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Launceston Town Council  
The Town Hall  
Launceston  
Cornwall PL15 7AR

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL  
held on THURSDAY 9 MARCH 2017 at 7pm in the Guildhall**

- PRESENT** Cllrs Bugden-Cawsey, Bullen, Conway, Creagh-Osborne, Gordon, Harris, Hogan (Town Mayor), Keighley, Nancarrow, O'Brien, Penhale, Tremain, Young (Deputy Mayor)  
In attendance: Christopher Drake (Town Clerk)
- 1703/13 Apologies for absence**  
Apologies for absence were received from Town Councillors Denton, Sandercock and Phillips
- 1703/14 Declarations of Interest**  
Councillors were reminded that if a councillor has a registered disclosable pecuniary interest, or a non-registerable interest, in any agenda item s/he must leave the room while that item is discussed, unless a written request for a dispensation has been received.
- 1703/15 Public Representation Session**  
There were no members of the public in attendance
- 1703/16 Exclusion of members of the press and public**  
**Cllr Creagh-Osborne** proposed a Motion objecting to the exclusion of members of the press and public, other than to discuss those matters affecting staff. **Cllr O'Brien** seconded the motion.  
  
The motion was put to the vote and fell  
  
It was **resolved** that under s1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items as they involve the likely disclosure of confidential information.
- 1702/17 Devolution of Library Services**  
Members considered the options report from Cornwall Council concerning the above. And the Mayor moved that the two options be considered individually.  
  
**Option 1**  
**Cllr Tremain** said that the library was very important to the town but the cost to the Council to operate the service was too high without other revenue streams and it would reflect poorly if the Town Council took on the service and was then unable to continue with it  
  
**Cllr Nancarrow** agreed with Cllr Tremain and wanted the service to continue but that the Town Council could not afford to take it on

**Cllr Keighley** stated that the cost was too high for the Town Council to take on

**Cllr Bullen** said that the offer from Cornwall Council was not good enough and the cost would be too high to local residents. Cllr Bullen also had concerns over the long term viability of the proposal

**Cllr O'Brien** said that he had sympathy to the concept of the Town Council taking on the service but could not do so under the terms being offered

**Cllr Creagh-Osborne** agreed with all the previous comments and said that whilst it would be good if the Town Council took on the service, the offer from Cornwall Council was not acceptable

**Cllr Harris** said that the issue was a poison chalice and that the Town Council were not being given proper opportunity to take on and run the service and that whilst he did not want to lose the library service, the Town Council could not sustain it on the offer from Cornwall Council

**Cllr Conway** noted that the provision of a library was a statutory obligation for Cornwall Council and that it was unacceptable for the Town Council to take on the service, particularly to operate the One Stop Shop. The Town Council would need proper payment to take on and operate the service and the offer from Cornwall was an insult as there was no proper detail. The broad running costs of the service were too high for the Town Council

**Cllr Budgen-Cawsey** was not comfortable with the devolution of a service with such minimal input and she would not support increasing the precept to pay for the service if Cornwall Council were not seen to be supportive. The offer to the Town Council was not good enough

**Cllr Penhale** agreed with all previous comments

**Cllr Gordon** said that the proposals fell well short of the original 14 point plan submitted by the Town Council and that the costs to local residents must be considered. The service was a statutory obligation for Cornwall and costs of running the service would only increase in the future. The offer was insufficient as the funding was seven years out of date and the Town Council had a responsibility to protect its budget

**Cllr Young** said that she felt cheated by Cornwall Council as after many meetings with them, she had left the last meeting feeling optimistic, but the figures contained in the report were different from those discussed at the last meeting and the offer of back payment for maintenance costs was insulting. She stated that she had sympathy for the library staff but was not prepared to cover the costs of the service by increasing the precept

**Cllr Hogan** agreed with all the previous comments and said that he felt that the previous meetings had not been worthwhile undertaking

The Council **resolved unanimously** against option 1 of the report

### **Option 2**

**Cllr Young** said that whilst Cornwall Council will do what they want, the town needed to know what decisions were made and why

**ClIr Gordon** felt that the Town Council would not have any input to proposals and would have to await the outcome of what Cornwall Council agreed

**ClIr Penhale** said that he had no confidence in Cornwall Council doing a deal with the library well

**ClIr Budgen-Cawsey** said that it was not an ideal situation to let Cornwall Council deal with the matter. She also expressed her thanks to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for all their work in the process

**ClIr Conway** said that he did not support option 2 as it would allow Cornwall Council to reduce the library service and proposed that only the first lines of the option be given as a response

**ClIr Harris** agreed with ClIr Conway and said that the proposal to use co-location and volunteers would result in people taking on work as unpaid librarians and that when people stopped volunteering the library service would cease

**ClIr Creagh-Osborne** said that the first part of the option was significant but that the Town Council should add that the proposals will not meet the needs of the service

**ClIr O'Brien** said that the future public perception on the matter could be different from that of the Town Council and as such the Town Council must manage the media and needed to be able to be quoted immediately and hoped that a detailed press release would be issued by the Town Council

**ClIr Bullen** agreed with ClIr O'Brien and said that a statement must show the strength of view of the Town Council

**ClIr Keighley** questioned if the forthcoming elections may change the views of Cornwall Council

**ClIr Nancarrow** restated that the service was a statutory obligation

**ClIr Tremain** said that the statutory obligation did not safeguard the current library service and agreed that a press release must be published. He also stated that current groups that use the library could cease to function if staffing at the library was reduced

**ClIr Hogan** said that he did not support option 2

The Council **resolved unanimously** against option 2 of the report

It was **resolved** to advise that Cornwall Council that the Town Council did not accept either of the two options presented and that the Town Council's original proposals for devolution of the library service remained in place and that the Town Council issue a press release advising of their decision

**1702/18**

**St John's Ambulance Hall**

It was resolved unanimously to sign the contract for the Ambulance Hall

The meeting ended at 8.25pm.

Signed ..... Date .....