

Agenda item 7

For information: Update on the Frome Town Hall refurbishment project

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Summary

This report is an update on the project to refurbish Frome Town Hall. The project is on schedule to complete in February and is within budget. There are still some uncertainties over the cost of many small items so please do not consider at this stage that there will be a financial surplus.

The sale of the Palmer Street office is ongoing.

Progress report

Cllr Colin Cobb and I have been working closely together on the project and we are very pleased with the way it is progressing.

At the time of writing the first fix of re-wiring is complete, which has been one of the biggest cost items and the internal decorations have been nearly completed upstairs. The lift will be installed in early December. The final stage of the project is to complete the second fix (plug sockets etc) and internal decorations, lay the carpet and hang the blinds and commission the fire and burglar alarms. The formal completion date of the main project is now 10 February having slipped a week following some later decisions about lighting the front of the building. Hammonds (the main contractor) are hoping, however, to be able to complete before 10 February.

Outside the scope of the main contract, there are additional items such as providing audio visual equipment for the Council Chamber, furniture for all the meeting rooms and the public areas and a myriad of IT and telecom items that need commissioning. We also plan to clear a lot of the overgrown shrub on the boundary with the church, landscape the grounds, install an electric car charging point and bike racks.

At the moment, the project remains on budget but the extra items that are not in the main contract still need finalising.

Sale of Palmer Street

We have been in touch with various estate agents and individuals since the last Council meeting and we have good interest. We have appointed McAllisters Estate Agents to market the property and they have advised that it should be on the market at £375k.