

Exempt classification removed by Monitoring
Officer 14/08/26

River Cottage, Abbey Mill, Winchester

Prior to COVID, the council had negotiated a clean surrender of the River Cottage lease that would have meant no rent arrears would have been outstanding upon the surrender. However, the surrender was not completed due to the uncertainties of the pandemic and the disruption to business. Like many, River Cottage has been affected adversely during closure and there is no money now available to pay any rent.

A prospective new tenant has been found for Abbey Mill but it requires a surrender of the current lease and writing off unpaid rent for the period January 2020 to date. This amounts to £52,432. The actual loss to the council totals £43,693 as it will be able to recover the VAT in relation to this debt.

It is worth noting that no rent abatement has been applied for by the existing tenant. Cabinet approval is sought to write off these arrears and proceed with a new letting of Abbey Mill to another business.

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