

Appendix D

Notes of the Hope Church Seminar Held on Wednesday 4th of November 2020

Present The Mayor, Councillor D Kerr
 Councillors V Hunt, M Isherwood, M Jones, S Mason,
 D P Milner, R Radford and O Rose

Also present Arren Roberts - Town Clerk
 Malcolm Bebb and Richard Elmitt - Hope Church

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the seminar.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Councillors S Best, B Edwards, R Evans, N Hughes, L Maguire and J Price.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

4. **Presentation from Hope Church**

Richard Elmitt introduced himself and Malcolm Bebb outlining their role within the Church. He then gave a presentation which outlined the changes to the building following the initial planning consent and the reasons why these had been required.

The condition of the wall at the rear of the existing structure was highlighted with Hope Church expressing concern regarding its stability and what would happen when the existing structure was demolished. Hope Church were requesting the Council's consent to take down the wall and for the Council to work with them to re-develop the site. Whilst costs were a consideration there was an opportunity for discussion and negotiation.

Mr Elmitt showed a number of architect illustrations of the proposal from various aspects allowing elected Members to consider the proposal. In summary Mr Elmitt highlighted the benefits of the proposal and reiterated the wish to work with the Council.

Appendix D

5. Questions and discussions

The Mayor thanked Mr Elmitt and invited questions from elected Members.

A number of questions and points of clarification made:

It was anticipated that work would commence on the building in March 2021 but that it was hoped that the demolition work would commence as a priority. In terms of the cost of the demolition, this would be met by Hope Church but there would be a discussion regarding the cost of the work adjacent to the toilets.

A discussion took place regarding right of access and public right of way with the Council needing independent legal advice regarding these issues.

Similarly, a question was asked re planning permission and it was noted that the existing planning consent did not include the wall.

The need to understand the position of existing utilities was highlighted and comments regarding the features shown in the illustrations. In addition to this, a point was made regarding undercover cycling storage and to review CCTV coverage.

The Town Clerk highlighted the importance of ensuring public safety should the wall be damaged during the demolition of the existing structure.

A report of the meeting will be taken to Council on 25th November 2020 and the recommendation from the meeting is that the Council are supportive of the proposal.

The meeting closed at 18:45