

LIBRARY WORKING GROUP MEETING
Held at Community Office, Wiveliscombe
Thursday 13th February 2025 at 4.00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr T Parker (Chair) Cllr Gaines, Cllr B Wilson, Cllr F Higginson and R Wilson

CLERK: Mrs Sarah Towells

OTHER: None

APOLOGIES: None

24/36LWG Apologies: As noted above

24/37LWG Declarations of interest: There were none.

24/38LWG Minutes from meeting held on 21st January 2025: It was resolved to approve the minutes.

24/39LWG Postcodes: Somerset Libraries have made another input about postcode data. The calculations which are still not definitive figures, from the combined information with 960 users indicate that if we could collect proportional amounts from other parishes, there would be a material beneficial impact on the costs to WTC: This should not be put to the other Parishes at this point.

	No. of Registered Library Users	Wiveliscombe Library Visitors	Share
Wiveliscombe	817	581	61%
Milverton	239	170	18%
Stawley	71	50	5%
Fitzhead	66	47	5%
Huish			
Champflower	45	32	3%
Bathealton	31	22	2%
Chipstable	27	19	2%
Brompton Ralph	26	18	2%
Ashbrittle	14	10	1%
Clatworthy	14	10	1%
TOTAL	1350	960	100%

24/40LWG Any feedback from WAP: WAP would continue to support both the Town Council and Somerset Council in any way possible regarding managing the library but would not be able to facilitate any fundraising for the library.

24/41LWG Meeting with WAP/WTC/SC: Discussions took place around different models of community library and WAP, WTC and SC all agree that Wiveliscombe Library will now need to be a different model to the existing one.

Somerset Council suggested a fully volunteer led library with a dedicated charity doing fundraising. A community Officer would be employed either by the charity or WTC to oversee the volunteers and everyday running of the library.

The group discussed a Corporate Trustee and this would be discussed in more detail at the full council meeting.

A public meeting would be required to be held to see if anyone would be interested in forming a charity.

24/42LWG Public consultation: It was resolved to recommend to Full Council to hold two public meetings at the Community Centre to put the fully volunteer led library forward and the need for volunteers to form a charity. One on 1st March at 11am and one on 18th March at 7pm. This would be on securing the future of Wiveliscombe Library. It was resolved to notify WAP, The Librarian and surrounding Parishes that the public meetings are being held and they are welcome to attend.

24/43LWG Items for next meeting: Feedback from public meetings.

24/44LWG Date, time and place of next meeting: TBC

Meeting closed at 5.20pm