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Porlock



Parish Room
Old School Centre
Porlock
Somerset, TA24 8NP

Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting,
held at Porlock Village Hall, Wednesday 26th June 2024, 6 pm**
Copies of minutes and non-confidential reports are available on request

Councillors Present:

Cllr. D McCanlis (Chair), Cllr. S Colson, Cllr. S McCanlis, Cllr. D Heath, Cllr. C Gardner, Cllr. M Stenning

Also present: 14 members of the public in attendance. Clerk, Johnathan Jones

Signed:  Dated: 13/08/2024

Min Ref:	Minutes	Action
EM-2024-001	Apologies were received by the Council Cllrs. L Bloys and L Thornton	
EM-2024-002	Declarations of interest and disclosable pecuniary interest dispensations None were declared.	
EM-2024-003	Items to be dealt with after the public, including press, have been excluded The Chair asked Council if there were any items that should be discussed in closed session. No items were put forward.	
EM-2024-004	Public Participation The Chair reminded attending public that as this was an Extraordinary Meeting specifically convened to discuss the future use of the Old School Centre. For this meeting public are encouraged to participate throughout the meeting, by raising of hands. The Chair also asked if there were any items that the public wished to raise before the main agenda items. Public: Did the Council hold a vote about having this as a public meeting at the last Council meeting. Council: Recognised that in the last Council meeting a member of the public suggested holding a public meeting. Council felt that in an open public meeting it would be hard to maintain focus, Resolutions made at a public meeting are not binding on the council and the public have the right to attend all formal Council meetings. At the last ordinary meeting of the Council a resolution was passed that the Chair would call an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council.	
EM-2024-005	Broad categories of suggestions for the future use of the Old School Centre The report was received (available on the council's website). An overview was given by the Clerk; suggestions received were from various sources: email, social media, and direct engagement from members of the community. Current ideas cover a wide range of	

Initials:  Date: 13/08/24

income generating and non-income generating activities. Many suggestions focused on using the space for community led activities, for groups where existing hireable space in the community do not meet current needs. Other suggestions received: using the space as an Ada Lovelace Museum; focus on using the space for young people in the community; rental for business use in whole or part; a combined idea from the Clerk & Library Manager which focused on expanding the Community Library making it a Community Hub as other Libraries in the county have done, offering a wide range of activities and services including hireable space, all under one roof with the possible relocation of the Parish Office and or Lovelace Resource Centre.

EM-2024-006

Layout/occupancy options after the Porlock Vale Community Interest Company have relocated.

Layout options were received (available on the council's website). Cllrs. were invited to share their input about how they saw the space being used in the short and long term while considering existing users, Lovelace Resource Centre, Library and Porlock Parish Council. Council recognised the opportunity to create better working conditions for council staff, as well as how to make best use of the space for existing local attractions and groups without putting additional strain on existing limited local resources such as volunteers. There was consensus that while no single idea took precedence, any future use should include a multi-purpose flexible space, seeking to serve and benefit the wider community and make the most of the centre in the winter months when visitor numbers drop off.

Points raised from public in attendance covered: checking history of the original purchase and any covenants in existence, understanding the cost of any precept increase, the opportunity to increase visitor numbers with another attraction in Porlock, creation of a dedicated art space for local creatives, understanding more about the rental conditions including limitations and restrictions to ensure greater access and availability.

Regarding the suggestion that the OSC house a permanent Ada Lovelace exhibition, an update was received on the Ada Lovelace Group from Cllr S Colson who described a number of activities that are underway, most of which will commence next year.

Councillors ideas included:

- Two rooms needed for Office space and Lovelace
- Let out the present office to e.g. start-up business
- More space needed for Council office
- A better working office means a better service to the community
- Make a new space useful to the Library
- Library Manager: Library is cramped, needs a dedicated children's space; could be linked to the present space as Lovelace Centre; Library staff can act as Reception for PPC/Lovelace
- Dedicated Parish Office for Clerk and Admin Officer, the two other spaces to be flexible/community/chargeable
- A permanent Ada Museum would not be good use of space
- PPC needs a dedicated space, ideally in the present room which is secure, suitable for Clerk and two others

EM-2024-007

Talk to Chris Fitzgerald to get a better understanding of the history regarding the purchase of the OSC and any conditions/covenants

JJ

EM-2024-008	Discuss with Chris Miles her plans for the Lovelace Resource Centre	JJ
EM-2024-009	Options for full cost evaluation & feasibility study Council received the report from Cllr. L Thornton regarding finance/budget considerations. The Clerk also provided an update on potential precept impact and current EMR funds for any project costs. Council agreed further work was required to understand the income and cost impact on the current budget and precept. Council RESOLVED three options that should be explored in more detail, with income and cost impacts on the budget and precept for the following three options. • 100% Business rental option, • 100% Community use option • Hybrid - Business & Community option PROPOSED Cllr. S Colson SECONDED Cllr. C Gardner VOTED: ALL IN FAVOUR 19:10 Cllr. C Gardner left the meeting	
EM-2024-010		
EM-2024-011	Next steps to deciding the Future use of the Old Schol Centre Council resolved the next steps as minuted below: PROPOSED Cllr. S Colson SECONDED Cllr. C Gardner VOTED: ALL IN FAVOUR	
EM-2024-012	Prepare financial assessment for income, operating costs and precept impact on the three options, to be received at the next ordinary council meeting on the 10 th July '24.	JJ/SC
EM-2024-013	Chair to decide on a date and the agenda for an extraordinary meeting for August	DM
EM-2024-014	Council to receive the final proposal for consideration at the ordinary council meeting 11 th September '24	
EM-2024-015	Change of meeting start time Council considered changing the start time of the next ordinary council meeting to be held on the 7th July 24 from 7pm to 6pm PROPOSED Cllr. D McCanlis SECONDED No seconder MOTION NOT CARRIED	

The meeting closed at 7:23pm