AGENDA ITEM NO: 16

**NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE PROJECTS WORKING GROUP**

**HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2019 at 7 p.m.**

PRESENT: Councillors: C.E. Axten, S. Carswell, D. Drew,

D. Goater, P. Goater, A. Leafe, A. Prior

County Councillor L. Leyshon

L. Ruff – Parish Clerk

**GRANT FOR MENDIP YMCA – STREET YOUNG PEOPLE’S CENTRE**

It was noted that the YMCA intended to trial running the Ykouth Club on a Friday evening instead of on a Thursday evening from 6th December 2019 to 14th February 2020. It was hoped to increase the number attending and assist the Red Brick Youth Club in managing their intake as they were having to turn young people away on a Friday.

County Councillor Leyshon reported that the building used by the Youth Club was owned by the County Council and leased to the Clark Foundation until 2024. Dimensions looked after people with learning disabilities and it wished to take over the whole building and had funding in place for this.

The YMCA assisted by councillors involved with the Youth Club had made a very good presentation to the Community Support Working Group on 12th November. It was agreed that following massive funding cuts many young people were in great need of support. Schools were in crisis as much of the burden of care now fell on them. The Youth Club was an affordable option for families on a low income. Somerset Young Carers were currently travelling to a venue in Pilton on a Tuesday and it was felt that it would be good to roll out support for them at the Youth Club building. It was also felt that councillors should continue to meet with the YMCA once a month.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. that a grant of £10,000 be made for 2019/20 to Mendip YMCA to run the Youth Club and this to be subject to annual review

2. that Councillors Drew and D. Goater with County Councillor Leyshon should draw up key performance indicators for the YMCA to monitor the operation of the Youth Club and hold them to account – these to be circulated to all members for consideration

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3. that County Councillor Leyshon would ask Richard Clark if he would speak to Charlie Field of Somerset County Council about a new lease of the building incorporating all the requirements of the YMCA including rooms, access and parking and find out more about the use of the building and costs

**PARENT FAMILY SUPPORT ADVISERS**

Councillor Leafe reported that funding for PFSAs would end in August 2020. This was a very important service as schools were dealing with all kinds of problems.

**AGREED**

that County Councillor Leyshon would find out more about the situation with PFSA funding and the matter be considered in March 2020 with a view to increasing community support.

**MOVING WAR MEMORIAL – MERRIMAN PARK**

Councillor Carswell reported that the Merriman Park Community Group had agreed to the war memorial being moved to the top left corner of the Park provided that this was done soon and before the next Fun Day. The ground was sloped and this would need to be taken into consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION**

that the war memorial is moved to the top left corner of Merriman Park as soon as practicable and before the next Fun Day and that any funding remaining from the allocation of £9,000 be given to the Community Group towards the new design for the Park.

**ALTERATION OF PARISH ROOMS FOR LIBRARY/COUNCIL/COMMUNITY**

Councillor Axten reported that the proposed works had gone out to tender for return by 20th December. The alterations would improve the space for the library on the ground floor and include provision of a lift to give access to a meeting/activity room and storage etc. on the first floor. Hand rails would be fitted by the 2 steps to the Council office. All areas to be altered would be made good and the general appearance of rooms on the ground floor improved without much additional expense eg. fitting cornices.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. that consultation required as part of the application for loan consent should take the form of a public meeting or open day where details of the project, the PWLB application and the council tax precept increase can be presented - a short survey form with Yes/No answers to questions to be completed by residents and the results recorded and submitted with the application

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2. that the fire safety recommendations received from P J Fire Safety Consultants Ltd. be incorporated into the tender document by Orme Architects

3. that negotiations be entered into with Landsec for the library to relocate to a vacant shop unit in the Crispin Centre and with Richard Clark for the Council office to relocate to Room 20 of the Community Centre while the works are carried out.

The meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

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