

**PENWORTHAM TOWN COUNCIL****COMMUNITY CENTRES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held at Penwortham Community Centre on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026 at 6:30pm.**

Committee Members Present: Councillors H Crewe, K Martin, A Rae, D Shaw (Vice-Chair), R Taylor, A Turner, and I Watkinson.

Substitute Committee Members Present: Councillor D Ashton

In attendance: Councillors G Crewe and D Howarth

Marie Curran, Town Manager  
Daniel Guise, Democratic Services Officer

**31. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor David Bennett.

Cllr Bennett was substituted by Cllr Ashton.

**32. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Martin declared a personal interest, in that as he was an employee of Lancashire County Council, which owned Priory Lane Community Centre and Penwortham Arts Centre and leased them to the Town Council.

**33. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Cllr Watkinson proposed that the minutes of the last meeting be approved. Cllr Turner seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the last meeting, held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**34. Asbestos Survey Results and Remediation Quotes: Priory Lane Community Centre and Penwortham Arts Centre**

The Town Manager asked the committee to review the findings of recent asbestos surveys at Priory Lane and the Arts Centre. At Priory Lane, asbestos had been identified in the boiler room and basement rooms. At the Arts Centre, it had been found only in the boiler room. The Town Manager advised the committee that, if they were minded to start refurbishment work, the asbestos must be removed.

She reminded the committee that the buildings were owned by Lancashire County Council (LCC).

Cllr Turner asked if the buildings were safe to use. The Town Manager advised that the asbestos was only a danger if it was disturbed.

Cllr Rae noted that, if there were a problem with the boilers and heating engineers had to work in those rooms, they may damage the materials containing asbestos. Cllr Shaw noted that he believed the Chair of the Committee was keen on improving the energy efficiency of the buildings, which would have to include work in the boiler rooms.

Cllr Watkinson noted that an asbestos management plan was required for all the Council's buildings. He observed that the repair work required on the Arts Centre ceiling would not have to wait for asbestos removal, as there was none in that area. Cllr Watkinson noted that Penwortham Community Centre was due to get its own asbestos survey later the same month, at which point the Council would have a full picture for all its buildings.

Cllr Watkinson also noted that there were two areas at Priory Lane which the surveyors could not access. The surveyors had reported that there was "*no access [under stage] due to causing excessive damage,*" and that one loft space could not be accessed due to high level equipment being required.

Cllr Ashton asked if the organisers of the forthcoming Penwortham Live event were aware that the Arts Centre was not operating a bar. The Town Manager replied that Penwortham Live events at the Arts Centre would be advertised on a "bring your own bottle" basis. Cllr Turner asked when the bar would start operating again, as it was affecting the income of the building. Cllr Watkinson commented that an operational staff review was planned, which would help decide how the building would be managed. The Town Manager noted that such a review would be considered by the Personnel Board.

Cllr Watkinson proposed that asbestos management plans be devised for both buildings, that the contractors be asked to clarify the status of the stage area at Priory Lane, and that the Council write to LCC to ask for their position on removing asbestos. Cllr Shaw seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: i) that asbestos management plans be devised for both buildings;

ii) that the asbestos contractors be asked to clarify the status of the stage area at Priory Lane; and

iii) that the Council write to LCC to ask for their position on removing asbestos.

.....Chairman

(The meeting finished at 7:00pm.)

**The minutes of this meeting will be published on the website**  
**[www.penworthamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.penworthamtowncouncil.gov.uk)**