



Clerk & Clerk to the
Burial Board:
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PUCKLECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

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To all residents and users of Pucklechurch Community Centre

Parish council is concerned that there appears to be some misunderstanding as to the potential consequences that will arise as the result of the Pucklechurch Community Association (PCA) committee being “effectively disbanded”. It is important that everyone is aware of the risks this poses to all activities at the community centre and its future viability.

While the community centre is owned by the parish council, it is operated by the PCA, an independent charity run by trustees, under a long-term lease agreement. PCA is responsible for the operational management of the centre, its maintenance, all activities, hire agreements, services and the social club. The PCA is completely independent of the parish council which has no legal powers to intervene in its operations.

The PCA has indicated that most of its committee members wish to step down from the committee from May 2024. As these committee members are all trustees, they will also be stepping down as trustees of the charity. The PCA therefore needs to urgently recruit new trustees if it is to remain a viable charity that can continue to manage and operate the community centre. If the PCA has insufficient trustees to operate, the charity will be dissolved. This means notice will be served on all users with hire agreements and the lease agreement with parish council will be terminated. All activities at the community centre will necessarily have to cease and the building will be returned to the landlord – i.e., the parish council.

To be clear:

- If the PCA ceases to exist, it is not possible for parish council to just take over responsibility for the operation of the centre simply and seamlessly.
- If there is no PCA to operate and manage the centre, it will have to be closed until such time as an alternative solution can be found.
- Parish council has no budget or staff resource to run the centre.
- Parish council would have a fiscal duty to ensure best-value solutions can be found for the centre, one consequence being potentially significant increases in hire charges to cover bought in management costs.
- Parish council would require a public mandate before it could consider running the community centre in-house as the additional costs incurred could lead to an increase in precept of well over 50% for every household in the parish.

The village came together to build the community centre and for many years the PCA has successfully operated it. Your support is needed to help the PCA and to keep the community centre open. Please consider coming forward to be a PCA trustee and committee member.

On behalf of Pucklechurch parish council

Chair of council