

STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held on 12th December, 2017 at 7.37 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor V.A. Appleby (Chairman of Council)
Councillors: C.E. Axten, S. Dowden, P. Goater,
L. Hughes, A. Leafe, N.M. Swift, J. Wooldridge
and L. Zaky

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. L.A. Ruff - Parish Clerk
Mr. A. Kinghan – Neighbourhood Plan, Funding
and Projects Officer
County Councillor E. Leyshon
PCSO T. Richards – Street Police

APOLOGIES: Councillors: T.L. Emery, T.W.E. Napper and
T. Rice – reasons accepted

143. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st November, 2017 which had been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

144. MATTERS ARISING

No matters were raised.

145. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillor Hughes declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to the District Council and stated that they would keep an open mind when considering issues at either District or Parish level.

146. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

PCSO Richards reported that there had been some cold calling in the area and that the Chairman had been speaking to Inspector Nicholson about using the Parish Rooms when the Street station closed. It was agreed to ask the Neighbourhood Watch Association to put up more no cold calling signs and to put on the website that Street was a no cold calling area and what to do if anyone was cold called.

It was also agreed that the Clerk in consultation with Councillor Leafe and others should write to the Chief Constable and the Police Crime Commissioner asking what the proposal was for the Street police station and if it was to be sold, how much they were likely to receive from the site. Such actions amounted to asset stripping and not re-investing in Street although residents paid council tax for the service. It should be stated at the start of the letters that the Council strongly protested at the Police team leaving Street and that there was very strong public support for their retention. It was also agreed that the Chairman should contact Richard Clark about whether the Police using a building at the back of the Library with parking would be a workable option and how the Council could work with him to make this happen.

147. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting on 21st November 2017 which had been circulated were submitted with a report on land west of Somerton Road.

RESOLVED

A. that the reports be noted and an extraordinary meeting of the Council be held at 7 p.m. on Monday 29th January 2018 to consider the points raised in the report on land west of Somerton Road and an officer of the District Council be invited to attend to answer questions etc.

B. that the Neighbourhood Plan Officer would arrange a meeting with the District Council officer prior to the extraordinary Council meeting if possible to discuss the Plan for Street.

148. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Plan Officer reported that the draft vision for the Plan had been sent to the Working Group. There would be a workshop in January to look at actions, methods to achieve and to start forming policy. Members of the public were needed to serve on the Working Group and Councillor Dowden was asked to consider joining it.

RESOLVED

that the report be received and the Plan Officer asked to contact the Head Offices of supermarkets including Sainsburys to find out about their plans for the future so that this could be taken into account when forming the Plan.

149. CHRISTMAS WORKING GROUP

The notes of a meeting on 28th November 2017 had been circulated. Councillor Axten thanked everyone who had helped with the Christmas Cracker event and was pleased at the very good turnout of members. She thanked the Assistant Clerk for the notes produced in table form. Any member wishing to comment on the event was asked to contact the Assistant Clerk before the review meeting on 8th January.

150. PLAY AREAS WORKING GROUP

The notes of the meeting held on 5th December were submitted and had been circulated. Councillor Axten had nothing to report on the Merriman Park Heritage Lottery bid. The Neighbourhood Plan, Funding and Projects Officer was dealing with the refurbishment of the Ringolds Way play area. There was a meeting at Mendip District Council offices on 9th January which he was to attend with the Clerk. It was agreed that Councillor Axten or the Chairman would also attend.

RESOLVED

that the reports be agreed.

151. CYCLE/WALKING STUDY WORKING GROUP

Councillor Swift submitted the report which had been circulated. She was pleased that the study had been done, especially as it was being used in respect of the current planning application for a Marks and Spencer food store on the outskirts of Street.

152. REPAIR, MAINTAIN, DEVELOP PARISH ROOMS

Councillor Goater explained that the Parish Rooms was one of the few assets owned by the Council and should be well maintained. The Neighbourhood Plan, Funding and Projects Officer submitted his report which had been circulated. When the work had been done a business plan would be drawn up to generate revenue and a programme to keep the building properly maintained in the future.

