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| **74.** | **Petition to save Churston Library**Approximately 2000 signatures.  In accordance with Standing Orders the petition will be considered at this meeting.**Minutes:**In accordance with Standing Order A12, the Council received a petition requesting the Mayor to abandon proposals to close Churston Library or replace staff with volunteers (approximately 2,000 signatures). At the invitation of the Chairwoman, Mr Feasey addressed the Council. The Chairwoman advised that, under the Council’s Petition Scheme, as the petition had reached the 1,000 signature threshold it was subject to debate by the Council. The Monitoring Officer outlined the options open to the Council. It was proposed by Councillor McPhail and seconded by Councillor Hytche: (i)            that the petitioners be thanked for presenting their petition to the Council;  and (ii)        that the Mayor be recommended to give further consideration to his budget savings proposals in respect of Churston Library and alternative options in light of the petition. An amendment was moved by Councillor Cowell and seconded by Councillor Morey: to take the action requested by the petition. In accordance with Standing Order A19.4, a recorded vote was taken on the amendment.  The voting was taken by roll call as follows:  For:  Councillors Amil,  Cowell, Davies, Doggett, Ellery, James, Mills, Morey, Parrott, Pentney, Pountney, Pritchard, Stocks, Stockman, Stringer, Thomas (D) and Thomas (J) (17);  Against:  Councillors Addis, Bent, Brooksbank, Excell, Faulkner (J), Hill, Hytche, Lewis, McPhail and Tyerman (10);  Abstain:  The Mayor, Councillors Baldrey, Barnby and Faulkner (A) (4);  Absent:  Councillors Butt, Darling, Hernandez, Kingscote, Richards and Scouler (D) (6).  Therefore, the amendment was declared carried. The substantive motion was then before Members for consideration. During consideration of the substantive motion, the Monitoring Officer gave constitutional advice that a decision on the budget would not be made until the Mayor presented his budget proposals to the Council and therefore any decision by the Council would not be binding on the Mayor at this stage of the budget setting process. On being put to the vote, the substantive motion was declared carried. (Note:  In accordance with Standing Order A19.5, the Mayor requested his abstention from voting on the substantive motion to be recorded in the minutes.) |