. However, following the submission of their earlier application the trustees have been advised that as a result of the change of use of the downstairs, additional fire precaution measures have to be implemented to meet the planning conditions. A new fire resistant ceiling has to be installed at an additional cost of £1600 plus VAT.
9. As the building is a town based amenity not for profit resource managed for the benefit of the local community, the trustees have submitted a further application to the Town Council to enable the work to be completed.
10. The Town Council has made no previous financial awards to the club.

11. In accordance with the agreed procedure the Trustees submitted a copy of their latest accounts with their original application.
12. The Town Council's instructions are sought.

Elaine Baker  
Town Clerk

Background papers: Letters dated 4 May & 27 June 2011 from the Trustees of the Bolitho Club.