

**CORN EXCHANGE WORKING PARTY MEETING OF THE
WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL**

Held on Monday, 7 March 2022

At 4.30 pm in the Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom

Present:

Councillor O Collins (Chair)

Councillors:	J Aitman	L Duncan
Officers:	Adam Clapton Nicky Cayley Tomas Smith	Deputy Town Clerk Project Officer Venue & Events Officer
Others:	no members of the public.	

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr L Ashbourne.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from members or officers.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Working Party held on 2 December 2021 were received and adopted.

4 REFURBISHMENT UPDATE

The committee received a verbal update on the refurbishment of the Corn Exchange from the Projects Officer.

Members were pleased to hear the lighting, audio and staging part of the project was nearly completed. There were several small items outstanding which would be completed during the next few weeks.

A further update was given on the retractable seating; with the contract signed and products ordered, an installation date at the end of June had been provided. The seats would be blue, and the carpet and fascia boards would be charcoal in colour. Members acknowledged the recent updates through the Council's committee process, which reduced the seating number by two under building regulations, and that the cost of the seating had increased due to the cost of materials.

The Working Party thanked officers for their work on this project which at long last appeared to be nearing completion. It would provide Witney with a performing arts space and realise the Town Council's aspiration of achieving a Community Arts Centre at the Corn Exchange.

Resolved:

That, the verbal update of the Project Officer be noted.

5 **CORN EXCHANGE OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

The Working Party received a verbal update from the Venue & Events Officer on the future operations of the Corn Exchange.

Members heard that the venue would be greatly improved from July and larger performing events could be hosted in the Main Hall. Some local performing groups had already been in touch regarding the new facilities and were showing an interest in hiring. Mr T Powell, an extended member of the Working Party had kept in regular contact and would be assisting the Venue & Events Officer in this respect.

Training on the new equipment would hopefully be taking place soon and this would enable information to be provided to the hiring groups in due course.

Members mooted an opening event or gala evening with local groups. A provisional date was set as Friday 22nd July, with further discussion needed at the next meeting.

Resolved:

1. That, the verbal update of the Venue & Events Officer be noted; and,
2. That, the Town Council holds a showcase event in the Main Hall, provisionally set for Friday 22nd July.

The meeting closed at: 4.58 pm

Chair