

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF CHARMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD AT THE ELMS ON TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017**

**PRESENT:** Richard Acton, Graham Bender, David Clifford, Judy Fellingham Peter Noel, Paul Oatway, Martin Sayers, Richard Salisbury, Judith Sheppard, Chris Shirley-Smith

County / District Councillor – Daryl Turner

A number of members of the public.

217/17 APOLOGIES

None.

218/17 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chairman reminded the Council of the need for individuals to declare an interest on either of the two types of interest of personal and prejudicial nature.

219/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms Helen Hughes spoke to the Council to say that she was appreciative of the Council activities in general. Whilst she was not against the Chapel becoming a fossil museum, she was against it being established using the Council's funds

Mr. Alison Taylor spoke to say that she was a member of Changing Spaces and was a member of the congregation of the Chapel. She stated that the review they conducted identified the lack of a 'sheltered play' area aka as 'soft play' area in Charmouth. There was a real demand for this type of facility within Charmouth. Car parking is not a problem with the nearby Lower Sea Lane car park and the cash back facility. The business would pay for its self.

Mr. John Forsey spoke to say he did not understand the previous speaker as there were three halls already that could be used. He also believed the Council did not have the cash to buy the chapel.

Mr. Jeff Prosser spoke about the opportunity to decant the Council's offices into the Chapel and with the excess fund following the disposal of The Elms after paying off the loan buy out the West Beach Café's lease and turn it into a first class facility.

Ms Maggie Wiscombe spoke to state that she supports the soft play area suggestion. She continued to say that there was a real need for indoor facilities when it is raining.

Mr. Bob Hughes spoke to record his concerns that it was hard to see how the Council would complete the works, based on its past performance with the conversion of the flat. He also asked the question as to whether there was a need to augment the existing staff to take on the additional workload.

Mr. Roger Dauncey spoke to the Council asking how the cost of purchase would be funded.

Mr. Ian Simpson asked what were the plans for the Chapels use and raised concern from his practical experience about the maintenance and repair costs of a listed build.

220/17 The URC Chapel

Cllr. Oatway opened the debate that he had no particular view about whether to or not to purchase the redundant Chapel, but wished there was a full and rich debate about the once in a life time

opportunity, because once the Chapel was sold the opportunity will have gone for ever. Cllr. Oatway proposed the following motion:

"This Council do request our estate surveyor and valuers to value the URC Chapel to obtain an independent opinion as to the property's purchase price and an estimation of the property's rental income as (a) museum and alternatively (b) as part museum and part office accommodation, funds being provided from Earmarked Reserves FSH1 (subject to the fees being agreeable to the Parish Council's Chairman and the Parish Clerk) and adjourn this debate to the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council to consider (a) the advice of our surveyor and (b) considered further the question of whether the Parish Council should submit a bid for the purchase of the Chapel."

Cllr. Oatway then took members through a draft business case.

Cllr. Peter Noel seconded the motion.

Cllr. Martin Sayers said that he was not against the idea in principal, but found it hard to see where the revenue income stream might come from. It was important that there was a viable business case.

Cllr. David Clifford said he was concerns that impact on the precept following the recent increases.

Cllr. Judy Fellingham said she was supportive of the soft paly area, but wished to seen what the costs and potential income might be.

Cllr. Richard Salisbury said that the idea of a fossil museum will not provide a significant income stream. Fossil museum was becoming an over-crowded market with museums in Kimmeridge and Lyme Regis. There is also the new Jurassic attraction at Seaton.

Cllr. Chris Shirley-Smith said that this was an opportunity for workshops creating high value product and jobs.

Cllr. Richard Action reminded members that the loan costs represent only £75 per week and we should be able to achieve this income.

Cllr. Graham Bender said he was supportive but was concerned about further increases to the precept

Cllr. Judith Sheppard said she was concerned about the development costs.

Cllr. Peter Noel said that the repair costs would have to include not only the roof but also all the windows which are rotten

Cllr. Martin Sayers then proposed an amendment to the motion so that the motion includes after .... *part office accommodation:*

‘and alternatively (c) as a soft play area (indoor play centre)’; the words after estimated cost includes ‘not exceeding £500’ and the figures ‘£250’ is deleted.

Cllr. David Clifford seconded the amendment. By a unanimous show of hands the motion was amended . The Council then unanimous:

**RESOLVED that this Council do request our estate surveyor and valuers to value the URC Chapel to obtain an independent opinion as to the property's purchase price and an estimation of the property's rental income as: (a) museum**

**and alternatively; (b) as part museum and part office accommodation and alternatively as (c) a soft play area (indoor play centre), funds being provided from Earmarked Reserves FSH1 funds being provided from Earmarked Reserves FSH1 at an estimated cost not exceeding £500 and adjourn this debate to the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council to consider (a) the advice of our surveyor; and (b) considered further the question of whether the Parish Council should submit a bid for the purchase of the Chapel."**

The meeting closed at 8.35p.m.

Signed .....

Dated .....