

Penkridge Parish Council

Minutes of the Penkridge Parish Council Extra Meeting held On 11th October 2018 at 6.00 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
"	Bevan Craddock
"	John L Eastwood
"	Mrs Petula M C Hughes
"	Victor Kelly
"	Andrew Lenz
"	Anthony Minshall
"	Calvert Stonehouse
"	Mrs Vivienne Smith

Also in Attendance Ms L Hough

Staffordshire County Councillor David Williams

There were 40 members of the Public in attendance

Part I - Public Session

3754. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Brian Heathcote, Mrs Hilary Hughes and David Oldfield.

3755. LIBRARY WORKING GROUP

The Chairman asked Cllr Minshall to give an update/feedback on the Working Group meetings.

Cllr Minshall advised that the Working Group had considered the alternatives available to the Council and had compiled a list of four feasible options for the Procurement Bid:

1. Take on the Library and as it is currently run with two paid Staff which would result in a cost implication to the Parish Council, over a 5 year period, of approximately £165,000. The two Staff each has 30 years of service and the Parish Council would be liable for their redundancy costs, which would be too excessive for the Parish to pay.
2. Take on the Library without the two members of Staff and the Parish to employ a 'Volunteer Coordinator' together with Volunteers to run the Library.
3. Run the Library with Volunteers
4. Look into a Partnership where a company would run the Library with the support of the Parish Council.

He advised that the Parish Council had agreed to submit a Procurement Bid but had not yet decided on which Option would apply.

The Chairman said that the Parish Council would have to increase the Precept if they were to take on the Library Service. Cllr Adams had worked out the cost of the increase of Council Tax to Parishioners under Option 2 and this would result in an approximate cost per household per year of £7.00.

The figures stated had not been provided by either Staffordshire County Council or the Parish Council's Responsible Officer so they could not be confirmed as correct.

The Chairman then opened the meeting to the Parishioners for a question and answer session.

The main points raised by Parishioners in attendance were:

Does the Parish Council have a figure of how much the Precept would have to increase by.

How long was the TUPE Cooling off Period,

Would Staffordshire County Council still fund the building.

The Library should be used to make revenue towards its costs.

Would the Library Service remain the same.

The current building was inappropriate and the Library should be relocated to the Haling Dene Centre which had plenty of space to accommodate the service.

Was the currently building fit for purpose.

Cllr Williams advised that the building was fit for purpose and that the County Council would still fund the building but there may be a shortfall in utility costs which would have to be made up by the winner of the Bid. The Library Service may change depending on the proposals of the Bid winner.

Cllr Kelly advised that the TUPE cooling off period was 3 months.

3756. PENKRIDGE LIBRARY

- [a] The Parish Council to take forward for consideration the recommendations of the Working Group together with the Parishioners' views as a basis for the Procurement Bid.
- [b] Consideration was given to a timescale of events which include deadlines.

Resolved that:

- [i] Two Working Group meetings had been arranged for 18th and 25th October to start at 11.00 am.
- [ii] Staffordshire County Council's Catherine Mann to be invited to attend the 25th October meeting at 11.00 am.
- [iii] An Extra Full Council meeting had also been scheduled for 15th November when Council would make their final decision and if necessary approve the completed Procurement Bid for submission.

3757. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 11th October 2018 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 7.00 pm

Chairman: _____

Date: _____