

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY CABINET MEETING
HELD AT 3:00PM, ON
TUESDAY 18 APRIL 2023
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Cabinet Members Present: Councillor Fitzgerald (Chair), Councillor Steve Allen (Vice-Chair), Councillor Ayres, Councillor Cereste, Councillor Coles, Councillor Howard, Councillor Simons

Cabinet Advisor Present: Councillor Bisby, Councillor Moyo, Councillor Sainsbury

117. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hussain and Councillor Gul Nawaz.

118. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations interest received.

119. PETITIONS PRESENTED TO CABINET

There were no petitions presented to Cabinet.

STRATEGIC DECISIONS

120. ACQUISITION OF SAND MARTIN HOUSE

The Cabinet received a report in relation to the acquisition of the freehold interest of Sand Martin House.

The purpose of this report was to consider the acquisition of the freehold interest of Sand Martin House as detailed in the report and exempt appendix.

Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance, introduced the report and provided an overview of the key points.

In accordance with Standing Orders, Cabinet was asked to determine whether item 4 'Acquisition of Sand Martin House', as defined by Paragraph 3 and 4 of Schedule 12A of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972, should be exempt and the press and public excluded from the meeting when they were discussed, or whether the public interest in disclosing this information outweighed the public interest in maintaining the exemption.

Cabinet resolved (unanimous) to agree the exclusion of the press and public for agenda item 4.

Cabinet therefore moved into exempt session.

Cabinet Members debated the report and in summary responses to questions raised that did not relate to exempt information included:

- The decision before Cabinet was significant but was of great strategic value. All opposition parties had been briefed on the situation and had not raised any concerns.
- It was felt the decision to purchase the Sand Martin House site was in the best interest of the taxpayers and the Council, in order to be more in control of its own destiny.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to recommend that Full Council:

1. Approve an additional capital budget for the purchase of the freehold interest of Sand Martin House

Cabinet further **RESOLVED** to:

1. Approve the acquisition of the freehold interest of Sand Martin House on the terms set out in Appendix 2 subject to Full Council approval of the amended budget on 22 May 2023; and
2. To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Corporate Services and Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance to take all necessary steps including agreeing final terms and entering into all necessary agreements to facilitate the decision in Recommendation 1.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Following the acquisition of the freehold interest of the site, the Council would have the ability to make financial savings in the short, medium, and long term and would have full control of the use of the building.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The Council could choose not to proceed with the purchase of the freehold interest in Sand Martin House. In this scenario, the lease would continue for the remaining 20-year term which was subject to five yearly upward only RPI rent reviews with no break options. In addition, the council would be limited to future options for the site and additional operational costs. This was therefore not recommended.

Chairman
3.00pm to 3.27pm
18 April 2023