

Time started	11.00 am
Time ended	11.15 am

Governance and Licensing Cabinet Member Meeting 05 June 2020

Present: Councillor Barker

In Attendance:

Cllr A W Graves
Annabel Froggatt, Valuer
Jayne Sowerby-Warrington, Head of Strategic Asset Management & Estates
Joanna Rees, Major Projects Valuer

01/19 Apologies

Apologies were received from Steve Caplan, Director of Property Services

02/19 Late Items

There were no late items.

03/19 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

05/19 Disposal of the former Pear Tree Library Building, Pear Tree Road Derby

The Cabinet Member considered a report regarding the disposal of the former Pear Tree Library. The report stated that on the 14 November 2018 the Council Cabinet declared the former Pear Tree Library building surplus to requirements. It was noted that the aim of this report was to obtain approval to sell the building.

The Cabinet Member was informed that by declaring the building as surplus to the Council's requirements, the Council had resolved to sell its interest in the building and by doing so, help to precipitate a new and sustainable use for the building which would be of benefit to the communities of Normanton and Peartree.

The Cabinet Member was also informed that whilst the building stayed vacant it would continue to deteriorate and potentially it could attract anti-social behaviour. The Council would also continue to incur costs for securing the building, business rates and dealing with any ad-hoc maintenance needs.

The Officers confirmed that the Council's Estates and Property Review Department were tasked with finding a purchaser for the property. Their objective was to find a purchaser who would have a sustainable use for the building and who could repair it, they were not specifically charged with finding a community use for the building. However, the importance of the building within the community came across strongly in the discussion at the Cabinet meeting on 14 November 2018. As a consequence, a robust process was followed, the property was exposed to a wide market as it was important that the building was put back into use within the community.

The Cabinet Member was advised that the recommendation to the report had been updated to one single recommendation, "to sell the Council's freehold interest in the building that was formerly known as Pear Tree Library and to delegate responsibility for negotiating the terms of the sale to the Director of Property up to maximum amount of £249,999". The Cabinet Member queried if the change was made so that it was in line with the financial ceiling of powers delegated to officers. The officer confirmed that the updated recommendation would delegate to the Director of Property the ability to sign off a sale up to a maximum of £249,999 and that a further report to the Cabinet Member requesting approval for the final sale of the building would not be needed.

The Cabinet Member accepted the new single recommendation and agreed progress of the sale of the former Pear Tree Library Building.

Resolved to sell the Council's freehold interest in the building that was formerly known as Pear Tree Library and to delegate responsibility for negotiating the terms of the sale to the Director of Property up to maximum amount of £249,999.

MINUTES END