

TUTBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF TUTBURY PARISH COUNCIL at TUTBURY CHARITY HOUSE. Held on Thursday 26th September 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present Chair Cllr F Crossley
Cllr D Bull
Cllr L Crossley
Cllr. M. Upton
Cllr. P Steadman
Cllr. C. Smedley (Borough Cllr and Parish Cllr)

Also present: Mrs K. Duffill – Parish Clerk

Members of the Public 0

09/EM/2024 1.0 Apologies for absence.

Cllr T Adams Vice Chair Cllr. D. Morris, Cllr. K. England

09/EM/2024 2.0 Declarations of Interest

None received

09/EM 2024 3.0 Public Participation

None.

09/EM 2024 4.0 To receive and consider an update regarding the future of Tutbury Castle and formulate a parish council response for action.

4.1. Introduction and Background

The Chair provided an update from a recent meeting attended on behalf of the Parish Council. This roundtable discussion followed the resignation of Curator Leslie Smith. The significance of Tutbury Castle as a vital historical and tourism asset for the village was strongly emphasized.

4.2. Recent Meeting Summary

The meeting was called on September 19th, by representatives from the civic society, attended by the conservation officer, borough and county councillors, and tourism officials. Four potential future uses of the castle were discussed, with the

consensus that the ideal scenario would see the castle fall under English Heritage ownership. This would ensure public access and promote tourism in Tutbury.

4.3. Action Points

- A letter will be sent to Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations Pat McFadden urging that no decisions be made hastily regarding the castle's future.
- During the meeting, it was agreed to contact the Duchy Chancellor regarding concerns over the castle potentially operating solely as a private enterprise.
- The outgoing CEO of the Duchy, who also sits on the Duchy Council, will be approached to ensure any decisions are made in consultation with the Duchy Council and the incoming Duchy of Cornwall.
- Letters will be sent to key stakeholders, including King Charles, advocating for a pause on any decisions until the new CEO is appointed.

4.4 Upcoming Public Meeting

Jacob Collier MP will lead a public meeting on October 1st to discuss steps being taken to secure the castle's future.

4.5. Urgency of the Situation

With the curator's departure on September 28th and the exit of the current CEO of the Duchy of Lancaster occurring simultaneously, there is an urgent need to address the future management of the castle.

4.6. Concerns About Private Enterprise

It was noted that if the castle is managed solely as a private wedding venue, public access would be severely limited, resulting in a loss of the castle's historic presence. Currently, the only candidate for management is a private enterprise, as there is no new curator in place.

4.7. Government Engagement

Minister Pat McFadden has been contacted to request a pause on decisions regarding the castle's future, ensuring that all options are considered. Letters will be sent to key stakeholders to advocate for a delay in decision-making.

4.8. Resolution

Members voted in favour of supporting efforts to delay the handover of the castle's management to allow for constructive discussions with the incoming CEO. The Parish Council will actively participate in future consultations and represent public concerns to protect the castle's heritage and its tourism potential for the village.