



## **SHENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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### **STATEMENT FROM SHENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL RE STONNALL YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Over the past few weeks, Shenstone Parish Council (SPC) has carried out extensive and lengthy investigations with regard to its position and responsibility in respect of its association with the Stonnall Youth and Community Centre (SYCC) and its Management Committee (MC).

The accumulated, and in many cases newly discovered, documentation and paperwork, which may be viewed by appointment, is in some instances contradictory and in others unclear or confusing.

In summary, it appears that the SYCC MC was formed in or around 1997 by a number of residents and user groups who were concerned that the facility might be closed by its owner, Staffordshire County Council (SCC).

It should be stated that this pre-dates by some 5+ years any involvement of the SPC whatsoever and the MC's formation was approved and accepted by SCC and a formal Licence was agreed and drawn up between the two parties in 2001.

In 2003 SPC entered into a Lease agreement with SCC for the area of land which the building stands on. There is no mention within this Lease of the building's management and it had therefore been assumed that the MC were an autonomous group, approved and licensed by the owners to deal with day-to-day running.

There is mention within paperwork of the building being offered for sale at £1 but no evidence has come to light as to which, if either party, (SPC or SYCC) completed the conveyance.

Confusion is further exacerbated by the fact that for much of the time of these events, the late Mr J. Mason was Chairman of both SPC and SYCC and it is unclear in some of the papers as to which role he was acting in.

As SPC are in negotiations with SCC in respect of purchasing the entire site, and in an effort to act openly and address fairly the concerns of residents in respect of the management of SYCC, SPC will assume, without prejudice, the role of responsible body and declare that, from this point forward, the SYCC MC are acting on behalf of, and are accountable to, SPC.

In respect of the way forward for the issue of pre-school provision, SPC, in its capacity of Lease holder, will instigate full and independent surveys into two aspects of the building; 1, its structural integrity. 2, its suitability / viability as a pre-school facility. The results of these surveys will be made public in due course.

Should the SPC purchase the whole site, a full public consultation will be held to evaluate its future

This communication will be shared with all residents, on the website and in the upcoming newsletter.