

THRAPSTON TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor: Cllr Sam Cribb

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on 01832 734673**

253-2017/18

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council
held on Tuesday 2nd January 2018 at 7.30pm at the Town Council Office**

Present: Cllr Cribb (Chairman), Cllr Baden, Cllr Boyd, Cllr Boydell, Cllr Carter, Cllr Charles, Cllr Draycott, Cllr Latimer, Cllr Read; Cllr Strode-Willis, Cllr Vaughan and Cllr Wheeler.

In attendance: Linda Marshall (Clerk) and Wendy Brackenbury

Item	Item	Action	By Whom
1.	Apologies for absence Cllr Winter had tendered his apologies which were unanimously accepted.		
2.	Declaration of interest in items on the agenda None received.		
3.	To receive any issues from members of the public None.		
4.	Resolution: To receive and adopt the Addendum to the Standing Orders It was resolved to accept the Addendum to the Standing Orders allowing meetings to last up to a maximum of 2.5 hours.	Duly Signed	Chairman
5.	To receive an update on the meetings held by the Action Group of Friends of the Library The last meeting had been well attended; the Minutes were still awaited; the Friends had requested various information from Cllr Wendy Brackenbury. It was felt by those present that the outcome of the Friends meeting was positive. It was noted that the Friends will put in an expression of interest and will go for Option 1. The Chairman confirmed that she had voiced that without further information available the Town Council's position hadn't changed.		

			254-2017/18
6.	<p>To receive an update on responses received from Cllr Wendy Brackenbury</p> <p>It was noted that Cllr Brackenbury's responses to the questions raised from the last meeting had been circulated. Cllr Brackenbury advised that until the consultation closes she cannot add anything further. She confirmed that expressions of interest need to be in by the 13th January, with formal expressions of interest by end March (date to be confirmed).</p> <p>It was noted that the County Council will not decide on the curtilage of the library until after the consultation. Further discussions took place and various questions were put to Cllr Brackenbury. Cllr Brackenbury stated that if the Council put in an expression of interest that they should include as much information as possible with requests for information still awaited.</p>		
7.	<p>To receive an update on any responses received from County or District regarding S.106 monies allocated for the library</p> <p>Cllr Brackenbury confirmed that the County Council are not holding any S106 monies for Thrapston Library.</p>		
8.	<p>To discuss Phase 2 of County's proposed cuts and the impact (if any) this will have on the Town Council</p> <p>Cllr Brackenbury confirmed that there will be various scrutiny meetings over the next few weeks, together with public drop in sessions (the first being Wednesday 10th January from 4.00pm to 7.30pm in Rushden). She asked if anyone had anything they wished her to raise that they should email her; or they could attend one of the public meetings. Discussions took place, and it was generally felt that there wasn't anything in Phase 2 that would directly impact the Town Council. Cllr Brackenbury confirmed that once the County Council make a decision on the library consultation then the draft budget will be looked at in finer detail.</p>		

			255-2017/18
9.	<p>To discuss and determine the Council's response to the library consultation (closing date 5pm 13th January)</p> <p>Various discussions took place regarding the Council's response to the consultation and how the data is being collected. Cllr Brackenbury confirmed that she believes there will be professional support, guidance and advice available for any group wishing to express an interest in running the library, but further confirmed that by submitting an expression of interest it is not legally binding. It was suggested that Cllr Brackenbury could arrange a visit to Market Deeping if anyone was interested in going to see a community hub. Discussions continued regarding the Council's response to the consultation paper, and how it was felt that it was tailored more to an individual. It was resolved that the Council would only complete Question 23 of the consultation paper (copy attached at Appendix 1); and submit an expression of interest at the same time (copy attached at Appendix 2).</p>	Respond to Q. 23 of the Consultation Paper	Clerk/Cllr Cribb/ Cllr Wheeler
10.	<p>To discuss and determine the Council's position with regards to the possibility of acquiring the library building and associated land; to receive a quotation from Berrys of Kettering with regards to a valuation and to discuss funding options (PWLB)</p> <p>Following ongoing discussions it was generally felt that there were several options that the Council could explore, but that tonight's meeting wasn't the time to discuss this. It was agreed that the Council need to determine what the community want and need, and further to determine how the Council wish to proceed. It was agreed by majority that the Council would wish to explore buying the library land, with a view to managing a library. It was resolved to set up a Library Working Party who can then explore all the options in more depth. It was agreed that the Council would not undertake its own valuation/survey until the results of the consultation are available. Cllr Brackenbury advised that as soon as she receives details of the County Council's valuation that she will forward this on.</p>	<p>Form a Library Working Party</p> <p>Produce Terms of Reference for Library Working Party</p>	<p>Cllrs Boyd; Boydell; Cribb; Latimer; Strode-Willis; Vaughan; Wheeler</p> <p>Clerk</p>

			256-2017/18
11.	<p>To discuss and agree whether the Town Council will submit an Expression of Interest to the County Council</p> <p>It was resolved that the Council would submit an expression of interest.</p>	Submit an Expression of Interest	Clerk/Cllr Cribb/ Cllr Wheeler
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.08pm		

Signed

Dated

Town Council's Response to Q. 23 of the County Council's Library Consultation

Thrapston Town Council feel that the consultation paper, whilst available to individuals and groups, is not fit for purpose. The Town Council feel that the questions are geared towards individuals only.

That said, the Town Council wish to make the following comments:-

Thrapston Town Council do not agree with any of the options presented and ultimately would be in favour of the County Council continuing to run and manage the library of Thrapston. However, in view of the financial problems that County are facing and in direct response to the library consultation, Thrapston Town Council's preferred option is Option 1 – being the only option available for us to retain any form of library.

Thrapston Town Council also feel that a Toolkit would prove helpful together with template expression of interest forms.

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To Whom it May Concern
Northamptonshire County Council
PO Box 136
County Hall
Northampton NN1 1AT

9th January 2018

Dear Sirs

Northamptonshire Library Consultation

Please accept this letter as Thrapston Town Council's **Informal Expression of Interest** in establishing a community-managed library.

It is the Town Council's intention to explore the possibility of leasing or buying the library premises from the County Council with a view to developing a community hub in Thrapston.

A working party has now been set up to explore the options available on the basis that the County Council resolve to adopt Option 1 of the Library Consultation.

The Town Council are also supportive of the Action Group of the Friends of Library and will explore the possibilities of working together.

The above is on the proviso of further information being made available to the Council, i.e:-

- A valuation of the premises both freehold and leasehold has now been received but we are unaware of what this valuation covers; confirmation will be required.
- The curtilage of the site
- Whether the County Council would underwrite TUPE with regard to staffing

We would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of our Informal Expression of Interest.

Yours faithfully

Linda Marshall
Clerk to the Council