

LIBRARY WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES
Held at Community Office, Wiveliscombe
Monday 6th October at 3.10pm

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

CLERK: Mrs Sarah Towells

OTHER: Cllr Gaines (but here as a member of THT) Joined meeting at 3.30pm – Benedict Southworth, Julian Mellor and Nicky Saunter (all from Town Hall Trust)

APOLOGIES: Cllr P Martin

25/30LWG Apologies: As noted above

25/31LWG Declarations of interest: Cllr Gaines pointed out he was a member of the Town Hall Trust and was at this meeting as a Trustee of the Town Hall. He would stay for the first part of the meeting but would not take part in any discussions.

25/32LWG Minutes from meeting held on 01st September 2025: It was resolved to approve the minutes.

25/33LWG Brief review of the THT proposal sticking points (and what has been done to address them)

- % of S137 for the Library: The Clerk reported her conversation with Julian Mellor following the September Town Council meeting and he thought the Trust would be able to go with the Councils figure of 50% rather than their proposal of 52% as monetary value was only around £600.00.
- The Town Council said CIL funding for the Town Hall could not be connected to the library contract. The Finance group has recommended to Full Council payment of CIL funding to the Town Hall Trust so this item should now be removed from the proposal.
- Lease renewal for the building: The proposal stated the project would become unviable if the rent comes in more than £4500.00 per year. The Clerk reported that Julian had stated that savings could probably be made elsewhere so this paragraph could be amended.

25/34LWG Agree a LWG plan for engaging with Full Council and Somerset Council to make progress:

- Find the best way forward on lease making first approach to Co-op: Ask The Town Hall Trust if they felt they would be able to approach the Co-op regarding the lease once a letter had formally been sent to Somerset Council.
- Draft a formal letter to Somerset Council outlining the plan for approval at the October meeting and send by the end of October to meet employment deadline: **It was resolved to recommend to Full Council to send the attached letter to Somerset Council before the end of October, giving a copy to the Town Hall trust to enable them to start lease negotiations with the Co-op.**
- Make recommendations to Full Council at the October meeting that the LWG is approved to move towards a contract with SC and THT with a suitable lease arrangement, for further approval by WTC in due course: **It was resolved to recommend to Full Council to approve the LWG to move towards a contract with SC and THT, with a suitable lease arrangement, which would be approved by Full Council at the next available meeting.**

The Town Hall Trust joined the meeting at this point.

25/35LWG Brief THT on how far we have got with the above points and get their feedback: Cllr Parker briefed the Town Hall Trust on the above points to which they were in agreement. The THT agreed to send a revised proposal to be discussed at the October meeting.

25/36LWG Date for meeting with THT and SC: It was resolved there would be a 3 way meeting on 11th November at 2.00pm

25/37LWG Date, time and place of next meeting: TBC
The recommendations to Full Council are highlighted.

Meeting closed at 4.25 pm