

To NOTE the report and CONSIDER the recommendations

Request

The Council has been requested to take over the responsibility for the War Memorial Clock (situated in the Church Tower). Two residents have managed the funds, but would now like to relinquish their roles.

The Council has the power to do this under:

War Memorials - Power to maintain, repair, protect and adapt war memorials - War Memorials (Local Authorities Powers) Act 1923, s.1 as extended by LGA 1948 and Under s.133, Clocks - Power to provide public clocks - Parish Councils Act 1957, s.2.

Background

The War Memorial Clock was purchased by public donations to commemorate those who lost their lives in 1939 -1945. The initiative was set up by Rev H Shepherd and Mr P Gleed, the then Chairman of the Memorial Fund Committee.

Information gathered:

- Mr David Tapscott currently maintains the clock and he is willing to continue maintaining the mechanism. He is assisted by and training two other bell-ringers to do this.
- The clock is in good order and has no outstanding maintenance requirements.
- The annual running cost is around £8 for oil and a small battery.
- The main regular task is when the electric supply to the church is halted. The clock then has to be re-started by hand which is a slow process (plus villagers tell him if the time is not accurate).
- The funds are currently held in a Nationwide Building Society Treasurers Trust Account which has been closed and the money moved to a holding account. The balance is £4,017.81.
- Appeals for funds in the past have been made via the Lydiards Magazine, the two residents will no longer be appealing for funds.
- To address the issue of breaks in power supply, a back up battery could be purchased, the total cost of this is in the region of £600. It is not urgent or necessary, but would make upkeep of the clock easier. Should the Council be minded to take over the responsibility of the Memorial Clock, a report with more information would be presented.

Recommendations

Members to CONSIDER:

- Taking over the responsibility for the funds held for the maintenance of the War Memorial Clock
- To keep the funds 'ring fenced' in Ear Marked Reserves
- Access to funds to only be made by resolution of the Parish Council

Tina Jones

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