

# THRAPSTON TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor: Cllr Karen Draycott

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on 01832 734673**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Library Committee  
held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 18:15 at the Town Council Office**

**Present: Cllr Wheeler (Chairman), Cllr Baden, Cllr Cribb, Cllr Otterwell**

**In attendance: Linda Marshall (Clerk)**

No.	Item	Action	By Whom
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> None.		
2.	<b>Declaration of Interest</b> None.		
3.	<b>Public Open Time</b> None.		
4.	<b>To approve the Minutes of the Library Committee meeting dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019</b> <b>Resolved</b> that the Minutes of the Library Committee meeting dated 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2019 be confirmed as a true record.		
5.	<b>To receive a response from Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) on our comments on the draft Heads of Terms together with our solicitor's comments. To discuss and agree recommendations (if any) to be made to Full Council</b> It was noted that NCC had not approved any of the key amendments put forward by our solicitors. In the main they will not agree (i) to a change in the restriction on the title to include for use of the premises as "Library and Community purposes only" but state it must remain as "Library and Ancillary purposes only"; (ii) to the Library being provided from a different location within Thrapston (for instance, when the library site is being redeveloped into a community hub) and as such the cessation period will come into effect and NCC would have the option for either a transfer of the freehold back to them or for the grant of Lease; and (iii) to amend the abatement figure to 25% to keep in line with the reduction percentage but instead state it must remain at 40%.  NCC have stated that any proposal for alternative arrangements would need to be agreed at the time, but this would be following completion of a sale.		

	<p>It was noted that NCC are well aware of the Town Council's plans to redevelop the site into a community hub, which would include for a library provision, and despite the fact that during meetings they have been supportive of this they are clearly not prepared to negotiate the Heads of Terms to be in the interest of all parties.</p> <p>The advice from our solicitors is that this is not a good deal for the Town Council; we would be paying for a building that we cannot use except for a library provision.</p> <p>Following discussions it was <b>resolved</b> to make a recommendation to Full Council that we ask our solicitor to write back to NCC saying that the Heads of Terms are unacceptable; that the deal on the table is not deemed to be of value to the Town Council and as such is not a good spend of our public money.</p> <p>An email from the Friends of Thrapston Library was raised, in which they were asking that if the Town Council didn't proceed with the purchase of the library building whether the Friends could make an offer to NCC to work in partnership with them so the service could still be provided above the minimum 12 hours per week. Following discussion the Committee concluded that there was no issue from the Town Council's point of view in the Friends approaching NCC.</p> <p>Finally it was noted that a letter had been received from East Northamptonshire Council in relation to the library being listed as an Asset of Community Value in which it states that they have received notification from NCC that it is their intention to dispose of the property. From discussion it was regarded that the intention by NCC was for the sale of the property to the Town Council. It was agreed that the Clerk write back to East Northamptonshire Council asking that we still be kept notified of any future proposals which NCC may have to dispose of the property.</p>	<p>Prepare recommendation to FTC</p> <p>Respond to the Friends</p> <p>Write to ENC</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
6.	<p><b>Clerk's Report</b> None.</p>		
7.	<p><b>Chairman's Comments</b> None.</p>		
	<p><b>There being no further business the meeting closed at 18:42</b></p>		

Signed .....

Dated .....