

Motion to Full Council – 4 March 2013

Proposed reduction of Members' Allowances in connection with the Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton

Motion proposed by Councillor Ian Morrell and seconded by Councillor Tony Beaven

Closure of the Brewhouse Theatre is a loss to our community and an embarrassment for the Council and the County Town.

The funding gap of some £100,000 is something we, as elected representatives for our community can help with and so save this important amenity as well as 55 jobs which will be lost.

As Councillors we all receive an allowance of £4,301 per annum, with special additional sums for certain Members.

I am seeking support from my fellow Councillors to collectively reduce our annual allowance for the 2013/2014 financial year by 50% and allocate this sum of at least £120,428 to the Brewhouse in order to keep the doors open.

This motion has the caveat that the Brewhouse's long-term financial and cultural viability must be independently challenged with relevant business and management changes made in order to secure the organisation's medium and long-term viability.

I strongly believe we collectively need to support our community during these challenging times. I hope you will be willing to support this motion.