



**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Darley Dale Town Council
Held in the Library at 11.45am at the Whitworth Centre, Darley Dale
On Tuesday February 6th, 2018**

Present

Councillor M Myers in the Chair
Councillors, L Boardman E Faulkner, M Hurford, I Pasteur, J Restrict, and D Ward

Also Present

1 member of the public and the Town Clerk

282/18 **Apologies for Absence**

Councillors M Mellor, A Long and S Wilson (work commitments)

283/18 **Variation of Order of Business**

No Variations

284/18 **To consider the exclusion of the Press and Public.**

No exclusions

285/18 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations

286/18 **Public Participation**

A member of the public questioned whether the proposal to be discussed of awarding further monies to the Whitworth Centre was in addition to the budget agreed on 31/01/18. It was answered that it was.

287/18 **The Whitworth Trust (Funding)**

Councillors were asked to consider a request for urgent additional funding for the Whitworth Centre for the sum of £21,000. The figure determined by the Chair of the Whitworth Trust, based on trading figures.

As discussed previously during the budget setting and precept process the Whitworth Centre during 2017/18 has experienced increased demands on its budget , considerably in excess of its income.

This reflects the challenges that have been experienced by the Whitworth Centre in continuing to provide rooms for community bookings at a heavily subsidised rate and the impact of historical VAT repayments .Both of which have placed tremendous pressure on the budget of the Whitworth Centre and resulted in additional payments from the Town Council to the Centre over the 2017/18 period.

It was explained that plans are in place for the new financial year to avoid this situation arising during 2018/19.

Though concerns were expressed that such a request would leave Council reserves very low it was acknowledged unanimously that the alternative was not acceptable as the Town Council wholeheartedly support the work, in particular the Community works of the Whitworth Centre.

It was **RESOLVED** to provide additional funding of £21,000 to the Whitworth Centre.

288/18 **Date of Next Meeting.**

The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as Thursday 16th February 2018.

289/18 **Public Participation**

A Member of the Public questioned how the current financial situation had been allowed to occur whereby the Whitworth Centre was continuing to lose money and the Town council was having to continually provide funds into what was referred to as a “black hole” and whether this situation would continue in the next financial year.

It was explained that the situation had arisen due to historical VAT repayments and the heavy subsidy required for community bookings for which no additional payments were provided to counteract the shortfall, hence the introduction of a new budget heading for Whitworth Centre Community Support for £20,000 in the 2018/19 budget.

The meeting closed at 12.10 pm