

Appendix 1 to minutes of YDCC 27/9/22 meeting

Marquee purchase summary

Purchase of a new marquee was discussed at the 30 August meeting. Subsequently I authorised John Palfrey to purchase an item within the price range presented by him at the meeting.

About a week later, the supplier advised upgrading the specification to a more robust mounting system, but that as this took the total cost above any figure that had been earlier discussed, I did not feel I had the authority to authorise the extra unilaterally.

Almost coincident with that, I became aware of a difference of interpretation of the previous council meeting's discussion on the subject, in that some councillors believed the meeting had not given John Palfrey the authority to purchase, only to get prices.

For reasons of speed (we wanted delivery in time for the marquee to be used for Oktoberfest), John had already, with my agreement, paid the £8600 cost of the marquee with his own money. However, the change of specification by the supplier offered an opportunity for him to cancel the order and get his money back, allowing the council to rethink the whole project.

Alternatively, the council could agree to the extra spending (approximately £700) and proceed with the purchase. There seemed no point in proceeding with the original specification, given that the suppliers themselves had advised it to be unsuitable.

A quick decision was needed as each marquee is built to order and production needed to start very soon if the hoped-for delivery date was to be realised. However, the chairman was about to go on holiday, so in my role as acting Deputy Chairman I sent a round-robin email to councillors, to ascertain opinion.

Five councillors wanted to continue, four wanted to cancel. Accordingly, I authorised John Palfrey to pay the extra and prepared a cheque to reimburse him in full, for the Chairman to countersign on his return from holiday.

Norman Burr, Treasurer