

Below is a copy of the report presented to the Assets and Services Committee at the June 2023 meeting.



Committee	Assets & Services Committee
Month	June 2023
Report Title	St Mary's Church Clock
Report Author	Terry Frostick- Operations Manager
Attachments	None



Summary

Saffron Walden Town Council own and maintain the St Mary's Church clock which was installed sometime in the 1800s by the then Borough Council.

Following a recent lightning strike to the Church, the clock's chiming mechanisms (illustrated in red in the below image) took a direct lightning charge which has caused the electric motors and switches to fail, thus in turn stopping the chiming systems for the bells and to stop working.

Several options have been explored to get the motors working such as re-winding, fitting new coils or supplying completely new motors.

The most economical route is to fit new windings supplied by the original manufacturer. This isn't quite as easy as it was, as we are now obliged to return the motors to supplier, for them to refurbish them, and return them to us!

We are limited in who we ask for a quote as we currently have a contract with a local jeweller which has been in place since the 1960s and if we could ever find another person, or company to quote this would compromise the current situation.

I have obtained a quotation from the current contracted jewellers who have the contract to maintain and wind the clock as below.

To attending site, testing, and stripping out the night cut out system, further testing in our workshops, refurbishing the two motors, replacing motor switch gear, replacing the time switch, cabling, plug and fuse, re-installing at the church and re-commissioning the installation, for the sum of £3070 plus VAT.

We appreciate 50% payment with any order and would aim to complete within a month.

There is no budget for Church clock repairs only for the winding of the clock and any costs would need to be found from another budget EMR that would need replacing when the 2024/25 budget is set.

The clock is not insured by the Town Council and is not covered by the Church insurance given it is legally owned by SWTC.

Recommendation

To consider and action using one of the following options:

1. Not to proceed and to leave the Church clock with no chiming system in place, undertaking no repairs at any time.
2. Not to proceed with repairs at the present time and to provision for repair costs in the 2024/25 budget.
3. To carry out the works now, utilising monies from existing ear-marked reserves (EMR). This would require monies from one budget to be vired to an alternative project (clock repair). These monies would then need to be replaced in the 2024/25 budget along with recognising the need to set aside future monies in the EMR for any future repairs to the clock. Committee to determine the EMR (suggesting this could be from depot or action plan initiatives budgets)

Note that should Committee be minded to progress with option (3) above, this would require further authorisation from Full Council.

