

## Madeley Town Council

Extract of Minutes of the Meeting of Madeley Town Council held on  
Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, at Jubilee House, High Street, Madeley  
commencing at 7.00 p.m.

---

**PRESENT:**    **Councillors:**    **R Evans (Chair), S Biles, S Chadwick, R Coates, D Edwards,  
A A England, A R England, G Green, K Guy, S Harrington, J Jones,  
A MacKenzie, P Watling, D White**  
Clerk to the Council  
Committee Secretary

**15/101**    **Anstice**

*To upgrade the building to modern standards, while retaining the character of the building, and to develop it into a building that the local community will want to use.*

A revised and updated Action Plan for the Full Council was presented (see Appendix A).

An update written by the Clerk to the Council was received (see Appendix B)  
Noted.

The Clerk to the Council was thanked for the hard work she had put in to organising the successful Savannah gig at the Anstice.

**101.    Licence to Occupy the Building**

- 1**        It was noted that following advice from the solicitor and in consultation with the Telford & Wrekin Non Domestic Rates department, it has been agreed to provide ACT with a Licence to Occupy rather than a Lease because it allows more flexibility. No rent will be charged, but there will be a £50 fee for each event held at the Anstice, to cover utilities, and a percentage of the Building Insurance will be paid by ACT.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Anstice Memorial Hall Update for Full Council March 2016**

#### **The Building**

There has been little practical work carried out on the building other than day to day repairs. Some work needs to be carried out shortly. The dance floor is suffering through lack of maintenance and we are in the process of obtaining quotes for its restoration. This is work that was initially planned to be part of an overall refurbishment but if the building is to be opened for events the floor will need attention to prevent further deterioration.

Utility bills are high and once the annual contract is approaching renewal, steps will be taken to find a cheaper supplier.

#### **Options Appraisal**

After a tendering process, the contract for the options appraisal was awarded to PCPT Architects who are working in partnership with Fresh Life Consulting. Work was a little slow to start, it was delayed by the absence of scale plans of the building which we were hoping to receive from the University of Wolverhampton. These have now been made available and PCPT have commenced their study in earnest. The first part of this work has been to carry out a full inspection of the building, which has uncovered some interesting finds, principally the discovery of the original Maws tiles in the entrance hall and under concrete screed in the snooker room. They have also uncovered a few nooks and crannies that had been blocked off and are formulating ideas for wider consultation. Fresh Life Consulting have been speaking to key people in the area and this will be developed further through a creative workshop on 10<sup>th</sup> March. There will be a feedback session to Council and ACT representatives on 24<sup>th</sup> March following which there will be public consultation.

Since the appointment of PCPT, the Borough Council has been faced with making stringent cuts, one of these being the possible closure of Madeley Library. This is detailed in a separate report and PCPT have been asked to consider this usage of the building as part of their proposals.

#### **University of Wolverhampton**

The University students have finished their projects based on the Anstice. Andy Rose attended a 'client feedback' at the University on 27<sup>th</sup> January. Their work will be displayed at the University in May and in June/July we hope to host an exhibition of their finished project work at the Anstice for members of the public to view. There has been some very useful contact between the university and PCPT through this and the University is also interested in developing links with other departments as the work progresses.

#### **Funding**

It was disappointing to be turned down for Pride in your High Street Funding for the renovation of the porch. However, 2 bids to the Pride in your High Street innovations fund were successful and ACT have been awarded £4,720 for events and £7,146 for a Victorian Fair, which will run alongside the Town Council Food and Craft Fair on 14<sup>th</sup> August.

Not for public announcement yet but we have been informed that the bid to HLF Start up fund has been successful and we will receive £7,600 for training and production of a Business Plan. Madeley Town Council has committed to providing match funding of £1,000 and ACT will provide match funding of £100. Excellent news, which will be very gratifying for all the hard working volunteers.

#### **Events**

5<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lights, very well attended.

19<sup>th</sup> December – Soul Night, organised by Ade Shaw, a long term supporter of the Anstice and a former member of the liquidation committee. Over £1,200 was raised.

13<sup>th</sup> February – Valentines Sequence and Ballroom Dance, organised by members of the Jubilee + Dance Club raised over £600.

We were also very pleased to host a meeting for the RSA (Royal Society of Arts) who held their meeting on 'Heritage Futures in Shropshire' in the lounge bar on 25<sup>th</sup> February. They had a tour of the building and were enormously impressed with the ballroom.

On February 27<sup>th</sup> an up and coming local band 'Savannah' organised a gig to launch their new single 'Music is my High'. Another successful evening, although it was expensive to stage and we don't yet know the final financial outcome.

The above events were all well attended and very successful, demonstrating that the Anstice can cater for a wide range of ages and tastes. There is huge public demand for more events.

Up and coming events are: -

March 19<sup>th</sup> there is an evening of music with John Fletcher School and Jackfield Band. There will be a prize raffle and this event will see the launch of the Anstice Bear, a limited edition Bear produced at cost for ACT by Merrythought of Ironbridge. The bear retails at £60.00 and 20 pre orders have already been taken. There is no charge to attend this event but donations are requested.

More events are in the pipeline.

- 30<sup>th</sup> April – Comedy night
- 14<sup>th</sup> May – Fruit Machine (Live music)
- 18<sup>th</sup> June – Soul Night

A local supporter Mark Hinshelwood is running the Ironbridge ½ marathon on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March to raise funds and other local fundraisers are, Ruth Boden who has been selling home-made Easter gifts and Rita Mannering who has been selling home-made jams, which so far have made over £90.

## **ACT**

Because of the public demand, we are pressing on with a formal agreement for ACT to occupy the building. Following advice from the solicitor and in consultation with Telford & Wrekin Non Domestic Rates department it has been agreed to provide ACT with a Licence to occupy rather than a Lease. A Licence allows much more flexibility and gives the same benefits in terms of rate relief. Once the Licence is in effect, ACT will take over the management of the ballroom, hiring of the facilities and the organisation of their own events. The downstairs area will remain closed. There are a number of improvements/actions that need to be put in place before private bookings can be accepted, these include: -

- Replacement of the fire exit doors
- Premises licence
- Improvements to the website for on line bookings
- A designated volunteer and a proper booking and payment system
- Keyholding and cleaning arrangements

The Anstice work creates its own momentum and at times we struggle to keep up with it, progress may appear to be slow but there is a lot of activity behind the scenes and excellent support within the community.

KAP

01.03.16