

Penkridge Parish Council

Minutes of the Penkridge Parish Council Extra Meeting held On 20th September 2018 at 7.00 pm at the Haling Dene Centre

Audio recordings will be made of all Ordinary and Special Council meetings and Committee meetings, with the inclusion of confidential matters.

PRESENT

Councillor	Alan Smallwood [Chairman]
"	Andrew Adams
"	Miss Chloe Burns
"	John L Eastwood
"	Brian Heathcote
"	Mrs Hilary A Hughes
"	Victor Kelly
"	Andrew Lenz
"	Anthony Minshall
"	Mrs Vivienne Smith

Also in Attendance Ms L Hough

Staffordshire County Councillor David Williams
South Staffordshire Councillor Mrs Jo Chapman

There were 11 members of the Public in attendance

Part I - Public Session

3749. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bevan Craddock, Mrs Isabel Ford, Mrs Petula Hughes, David Oldfield and Calvert Stonehouse.

3750. WORKING GROUP PRESENTATION

The Chairman advised those present that the release of the Procurement Bid paperwork had been delayed until Monday 24th September and as such there would not be a presentation by the Council's Working Group.

He advised the public that the Council had set up a Working Group which also had a representative from the Friends of Penkridge Library. They had looked at a number of options available which included visiting local Voluntary Lead Libraries to see how they compared to Penkridge Library. He said they had considered taking on the current Library staff but the implications/costs of TUPE, salaries and redundancy had negated that option.

3751. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman asked members of the public present if they wished to ask questions, put their views forward or make a statement on what they wanted from their Parish Council and the future of the Library.

Members of the public then raised various points and asked question which were answered by either Cllr David Williams or Parish Councillors.

Points raised were:

- o Library should be relocated to a more suitable building as the current building was not fit for purpose and had no car parking.
- o One member of the public thought the decision made by SCC Cabinet was political
- o The majority of public thought there should be one member of paid staff, maybe a Volunteer Co-Coordinator for a set number of hours per week and maybe a set 5 year contract.
- o The Library is one of the most important facilities in the Village.
- o The building does not have the capacity to extend the services similar to other Voluntary Lead Libraries in the District.
- o The Library should stay with SCC and be made automated, although this would not be the ideal solution.

Cllr Williams confirmed that the Library building and utility costs would still be met by SCC

3752. PENKRIDGE LIBRARY

[a] The Chairman advised that as the Procurement Bid paperwork had not yet been released so the Council could not consider the basis of the Bid until they had viewed the paperwork.

[b] Councillors discussed and considered the points put forward by the public.

The Chairman advised that there would be a Working Group meeting on Wednesday 26th September at 3.00 pm and the Library would be included on the 11th October Full Council Agenda where the Working Group would update Councillors on the Procurement Bid paperwork and recommend a way forward.

Councillor Minshall proposed that the Council agree to submit a Procurement Bid for the Library and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Hughes.

Councillors voted 9 for and one abstention.

Councillors also agreed to hold a Public Meeting on 11th October at 6.00 pm where members of the Public could attend and ask questions/put views forward on the Library.

A5 posters to be produced advertising the Public Meeting and placed as an insert in the Fishnet for the end of September. Posters also be placed on the Council website and Facebook page together with village Noticeboards.

Resolved that:

[i] The Council agree to submit a Procurement Bid for the Library.

[ii] A Public Meeting be held on 11th October at 6.00 pm where members of the Public could attend and ask questions/put views forward on the Library.

[iii] A5 posters to be produced advertising the Public Meeting and placed as an insert in the Fishnet for the end of September.

[iv] Posters also be placed on the Council website and Facebook page together with village Noticeboards.

3753. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 11th October 2018 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Chairman: _____

Date: _____