

# EXECUTIVE SHAREHOLDER AND TRUSTEE COMMITTEE

23 November 2021

\* Councillor Joss Bigmore (Chairman)

\* Councillor James Steel (Vice-Chair)

\*Councillor John Redpath

\*Present

**Action By**

## 16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES

There were no apologies for absence.

## 17. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

## 18. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 August 2021 were confirmed as a correct record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

## 19. STRUCTURAL REPAIRS TO FOXENDEN TUNNELS

Foxenden Tunnels was a large World War II air raid shelter located beneath Allen House Grounds and accessed from the lowest level of the adjacent York Road multi-storey car park. Having been sealed up for many years the steel structure had deteriorated and had become unsafe. A future plan for the Tunnels was sought.

Darren Burgess

A capital budget of £110,000 for repairs had been approved in 2019 but following specification and tendering in respect of the required works, was found to be an inadequate sum. As a result of the repair work being more complicated than originally foreseen and the delays to addressing the matter due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the cost to implement all of the work was now in excess of £300,000.

The Committee sought to clarify the quoted costs in the report with regard to the loss of opportunity for income from the parking spaces which would need to be given up should a regular access to the Tunnels be required and the costs of the annual inspection. Whilst there was no officer present to corroborate the parking income figures, the meeting heard that the cost of the surveyors' inspections must include the provision of lighting and ventilation to the network of tunnels which did increase the cost significantly.

The Committee was minded to amend the timescale in respect of the review of the decision from the recommended five years to a shorter period of three years in the event that the Council was in a different financial position.

The Committee therefore

RESOLVED: That the Foxenden Tunnels be mothballed, subject to undertaking annual inspections to ensure its continuing safety, and that the position be reviewed in three years' time.

Reason:

The decision was based on a financial analysis of the cost of repairs, the likely rental income and potential loss of income from parking to provide safe access to support a commercial letting.

The meeting finished at 6.12 pm

Signed .....

Date .....

Chairman