

Lib Dem amendment to Conservative motion  
Proposed by Garth Harkness  
Seconded by Howard Sykes

After “Therefore this Council notes” add a new first bullet point:

- **That there was no process that took place in naming the building. There was just an announcement.**

Before “This Council resolves:”, add a new paragraph:

**This Council believes that the name of the building should have been an opportunity to involve the community and bring people together. There are many people who have provided exemplary service to our Borough, or the name represents the Borough’s rich and diverse heritage.**

At the end of point 3, add “, **and hold a working group to provide a list of suitable shortlist of names for residents to be consulted on**”

At the start of point 4, replace “To present a suitable short list of names to the public of Oldham” with “**Allow residents to vote for the new name of the Old Library,**” and at the end of point 4 add: “, **and endorse the public’s choice with a formal agreement at the soonest Council meeting after the consultation, as a mark of that public voice and in the spirit of democracy.**”

The final motion to read:

On the 16th August 2025 the Leader of Oldham Council, Councillor Arooj Shah, announced she had unilaterally decided to rename the Old Library on Union Street the ‘J. R. Clynes Building’ to the bemusement of many residents of Oldham Borough.

This follows a £30+ million renovation project, yet the Council Tax paying **public** of Oldham were not given an opportunity to express their preference on the title that this **public** building would take.

The Conservative Group on Oldham Council believe this is not only anti-democratic but also shameful.

Therefore, this Council notes:

- That there was no process that took place in naming the building. There was just an announcement.
- That no public consultation took place in the naming process of the Old Library building.
- That the Leader of the Council shamefully and wilfully excluded democratically elected Councillors and the taxpaying public from the naming process.
- That the first decision to come out of the Borough’s new Council Chambers is anti-democratic diktat by Councillor Arooj Shah, which has no popular consent from the public.

This Council believes that the name of the building should have been an opportunity to involve the community and bring people together. There are many people who have provided exemplary service to our Borough, or the name represents the Borough's rich and diverse heritage.

This Council resolves:

- To reveal all information, including associated costs, in relation to the naming process of the Old Library.
- To review the naming process and suitability of 'J. R. Clynes' as the title of the building.
- To consult the wider body of democratically elected Members of Oldham Council from across the Borough, and hold a working group to provide a list of suitable shortlist of names for residents to be consulted on.
- Allow residents to vote for the new name of the Old Library, to give them a voice in the naming process of a building which should be the Borough's beating heart of democracy, and endorse the public's choice with a formal agreement at the soonest Council meeting after the consultation, as a mark of that public voice and in the spirit of democracy.