Townhalls

Commercial Road

1883	Site bought for £10,000 from War Dept	89
14 Aug 1886	Foundation stone laid by Mayor A.S.Blake	89
14 Oct 1886	Foundation stone laid by Alfred S Blake,Esq., Mayor of the Borough; Alderman William King, Chairman of the Committee; William Hill FRIBA, Architect, Leeds; Alexander Hellard, Town Clerk.	1
30 May 1889	Jar with scroll placed in ball and finial by Councillor J.Corke	9
30 May 1890	Completed	9
9 Aug 1890	Opened by T.R.H. Prince & Princess of Wales, cost £137,098	89
9 Aug 1890	Opened by H.R.H. Prince of Wales	1
14 Aug 1890	Opened by Prince & Princess of Wales	9
	Architect William Hill of Leeds, builders Armitage & Hodgson of Leeds	110
	William Hill died in 1889, son William Hill with Charles Bevis completed required drawings and oversaw the project	181
1902	Memorial Tablet for Portsmouth Volunteers who served in South Africa	95
1914	Gas engine for organ to be replaced with electric motor	95
21 Apr 1926	Became Guildhall	?
10 Jan 1941	Burnt out by incendiary bombs	?
8 May 1950	Clock and chimes restarted	9
1951	B.Webber appointed architect for reconstruction	9
23 Apr 1953	Reconstruction started by Messrs Gee, Walker & Slater, cost £864,531	?
8 Jun 1959	Reopened by H.M. the Queen	9
1989	Reports that pins securing bells were rusting	9
1995	£12,000 maintenance of clock	9
2003	£75,000 wooden floor to be erected under main bell	
2008	Bells removed	
23 Jan 2009	5 bells lifted back into tower	
2011	Planned repairs and maintenance, including windows, toilets, electrical systems, frontage	9
Jan-Apr 2013	Main steps repaired, £120,000	
Jul 2015	£15m revamp planned. First phase - foyer, bars. Second/Third Phase new seating in concert hall, improved technical facilities, back stage	9

Organist John Jackson 1934-1940

High Street

	Townhall and market in centre of High Street	
1537	Built, gift of Thomas Carpenter	181
c1580	Bell placed in townhall by Mr Carpenter	89
1670	Bell inscribed W.S.	89
1738	Rebuilt	181
1795	Extended	181
Sep 1836	Demolished	181
	Bell rehung in new townhall	89
1837	Bell removed and until 1889 hung in Penny Street Gaol	89
1889	Bell moved to Victoria Park Railway arch	89

High Street

1836	Market House and Guildhall, architect Benjamin Bramble	89
24 May 1837	Foundation stone laid	89
	Foundation stone laid by the Mayor	30
	Built by Voller, Wells and Chalkley for £4,500	89
28 Jun 1838	Opened, designed by Benjamin Bramble, cost £4,000	181
1892	Guildhall and Council Chambers	1
1 Jan 1895	Opened by Mayor Thomas King as museum	89
21 Jan 1895	Opened by Mayor Thomas King, later the same day the new Technical Institute in Arundel Street was opened	67
19112	Ground floor to be used as Museum of Decorative Art	95

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