

Strategy and Resources Committee – 16th December 2022

Agenda Item No.3 Petitions and Public Questions

Question from Mrs Mary Meakin

I am a charity lawyer wishing to draw the Committee's attention to the legal status of the Mill Road Free Library which is held by the County Council as charity trustee on statutory charitable trusts under the Public Libraries Act 1850. This means that the County Council does not have power to sell the property, which is in specie property of the charity (also known as permanent endowment) on the open market. Failure to take note of these duties could lead to Charity Commission intervention. I would like to suggest that the County Council pauses the sale process while options are explored. These options could include transferring the Free Library to a charitable incorporated organisation set up by local community groups.