



Andover Town Council

To **consider** if investigations should be undertaken into the possible purchase of the Methodist Church on Weyhill Road.

Item
No.
15

Produced for: Full Council

By: Town Clerk

Date of Report: 22 Apr 2024

Background:

The council have Earmarked Reserves for making a property purchase for the use of Andover residents. The Methodist Church on Weyhill Road is being sold and there is a possibility that the Town Council could buy the building.

Proposals:

To instruct officers to:

1. Obtain the sale particulars.
2. Instruct a structural survey to be undertaken. (max cost £2,500 or as councillors see fit)
3. Obtain the current timetable for usage of the building.
4. Draft a basic business plan for future uses of the building. (with assistance of 2 other councillors – TBC)
5. Apply for section 106 funding from TVBC for the purchase value (less EMR).
6. Bring report to Council for an extraordinary meeting as soon as possible.

Considerations:

- The building is currently used as a polling station periodically, and this will cease if the building is sold, leaving no local building that can be used.
- The building has a sectioned off area which is used by a pre-school currently. The preschool have not found an alternative site, and will have to close when the building is sold.
- There is potential for minor building works to segregate the internal spaces and keep the pre-school running, whilst making other rooms available to other community groups at the same time.