AGENDA ITEM NO: 9

To: Council

From: Clerk

Subject: Parish Rooms and Library

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and myself met with Orme on 7th October to develop the plans and consider tender requirements. We met with the County Library Designer on 11th October to establish their requirements and funding including CCTV, redecoration and new flooring. Key changes were -

* no acoustic divider between the 2 offices made into 1 room as this would be very expensive (around £10,000) and probably not be used as book shelves etc. would need to be moved and with the new lift the Gravenchon Room could be used for activities, meetings etc.
* lift lobby to encroach slightly into JW Room to create enough space and door to JW Room moved over so that it could be held open against the wall
* small kitchen and toilet to become a library book store
* male toilet to become a store for Street Parish Council – gazebos etc.

A drop in session will be held from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on 14th October at the Parish Rooms with drawings of the proposed alterations from the architects for councillors and the public to view and comment on. Following the saving of the Library from closure a more practical layout for Council, community and Library will create a vibrant and exciting venue for the delivery of key services to vulnerable people and others. Comments received will be reported at the meeting on 15th October.

Tender invitations will go out around 8th November for return by 20th December. There will then be public consultation on the project and costs from 20th December to 20th January 2020. The Council will then meet to consider proposals, set the budget and precept for 2020/21 and agree whether to apply for consent to take out a loan of a set amount and term from the Public Works Loan Board. The precept request must be submitted to Mendip District Council before 31st January.

Tenders will itemise separately the cost of installing the lift and 3 lists of exterior maintenance works in order of priority. The Council is asked to agree delegated authority for the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to agree the details of the invitation to tender including the criteria for measuring the standard of companies tendering, and the split of exterior maintenance items between urgent, non urgent and cosmetic. Consideration will also be given to reclaiming VAT on the works in relation to the letting of rooms etc.

L.A. Ruff, Clerk 15.10.19