

# Agenda Item 5.1

## MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Proposed by: **Cllr Simon Crundell**

Dated:

### **Purpose of the motion**

To submit an offer to Wiltshire Council to purchase Melksham House to retain it as a community facility.

### **Background (Including previous resolution/s made and date/s if applicable)**

We have resolved as a council that preserving a town 'village hall' is our firm commitment.

Substantial investment is needed to safeguard and modernise our existing facility. Recent consultations have confirmed that the Assembly Hall is not currently meeting the needs of the community.

Repair and refurbishment work is now so substantial, that it is likely that we would need to close the Assembly Hall for some time to conduct works.

### **Current Situation**

Councils over many years have avoided this issue.

We have been guilty of this too. The library site is now off the table, and as a consequence so is the 'rebuild' option as we have stated that the town's village hall needs to be in the town centre.

We are now at a point where Melksham House could also represent a missed opportunity, with Wiltshire Council progressing alternative plans.

The options are essentially to purchase and secure this historic asset for the town for generations to come, and/or to close and refurbish the current Assembly Hall.

### **What financial implications are there?**

The significant financial implications are perhaps a reason for the persistent deferral of a decision on this matter.

Indicative value of Melksham House is set at approximately £2 million. Negotiations will inevitably lead to a different final price, but this is a good starting point.

**How does the motion link to Town Council policies and core values?**

We have committed to preserving a facility of a town 'village hall' on many occasions.

A town meeting place is compatible with our community commitments.

The provision of heat pumps and solar panels make Melksham House compatible with MTC ambitions to decarbonise our estate.

**What risks are there? (Provide a risk assessment)**

The purchase of Melksham House would represent a long-term financial commitment. Therefore we, as members, need to be certain that a communal facility is an offering that the Town Council should provide for years in the future.

**What crime and disorder implications are there?**

Comparable with current facility

**What environmental and biodiversity considerations are there?**

Melksham House will have heat pumps and solar panels. The carbon footprint of this facility will be substantially less than the Assembly Hall

**What safeguarding concerns are there?**

Comparable with current facility

. Motion

Members are requested to resolve that the council enters negotiations with Wiltshire Council and makes an offer to Wiltshire Council to purchase Melksham House.

Members are further requested to set a limit of not less than £2,000,000 for the purchase of Melksham House.

**. Does the motion impact/ support any previous decisions of council?**

MTC has voted to submit an expression of interest for Melksham House

MTC has voted unanimously to maintain a town village hall facility

**. Confirmation that the item under consideration has not been discussed by Council within the preceding six months. If it has, has there been a material change and what is this?**

The purchase of Melksham House has not been discussed by the Town Council in the last six months.

**. Please summarise any specific recommendations you have in relation to next steps**

**Office Use:**

Date of receipt by Proper Officer:	28.3.2023
Date of proposed council meeting for motion:	28.3.2023
Date/s of relevant resolutions: (record full resolution/s here)	
Motion accepted by Proper Officer:	

Motion rejected by Proper Officer:

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Reasons for rejection:

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