

Amendment - Old Failsworth Library Motion

To be moved by Councillor Hobin

To be seconded by Councillor Hindle

The **DELETE: Old** **INSERT:** 'former' Failsworth Library, on Main Street, Failsworth which was bequeathed to the people of Failsworth by Sidlow Family has fallen into a great state of disrepair. A Nursery that currently rents part of the building is a popular and well used facility in Failsworth and wants to stay in the current building as it is an ideal and well-known location.

The Council has not fully utilised The **DELETE: Old** **INSERT:** former Failsworth Library **INSERT:** 'because of the renovation of the Town Hall', and **DELETE: it** **INSERT:** 'the former Failsworth Library' is only half used. It is a large and spacious building which could have partially replaced the old Community Centre and allowed local groups to use the space.

The state of repair to the building is less than satisfactory. There have been reports of leaks, damp, mould and other issues which should have been addressed before they became too expensive to repair. It is shocking that a public building has been left to rot.

The evidence of damp and mould is clear to see. The current tenant has been proactive in trying to maintain the building, while doing so they have continued to ask for repairs to be completed.

Some Failsworth Councillors have contributed in trying to help, and the money donated helped the nursery to source much needed furniture as they had been spending nursery funds allocated for the furniture on trying to spruce up the interior of the building.

Councillors and the tenant have written to the former Member of Parliament and Deputy Prime Minister Angela Raynor MP, Jim McMahon MP and Lucy Powell MP to see what help they can provide.

Inside the nursery we have seen where parts of a ceiling had come down, where the window area had rotted away and with gaps large enough for children to put fingers into the gap. There was a room so cold and damp that OMBC had to fit a very small electric wall heater high up near the ceiling which was inadequate.

We know of a number of buildings which are publicly owned, or considered public assets, which have sadly fallen into a state of disrepair. **DELETE: It is disappointing that buildings outside of Oldham Town Centre, such as the Old Failsworth Library are being put at risk and could end up costing the Council more in the long run due to inaction rather than taking proactive steps to protect our public assets.**

INSERT:

'This Council notes:

- The renovation of Failsworth Town Hall and the extension to include the library mean that the former library was no longer used as a community asset but was

leased to a nursery and recently used as storage while Royton Town Hall and Library underwent renovations.'

The Council therefore resolves to:

- **DELETE:** Inform and work with all Failsworth Councillors to ensure that the current tenant of the building is kept up to date with all information regarding the lease and the repairs needed to the building.
- **INSERT:** 'Continue to keep the current tenant of the former library on Main Street up to date with information regarding the lease and potential repairs to the building.'
- That Council officers will keep all Failsworth Councillors up to date **DELETE:** with quarterly reports on the repairs needed to the building and other issues that may arise. **INSERT:** 'on potential renovations and future uses of the former Failsworth library building.'
- **DELETE:** That the Old Failsworth Library is renovated and brought up to a workable standard
- **INSERT:** 'Explore opportunities to renovate the former Failsworth Library on Main Street' so that it can be used by other local community groups and or businesses **INSERT:** 'subject to funding'.
- **DELETE:** That the underuse of the building for the past decade has meant the Council has lost revenue and the people of Failsworth have lost out on a community facility.
- That **DELETE:** a plan is put in place involving all Failsworth Councillors **INSERT:** 'are given opportunities to be involved in plans' to **DELETE:** save **INSERT:** 'potentially renovate' this building for future community use.

Amended motion to read:

To be moved by Councillor Hindle

To be seconded by Councillor Hobin

The former Failsworth Library, on Main Street, Failsworth which was bequeathed to the people of Failsworth by Sidlow Family has fallen into a great state of disrepair. A Nursery that currently rents part of the building is a popular and well used facility in Failsworth and wants to stay in the current building as it is an ideal and well-known location.

The Council has not fully utilised the former Failsworth Library because of the renovation of the Town Hall', and the former Failsworth Library is only half used. It is a large and spacious building which could have partially replaced the old Community Centre and allowed local groups to use the space.

The state of repair to the building is less than satisfactory. There have been reports of leaks, damp, mould and other issues which should have been addressed before they became too expensive to repair. It is shocking that a public building has been left to rot.

The evidence of damp and mould is clear to see. The current tenant has been proactive in trying to maintain the building, while doing so they have continued to ask for repairs to be completed.

Some Failsworth Councillors have contributed in trying to help, and the money donated helped the nursery to source much needed furniture as they had been spending nursery funds allocated for the furniture on trying to spruce up the interior of the building.

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We know of a number of buildings which are publicly owned, or considered public assets, which have sadly fallen into a state of disrepair.

This Council notes:

- The renovation of Failsworth Town Hall and the extension to include the library mean that the former library was no longer used as a community asset but was leased to a nursery and recently used as storage while Royton Town Hall and Library underwent renovations.

The Council therefore resolves to:

- Continue to keep the current tenant of the former library on Main Street up to date with information regarding the lease and potential repairs to the building.
- That Council officers will keep all Failsworth Councillors up to date potential renovations and future uses of the former Failsworth library building.
- Explore opportunities to renovate the former Failsworth Library on Main Street so that it can be used by other local community groups and or businesses subject to funding.
- That all Failsworth Councillors are given opportunities to be involved in plans to potentially renovate this building for future community use.