

Watchet Old Town Hall Coronation Clock

Appendix 3

In the last month, we have received a letter of complaint regarding the old Town Hall Coronation Clock, which has not worked for properly for over a year.

The correspondence is as follows:

'What process does the Council have in place to ensure that the Coronation clock on the front of Court House is working and tells the correct time, please?

I am sure something was put in place when the council sold off the old Council Chamber to protect this important part of the town's history.'

Having received the letter, I established there was no paperwork regarding the clock and asked the Ground Staff if they had any knowledge of arrangements that had previously been made.

Consequently, I received the following information from them:

'Further to our conversation regarding the maintenance of the town clock...

The clock was installed by the town jeweller, Rossiters, for the Queen's Coronation.

A paper mill employee 'Ralph Allen' rigged it up to an electrical supply, which was controlled via a master clock in the council chamber hall.

Before Ralph died, he wrote a convenance and Steve Waterman took over adjusting the clock when needed.

When the Town Council moved location and the Fishing Tackle took over the premises, the new occupiers moved the master clock to another position in the hall, which messed everything up.

This is now beyond Steve's knowledge. Steve has said it needs an engineer to look at the master clock downstairs in the Fishing Tackle shop, which sends an electronic pulse to the drive in the attic.

This is as much as I know, but Steve is a very skilled person in this field, and if he cannot fix it with all his experience and recommends an engineer, then this would be the right path to pursue.'

The Ground Staff also noted that they understood that the Council has responsibility for the Clock.

Recommendation

Members to delegate the Committee Clerk to research Contractors/Horological Engineers and to have the Coronation Clock and the Master Clock inspected and quotes provided for the cost of repairs.

