

Minutes of the Meeting of the Armstrong Hall Charitable Trust
held on Tuesday 20 March 2018
in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall
at 7.00pm

Present: Helen Harrison (Chair)
Pam Shipp (Vice Chair) (*arrived late*)
Vincent Costello
Benj Emmerson
Clare Fardell
Bob Griffin
Shirley Holloway
Clive Parkinson
Guy Rawlinson
Jayne Stansfield
Matthew Stringer
Angela Symonds
Maggie Tyrrell
Gail Whitehead

Louise Powell (Clerk to the Trust)
Clare Nelmes (Outgoing Clerk to the Trust)
Wendy Sydenham (Administrator)

(Lesley Tuck - absent)

1. Apologies for absence

Martin Trueman (work commitments)

2. To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting of the Trust of 13 February 2018

1/18. The minutes of the Armstrong Hall Charitable Trust meeting held on 13 February 2018 had been circulated and were proposed as a true record by Guy Rawlinson, seconded by Matthew Stringer and signed by the Chair.

3. To consider and approve the minutes of the Armstrong Hall Management Committee held on 15 February 2018

2/18. The minutes of the Armstrong Hall Management Committee meeting held on 15 February 2018 had been circulated and were noted.

3/18. The Trust wished to express their thanks for all the efforts that had been put into fundraising events, and how enjoyable and successful the recent Jazz Festival had been.

4. **To consider the results of the consultation and the decision report and to decide which option to progress for the future of the Armstrong Hall**

4/18. The consultation report had been circulated and the decision report was tabled. The Chair thanked the outgoing Clerk, Clare Nelmes, and staff for the work involved in running the consultation and producing these reports. The Chair also expressed the Trust's gratitude to members of the public and Hall user's for their active participation in the consultation process, including those who had responded to the survey and those who had attended the Town Meeting and who had shared their views and opinions.

5/18. Clare Nelmes presented the findings of the consultation, including information on how the consultation was run, the number of responses, the support for each option and the key issues raised by responders. 80% of responders supported the option to rebuild facilities on the existing Armstrong Hall site, 18% supported the option to refurbishment existing facilities on the Armstrong Hall site, 1% supported relocating the facilities to an extended Turnberries site, and 1% supported another option or stated they did not know which option to support. Paper copies of the consultation report were available from the Town Hall and the report would also be available on line from tomorrow. The key issues raised by responders would be addressed when refining the final plans once a decision had been made on the option that would be pursued. It was also noted that the key issues raised in the consultation reflected those raised at the Town Meeting. Helen Harrison thanked Clare Nelmes for the presentation and stated that the next step would be for the Trust to decide which option to progress.

6/18. Clive Parkinson, Chair of the Redevelopment Working Group, stated that although it had been the right thing to do to explore the option of moving facilities to an extended Turnberries site, the Trust was in the position where it could rule out this option, partly because of the limitations of the lease and governance offer from South Gloucestershire Council and partly because of the consultation responses which overwhelmingly favoured staying on the existing Armstrong Hall site. Although the rebuild option did come with the disadvantages of higher costs and having to shut down the facility for a period of time during the works, on balance it was proposed that the rebuild option was the preferred option over the refurbishment option which would involve a large amount of money being spent on a 50 year old building.

7/18. Clive Parkinson referred to the decision report and proposed that the Trust support progressing the option to rebuild facilities on the existing Armstrong Hall site and also accept the Clerk's recommendations at the end of the decision report, with the addition of exploring changes to the governance structure and bringing in expertise from the local community. Maggie Tyrrell thanked Clive Parkinson for his efforts in chairing the Working Group and seconded these proposals. Clare Fardell commented that it was encouraging to see the spirit of unity and co-operation in the community for fundraising for the Armstrong Hall and stressed the need to nurture this enthusiasm over the coming years. (*Pam Shipp arrived at the meeting.*) Benj Emmerson commented that it was important to note the current rebuild plans were not the final and that over the coming months issues raised during the consultation period would need to be carefully considered and reflected in the final design. Helen Harrison asked the Trust to vote on the proposals from Clive Parkinson, and seconded by Maggie Tyrrell. All members of the Trust were in favour of the proposals, with no votes against or abstentions.

5. **To agree the next steps to progress the chosen option**

8/18. Clive Parkinson proposed that the Trust ask the Redevelopment Working Group to reconvene and work with the Clerk towards new Terms of Reference to take the rebuild forward. This would include two aspects - (1) what the new build would look like and (2) how to raise the finances, and would involve changing the membership of the Working Group to include expertise in each of these areas. Clive Parkinson also proposed that the governance structure should also be examined and that the Clerk should obtain advice on other options for this structure, although this was in no way a criticism of the existing structure which had served the Armstrong Hall well in the past. Helen Harrison asked the Trust to consider these proposals. The proposals were seconded by Guy Rawlinson, and all members of the Trust were in favour, with no votes against and no abstentions.

9/18. Helen Harrison addressed members of the public present and asked for any comments or questions at this point. Some comments were made about audibility of the meeting, but it was confirmed that the hearing loop was functioning and that the Chair had summarised the discussion throughout which had been audible. Adrian Savery commented that he welcomed the decision by the Trust and hoped that the future planning would be carried out in an open manner. Adam Bloom (Hall Supervisor) expressed concerns on behalf of the Hall staff about what impact the redevelopment would have on job security and asked that this be kept in the front of the Trust's mind. The Trust stressed that job security and the concerns of Hall staff would be carefully considered throughout the process.