Agenda Item: 11 Parish Council 14th October 2025

Sutton-on-Trent Parish Council

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| **Subject:** | **To receive a report updating on the present position with regard to the provision of a Village Hall** |
| **Report by:** | **Cllr Tyers & Clerk to the Council** |

**1. Background**

The Parish Council have approached Newark & Sherwood District Council to request the 'decoupling' of the Section 106 money from the Strawberry Field development, to enable the funds to be used elsewhere for the benefit of the community.

This decoupling would take the form of a 'Deed of Variation' to the original agreement and would be between Newark & Sherwood District Council and Persimmon Homes (Charles Church).

At the April meeting of the Parish Council, Members were advised that the District Council and Persimmon Homes would come back to the Parish Council in due course following their discussions. The Chair had asked whether the Parish Council could see any income from the sale of the land, or do something else with it, but this was dismissed. If the Parish Council wished to 'decouple' the funds, Persimmon Homes would seek to do something else with the land.

Running alongside this, the Chair and Councillor Tyers attended a visioning meeting hosted by the Methodist Chapel with invited members of the community in relation to discussing options for the Section 106 funds allotted for a community space.

**2. Present Position**

<u>Village Hall</u>

Persimmon have submitted a pre-application to Newark & Sherwood District Council to establish an alternative use of the land. The outcome of that is still awaited, with an update requested prior to the October meeting.

<u>Methodist Chapel</u>

The Methodist Chapel is used for approximately 2 hours a month for worship and has a congregation of approximately 20 members.

The ideas that came from the meeting attendees were as follows:

- have link to the 2 buildings. Build small worship area within the new community centre. No comments regarding the current community hall for this idea.
- Sell both buildings to external buyer and invest money with the Parish Council to build new purpose built community centre on Strawberry Fields.

- Co-own current buildings and develop into community centre. Share responsibility of maintenance. Chapel as community centre with worship space. Current community hall knocked down for additional parking.
- Keep Chapel as is and develop community hall. Immediate concern noted as no additional parking would be available to accommodate newly developed community centre.
- Lease community hall to Parish Council (eg 99 years). Methodist usage for their events e.g. little stars. If Methodist Church folds within that time the property will go back to the Circuit. If the Circuit want to sell it, the community can argue it is a community asset. The community would then be given 6 months to raise market value of the property for community to purchase the building. Leaseholders would be able to buy out their own lease.

With all options the Methodist congregation would need a separate designated space for worship**.**

**3. Recommendation**

That Members note the present position with regards to the request for a Deed of Variation to the Section 106 Agreement.

That Members note the discussions that arose from the meeting held with the Methodist Chapel.

Cllr S. Tyers
Councillor

Jayne Saunders
Clerk to the Council