



Anston Parish Council Meeting – 16th December 2019

Briefing Paper – Update on Agenda Items

7 Appointment of Internal Auditor

I have attached details of two potential internal auditors for the Council. One, Terry Flatters, has audited the Council for many years as an employee of Yorkshire Audit Services and is applying for the work on a personal basis. The other, Diane Brown, is an experienced internal auditor of parish and town councils in Yorkshire and she also has supplied the following covering information as well.

*“My larger councils are Bingley, Baildon and Ilkley and I have recently taken on Wales and South Kirby and Moorthorpe. Yes I agree two visits should be done with an agreed audit programme for each visit to prevent duplication of work. My charges are £110 per day and I should imagine that each visit should cost £220 plus mileage ,this would include a visit and report. I am fully aware and compliant with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2018. I do sit on the Audit Committee of Barnsley Metropolitan District Council and I have to satisfy certain criteria to sit on this committee and was recruited because of my auditing background. I will have completed my second term in September 2020 so that will be 8 years in total. I use an Insurance Broker, Simply Business for my professional Indemnity insurance, this year my insurance is with Maltings Insurance.
Kind regards
Diane”*

I am still trying to source a third quote but there are only a limited number of individuals and companies who provide internal audit services to larger parish councils. My personal preference would be for the Council to appoint a fresh pair of eyes as the new internal auditor to the Council.

9(a) Repairs to Parish Hall and Bowling Pavilion

Using my delegated powers, after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and following advice from CS Surveying, I have instructed L&F Building Services to carry out repairs to the brickwork on the north side of the Parish Hall to stop the ingress of water and the remaining repairs to the sloped roof of the Hall identified in the survey undertaken back in 2017. The roof repairs will cost £1,350 + VAT and the work to the brickwork £2,116 + VAT.

Members will recall that a company was instructed to carry out repairs to the flat roof in the Parish Hall earlier in the year but they have been unable to commit to a date to carry out the work. Given that, and after consulting with CS Surveying, I have instructed Maldon Roofing to carry out the work and they have indicated that they will probably be carrying out the work in the third week of January. They have quoted the same costs as the previous company. That company had also been instructed to carry out repairs to the bowling pavilion and for similar reasons I have asked CS Surveying to work up a specification for the work required before placing the work with another company.

9(b) Repair Works to Old Library

I understand that the Old Library is now ready for some internal plastering to take place and we will be liaising with the tenant to set a date for that to be done in the near future.

9(c) Cemetery Extension Project

Following the correspondence received from the adjacent landowners I am still awaiting advice from our solicitors regarding how to respond.

9(d) Crowgate Recreation Ground

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council had indicated that they have agreed to the changes we wanted to see in the draft lease and our solicitors have sent RMBC a revised version of the document reflecting those. Hopefully RMBC will indicate their acceptance of that draft shortly and when that happens I will bring the final version to the Council for adoption.

Update on other issues

For information the Council should be aware that following recent heavy rains over 100 graves have sunk at our cemetery in South Anston. Our grounds staff have started the work of repairing them. The same rainfall also appears to have led to a healthy tree in Anston Stones Wood, close to the river bank, coming down on the railway line and Network Rail have verbally indicated that they will be bringing an insurance claim against the Council after a train was damaged. In addition the decking at Brook Walk was also damaged by the swollen brook and our grounds staff have now removed it for safety reasons.

Chris Pilkington
Clerk to Anston Parish Council
13th December 2019