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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, Tuesday 13th August 2024, 7 pm**
Copies of minutes and non-confidential reports are available on request

Councillors Present:

D McCanlis (Chair), S Colson (Vice-Chair), S McCanlis, D Heath, C Gardner, L Bloys

Also present: 27 members of the public in attendance. Clerk, Johnathan Jones

Signed:  Dated: 11/09/24

Min Ref:	Minutes	Action
EM-2024-016	Apologies were received by the Council Cllrs. M Stenning	
EM-2024-017	Declarations of interest and disclosable pecuniary interest dispensations None were declared.	
EM-2024-018	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-2024-019	Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the council on the 26th June '24 Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes with no amendments. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair. PROPOSED: Cllr. D Heath SECONDED: Cllr. C Gardner VOTING: All voted in Favour	
EM-2024-020	Porlock Vale Community Interest Company Lease extension request until 15th November '24 Council RESOLVED to approve the extension request.	JJ
	PROPOSED: Cllr. D McCanlis SECONDED: Cllr. L Bloys VOTED: All in Favour	
EM-2024-021	Update on feedback received on the future use of the Old School Centre The Clerk provided a short overview of additional feedback following the recent attendance at the Porlock Fair and media ahead of the Extraordinary Meeting. It was noted that there had been no further suggestions received through the media channels however feedback from the fair was encouraging. Those who did engage thought it was good that Council were 'present', talking to circa 40 families who provided their views. Themes remained consistent with existing themes: community use, hireable space and expansion of the library. Commercial let was seen as a last resort rather than being empty. Some were not aware of the project.	

Initials:  Date: 11/09/24

EM-2024- Public Participation**022**

The Chair reminded attending public that as this was an Extraordinary Meeting, the second of its kind specifically convened to discuss the future use of the Old School Centre and the fourth in a series of meetings where the future use of the Old School Centre has been on the agenda. For this meeting public are encouraged to participate throughout the meeting, by raising of hands. The Chair asked if there were any items that the public wished to raise other than the main agenda items. No questions were received

EM-2024- Main priorities for consideration**023**

The Chair opened the item inviting the public in attendance to provide their input into what they saw as the main priorities for the Old School Centre. There was a lot of input covering a wide range of points raised both in support and in concern about the ideas that had been received, covering:

- Impact on existing businesses of a new hireable space / need for a smaller dedicated community space for small group hire
- Needs to be a space everybody can use
- What groups would be allowed to use the hireable space / why don't these groups use existing facilities
- The building was bought for community use and should remain so
- Business let should be advertised / not take away from the high street
- Library services expansion and of space needed / not needed
- Parish office space not being a suitable working environment / must be secure
- How will a sliding scale work
- Drop in session for specific groups / greater visibility of Clerk/parish staff
- Where will funding come from / what about impact on precept
- A space is need for artists, craft workshops, groups to meet, exhibitions etc

Council also provided input on the priorities:

- Dedicated flexible community space
- Better space for the library groups to achieve their full potential
- Community space that doesn't compete with existing hireable spaces
- Place that offers a wide range of activities for everyone in the community
- Not rented to business / Rented to business with no changes
- Still provides a home for the Lovelace Centre and the Parish Office
- Make better use of the space available for current users
- Ensure what is done is fit for the future use and needs given devolution
- Better working environment for the Parish Clerk, Officer and future needs

Council RESOLVED that the main priorities for the future use of the Old School Centre would be to:

- 1) Create a community space that would:
 - a. allow the expansion of existing community library services
 - b. create a dedicated space available for hire for the community
 - c. use a sliding scale chargeable tariff
 - d. not compete with existing businesses or charities
- 2) Provide a dedicated secure and future proofed space for the Parish Office
- 3) Continue to provide a working space for the Lovelace Resource Centre

PROPOSED: Cllr. C Gardner SECONDED: Cllr: Sue McCanlis VOTED: 6 in favour, 1 abstained
(Cllr. L Bloys)

EM-2024-024 **Layout options should be put forward for review in September.**
Council RESOLVED that the Community hub layout option should be put to further review which considered the following: JJ

- 1) Dedicated Parish Office
- 2) Minimise the cost of redesign
- 3) Security of parish files a priority
- 4) Lovelace Resource Centre relocating to the smaller of the available spaces

PROPOSED: Cllr. C Gardner SECONDED: Cllr. D Heath Voted: 6 In Favour 1 Against
(Cllr. L Bloys)

EM-2024-025 **Final decision date**
Council DEFERRED making a decision on a final decision date until the September meeting. JJ

PROPOSED: Cllr. S McCanlis SECONDED: Cllr. C Gardner Voted: All in favour

Cllr. Lee Bloys left the meeting at 20.20, before the vote on the next item

EM-2024-025 **Next Steps**
Council RESOLVED the next steps as: JJ

- 1) Development of future use under main priorities
- 2) Cost analysis of plans (Project costs and future operating costs)
- 3) Development of the layout/Space proposals

PROPOSED: Cllr. S Colson SECONDED: Cllr. D McCanlis VOTED: All in Favour

EM-2024-026 **Next Meeting**
Council noted that the next ordinary meeting of the council will be on the 11th September '24 at 7pm in Porlock Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7:23pm