STREET PARISH COUNCIL

 Meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 2nd July,

 2019 at 6.30 p.m.

 PRESENT: Councillor C.E. Axten (Vice-Chairman of Council

 Councillors: S. Carswell, P. Goater, A. Prior and

 H. Shearer

 IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. L.A. Ruff – Clerk

 Mrs. J. Marshfield – Assistant Clerk

 Councillors: P. Birch, M. Daniells, D. Drew,

 D. Goater, A. Leafe and L. Mogg

 APOLOGIES: Councillors: R. Boyce, J. Diment, T.W.E. Napper,

P. Robinson and L. Zaky – another engagement –

reasons accepted

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

 RESOLVED

 that Councillor Axten be elected as Chairman of the Committee for the

 year.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

 RESOLVED

 that Councillor P. Goater be elected as Vice-Chairman of the

 Committee for the year.

3. MINUTES

 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30th April, 2019

 which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and

 signed by the Chairman.

 The Clerk reported that the County Council was drawing up the

 agreement for the additional Parent Family Support Adviser to be

 funded by the Council. Legal advice on this would be sought from

 SALC and possibly the Council’s solicitors to make sure that the

 wording was watertight.

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4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

 In accordance with the Code of Conduct all members declared a

 personal and prejudicial interest in alterations to the Parish Rooms for

 Council and Library use. In accordance with Standing Order 13 the

 Clerk had granted dispensation to all members to speak and vote on

 the issue for the efficient and effective conduct of the Council’s

 business.

5. PARISH ROOMS AND NEW POST

 The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated. The

 proposals for the new post agreed by the Staffing Committee held prior

 to the meeting were noted. The Council had been looking at lots of

 ideas for the Parish Rooms including having flats to let out. The report

 detailed the preferred option to alter the building to create a community

 hub which would work with the Crispin Community Centre.

 Members discussed public backing for the substantial sum to be

 Invested in the building, the fact that the Council would not have a

 meeting room for larger meetings until such time as the Library moved

out and the situation with the 1924 Library building. The two options

for altering the building were considered including costs. Option 2

would create a community hub with many more options and

opportunities. It would make the building fit for purpose apart from

meetings of the full Council and a suitable alternative could be block

booked for these meetings. Some members were concerned about

spending a total of around £667,000 on a building only worth £220,000.

The additional funding from the County Council had not been

confirmed. The Clerk reminded members that to gain approval for a

loan from the DCLG it would be necessary to consult residents on the

proposals from an early stage and to demonstrate public support for it.

The Clerk reported that the Council did have a vehicular right of way

across the service yard for deliveries and that the owner of the land

could alter, stop up or divert it provided that the Council was given an

alternative substitute.

 RESOLVED

 A. that TC Group be engaged to give VAT advice to the Council at an

 initial charge of £750 for 4 hours

 B. that the Library Trust is asked to contribute to the project.

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 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

 that Orme Ltd. are engaged as detailed in the report to Council on 18th

 June to progress the project to stage 4 on Option 2 to obtain tenders

 for the works including dropping the floor on the 1st floor.

6. FUNDING OF YMCA

 The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

 RESOLVED

 that Mendip YMCA be informed that the Council is underwhelmed with

 their application and will not consider a grant until a presentation is

 made on their programme, other funding, what funds are spent on etc.

7. INVESTMENT OF COUNCIL FUNDS

 The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

 RESOLVED

 that the report be agreed and investments not changed but the Clerk

 to report on possibly increasing loan payments prior to the settlement

 date.

8. BI ANNUAL GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT

 The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

 RESOLVED

 that the report be approved.

 The meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.

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