Old School – Update **ITEM 11**

Purpose of the Report

To inform members of the latest position with the Council's agreed proposal to take over the Old School and its running as a community Centre.

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2. Background

- The Council has agreed in principle to take over the Old School on 1 April 2025
- A schedule of works was approved on 26 November 2025
- On 11 March 2026 it was agreed to proceed with the direct transfer of the building to the Parish Council.

3. Current position

The Chairman and Clerk met with Directors of HRA on Monday 20 April 2026 to discuss the next steps and the date that both parties should air for to complete the transfer.

It was agreed that HRA need to:

a) Get a market valuation in order that we can ascertain whether the Parish Council will need to pay stamp duty. Unlikely, but needs clarification.
b) Engages with BCP for transfer of deed of covenant.
c) Compiles a list of assets to be transferred with the property eg: chairs/tables etc
d) Advises tenants and hirers.
e) Agrees for noticeboards to be part of transfer.
f) Instructs solicitors once the above is completed.

It was agreed that HWPC need to:

a) Agree tenders for the works and how this will be financed.
b) Seeks legal advice on the STLD position.
c) Agrees to seek a reinstatement valuation in order that HWPC can add the building to its insurance
d) Seeks VAT Advice from PSTAX, now that the mechanics of the transfer have been agreed.

It was further agreed that both parties would aim for formal transfer by 1 October 2026.

4. Recommendation

That the council notes the report.