RESOLVED

that the report be received and £50,000 be earmarked for the works set out in part 1 to be carried out within a year.

153. FREEDOM OF STREET – JAMES GUY

The report from the Clerk had been circulated. The Chairman explained that she had spoken to James Guy and that he was happy to attend the Investiture on 17th May to receive the Freedom of Street. The Head of Millfield, his sports coach and guests chosen by him would be invited to attend. Some members would not be able to attend on 17th May as the date of the Investiture had been agreed at the Annual Council meeting in May 2017 as the 24th.

RESOLVED

that the report be agreed with the Investiture and Freedom ceremony being held on 24th May if James and the Theatre were available or if not, on 17th May 2018.

154. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

A. that the Annual Parish Meeting be held at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 20th March 2018, followed by the monthly meeting of the Council and the Planning Committee be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday 21st March

B. that the new manager of the Crispin Hall be invited to be the guest speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting.

155. ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENTS SKATE PARK, STRODE ROAD ALLOTMENTS AND MERRIMAN PARK

The Clerk submitted the annual risk assessments for Street Skate Park, Strode Road allotments and Merriman Park.

RESOLVED

that the reports be agreed.

156. CORRESPONDENCE/MINOR ISSUES

The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

1. Access Ramp at Victoria Club

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

2. Refurbishing Finger Post Signs

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

3. Business Rates and Public Conveniences Proposal Survey

RESOLVED

that the Clerk would complete the short survey on surveymonkey.

157. REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS
AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Reports from County Councillors Leyshon and Napper had been emailed to members. It was agreed that a dual use bin be provided at Higher Brooks and that the existing dog bin in this location should have a sticker to state that it was a dual use bin.

158. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The latest bank reconciliations for all accounts at 30th November, 2017 had been prepared successfully and sent to all members with the monthly income and expenditure by account report.

RESOLVED

A. that the report and schedule of payments as circulated be approved, and initialled by the Chairman and the income and expenditure by account report at 30th November, 2017 be noted and the schedule of payments for December be attached as Annex A to the minutes in the Minute Book in order to publish payments of £500 or more

B. that a grant of £300 be made to the Salvation Army towards the cost of providing a meal on Christmas Day for those in need in Street.

159. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Appleby gave her report for the month. She had attended a meeting about Parkrun and had opened the resurfaced all weather pitch at Crispin School and Strode College. She thanked Councillors Axten, Hughes and Wooldridge for building Santa's grotto in the Parish Rooms for the Cracker event.

160. MATTERS FOR REPORT

The Clerk had no matters to report.

161. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 amended by the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it involved confidential information on quotations received.

162. QUOTES – BONDED MULCH MERRIMAN PARK

The confidential report from the Assistant Clerk, which had been circulated to members only, was submitted.

RESOLVED

that Mant Leisure Ltd. be engaged to supply and fit 2 areas of bonded mulch measuring 6 metres x 2 metres at either end of the table tennis table in Merriman Park for the sum of £1,740 + VAT.

The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.

ANNEX A

Subject: Accounts for Payment

NOTE – Chairman’s allowance – expenses for 22nd November to 12th December, 2017 totalled £0 - see below. Internal auditor, P. Male of Probusiness Ltd. felt this was a better system whereby the Council could approve expenses each month prior to reimbursement.

The latest bank reconciliations for all accounts at 30th November 2017 have been prepared successfully and sent to all members with the monthly income and expenditure by account report. Each reconciliation and original bank statement has been signed by Councillors Appleby and Goater as part of the monthly check of accounts.

From 1st December, 2014 a schedule of individual nos. for direct debit payments was introduced so that they could be traced more easily as with payments by cheque. The first no. used was DD141501 and from 1st April 2017 numbers will start DD171801.

