



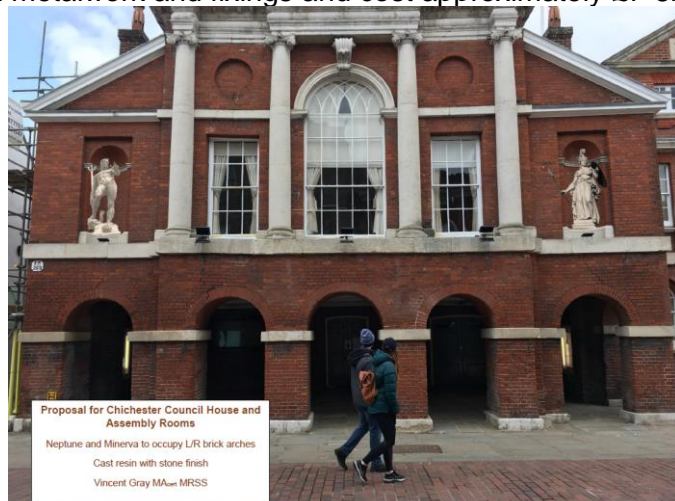
CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE PROPERTY MANAGER

PROPERTY WORKING GROUP MEETING – 10th MAY 2021

COUNCIL HOUSE

- a) **Exterior Building repairs** – work has been completed, with the exception of some minor repairs to the low roof above the Town Clerk’s office, which cannot be addressed until the scaffold is down. (The scaffold is being retained whilst an additional job outside of the original contract is undertaken and to allow installation of the new solar panel array to the south elevation of the Assembly Room roof.) The project was completed at the total cost of £53,134. That equates to £ 33,976 under budget.
- b) **Portico** – the Listed Building Consent application has been withdrawn. Our Planning Advisor chaired a remote meeting with the architect and Historic Buildings Officer to discuss a frameless glass design for future planning submission. The architect has quoted £1,500 to prepare amended drawings for Pre-Application Advice submission. It is the recommendation of Officers that this matter should be shelved for at least 6-months as the current situation is not suitable for such a project.
- c) **Salix Grant Funded Improvements** – Listed Building Consent is awaited.
- d) **Carbon Neutral Strategy** - Phase 2 of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme launched on 7th April. The Salix website states, “*The scheme has a set of conditions that are designed to ensure that the policy direction, required by Government, delivers on the agenda for the decarbonisation of heat.*” With this in mind, the Property Manager has obtained a quote from Save Money Cut Carbon to prepare a Carbon Neutral Strategy for the City Council. This will include a specification to replace the existing gas-fired boilers and control system with a zero or low-carbon alternative that can be funded by a Salix PSDS grant. It will also look at all other aspects of the Council’s properties and activities to provide a roadmap towards achieving a carbon-neutral operation. The Property Manager recommends instructing Save Money Cut Carbon to undertake the survey and prepare a proposal at the cost of £3,500.
- e) **Proposal to Install Vincent Gray statues in Niches on Façade** – Vincent Gray has submitted an outline proposal to produce two statues, one of Neptune and one of Minerva, to fill the arched niches to the façade of the Council House. The castings would be stone finish with integral metalwork and fixings and cost approximately £7-8k.



ALLOTMENTS

- a) **Durnford Close** – Hyde Housing has confirmed that they will honour the agreements with the existing tenants and take on the waiting list from the site. We have obtained GDPR consent from the tenants and applicants and will be passing over the relevant details to Hyde in due course. We will also arrange for the water supply contract to be transferred to Hyde.

DISUSED BURIAL GROUNDS

- a) **St Bartholomews** – a notice has been received from the Church Commissioners of the proposed sale of St Bartholomews Church and churchyard for use as a dance studio. The notice requests representations in support or opposition to the draft proposal by 27th May latest. It is the recommendation of Officers that a response is sent supporting the draft disposal in principle subject to the Parish being released from its churchyard maintenance obligations under Section 215 of the Local Government Act 1972. The legal requirements are that the Council should maintain a closed churchyard 'by keeping it in decent order and it's walls and fences in good repair'. Longer serving members may recall the extensive bill the Council had to face about the rebuilding of one of the walls at St Paul's, Northgate.

BUS STOPS/SHELTERS

The new shelters were installed on 22-24th February. The electrical connections have been installed by SSE and the completion certificates passed to WSCC so that the RTP1 screens can now be installed. The new shelters are under a quarterly cleaning and maintenance schedule with GW Shelters.

PUBLIC REALM PROJECTS

- a) **Wayfinding (finger posts)** – the existing finials and fingers have been removed from the finger posts and refurbishment work is well under way. A delivery date for the new fingers is still to be confirmed by Leander Architectural.
- b) **Precinct Paving** – WSCC has produced an amended report and has passed the project to their Growth Team, with the instruction to add this project to the Chichester Growth Deal review to be undertaken in the next few months. WSCC has asked that both CDC and CCC explore potential funding streams that could be directed to the re-surfacing project. WSCC Highways is adamant that a project of this magnitude must be led by their experienced Highways team and that CDC is a more appropriate partner organisation.
- c) **Murray Sculpture** – the sculpture was successfully unveiled on Saturday 3rd April 2021.
- d) **Banks of Lavant and Walls Walk** – as instructed, the Property Manager has asked that CDC consider installing interpretation boards in strategic locations to explain the ecological rationale for the current mowing regime. This suggestion was received warmly and is being considered.

SEAT AT JUNCTION OF YORK ROAD AND BOGNOR ROAD

Chichester Greyfriars Housing Association has reported that a seat placed by the bus stop where Royal Close meets York Road is rotten and in serious need of repair. The bench is used by the elderly community of Royal Close (age 60-98) to await the bus. WSCC and CDC has said that the seat doesn't belong to them. The Property Manager requests the Committee's instruction as to whether the seat should be adopted and repaired/replaced by the City Council.

Peter Roberts
Property Manager