£10 received for Christmas stall from - Mystic Creations, The Two Jeni’s, Ridiculously Rich by Alana, Memorable Moments Face Painting, Petit Jah of Ethical Fashion and Health, German Grill = £60

235 visits to Santa on 2nd December - £217 collected and £10 used to buy additional presents = £207

£4,783.11 VAT refund received from HM Revenue and Customs for July to September. £175 received from Somerset County Council as 50% contribution to working on the highway training for Councillors Goater and Hughes to move the speed indicator devices around.

The Council is asked to approve payment of the following -

Clerk’s net salary	As agreed
Asst Clerk’s net salary + 20 hours overtime at flat rate and mileage – 84 miles to SLCC Bristol 22 nd Nov.	As agreed £ 37.80
Neighbourhood Plan Officer’s net salary	As agreed
NPO’s mileage to 12 th December – 0 miles	Nil
Petty cash float to bring back up to £50 for December	£ 25.38 transfer
Pension contributions - December SCC Pension Fund	As agreed
+ pension deficit recharge 2017/18 – not April or May 17	As agreed
PO Ltd. PAYE and NI contributions and student loan deduction – Nov. - L. Ruff, J. Marshfield and A. Kinghan	As agreed
Probusiness Ltd. – payroll December Month 9	£ 24.17 + VAT DD1718

Mendip District Council – rates on whole of Parish Rooms for 1st January £1,487.00

Small business rate relief on all rates from 1st April to 30th June and then a charge of £7,433.66 from 1st July 2017 to 31st March 2018 as rate relief is not available on the larger area

Idverde Ltd. – maintenance Merriman Park for November	£ 1,465.42+VAT
	Entered in Nov
E.R. Garrett Ltd. – clean grd and 1st flr Parish Rooms Nov	£ 172.27+VAT
Southwest Digital Systems Ltd. – copying November	£ 30.73+VAT
PC Comms Ltd. – 2 MS Office 365 Business Premium	£ 86.59+VAT
emails and 13 Business Essentials emails November and additional for NPO July to October	
02 – mobile phone for NPO to 15 th December	£ 50.00+VAT
	DD1718
NR Bishop Electrical Contractor Ltd. – hire cherry picker and fit Christmas lights to Parish Rooms	£ 473.50+VAT
Society of Local Council Clerks – subscription 2018	£ 282.00
	Entered in Nov
Avalonian Free State Choir – expenses for performance at Cracker event	£ Nil as did not attend - illness
C. Axten – 1,000 Christmas leaflets from vistaprint	£ 45.98+VAT
	Entered in Nov
Wirefr3 Ltd. – rental for security radio 2016/17	£ 299.30+VAT
	Entered in Nov
J. Wooldridge – Xmas hamper for shop window competition	£ 36.44
Blachere Illumination – installation of High Street lights and storage 2016	£ 2,640.00+VAT
Denis and Ian Pearce Ltd. – hire of 8 radios for marshalls at Christmas Cracker event	£ 107.00+VAT
Rendezvous Coffee Bar – buffet for 15 for marshalls at Cracker event	£ 74.25
Street United Reformed Church – hire of hall Cracker event	£ 50.00
C. Axten – Christmas sign	£ 27.48+VAT
Edd The Magician – performed at Christmas Cracker	£ 82.40
V. Appleby – lights for grotto	£ 51.96
Mendip District Council – market rights Christmas Cracker	£ 35.00
M and D Kidner Ltd. – large Christmas tree	£ 400.00+VAT
J. Marshfield – queue barrier posts, gazebo weights, mulled wine, refuse sacks, cable ties, milk – Christmas Cracker	£ 147.03
Westcotec Ltd. – enabling Bluetooth on 2 speed indicator devices and carriage	£ 355.00+VAT
TCBs – clean bin High Street 30 th October to 27 th November	£ 20.00
Blachere Illumination – call out 28 th November to strip and refit plugs on some Christmas lights	£ 287.50+VAT