

**Mrs. L.A. Ruff, Clerk of the Council, Street Parish Rooms, 6 Leigh Road, Street, Somerset BA16 0HA Tel. (01458) 440588**

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**20th August**, 2020

PLEASE NOTE DATE AND TIME

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are summoned to attend an extraordinary meeting of the Street

Parish Council which will be held **virtually using Zoom** with remote

attendance on **TUESDAY 25TH AUGUST, 2020 at 6.30 p.m.** for the purpose of

transacting the business specified in the following agenda. The Chair will

allow each person who has registered to speak with the Clerk to speak for

up to 3 minutes and will firstly explain the procedures of the meeting and

that it will be recorded. Statements received will be read out. The

meeting will be streamed live on YouTube on the Council’s YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiwCtXUydITXA9OpDqQfvIA/videos>

In accordance with standing orders 7 c and d, a member with a

disclosable pecuniary interest must leave the room during the relevant

item of business, unless permitted to remain following the grant of a

dispensation. Councillors with an interest in relation to any item of

business being transacted at a meeting under Appendix B (Other

Interests) or where a matter relates to a financial interest of a friend,

relative or close associate, may (i) make representations, (ii) answer

questions and (iii) give evidence relating to the business being

transacted but must thereafter leave the meeting and be placed in the

waiting room, unless permitted to remain following the grant of a

dispensation. At a convenient time the Chairman will also give this

opportunity to any members of the public wishing to speak on any matter

being transacted and present at the meeting.

Yours faithfully,

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L.A. Ruff, Clerk of the Council

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – acceptance of any reasons offered

2. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18th August, 2020 (attached).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

4. PLANNING COMMITTEE

To agree 2 or more councillors to join Councillors Birch, Leafe, Mogg and Wolfers

on the Planning Committee following the resignations of J. Diment and D. Ellis.

5. APPLICATION NO. 2020/1294/OTS – OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION WITH

SOME MATTERS RESERVED FOR THE EXTENSION OF STREET BUSINESS PARK

COMPRISING B1 BUSINESS, B2 GENERAL INDUSTRY, B8 STORAGE OR

DISTRIBUTION, RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME AND EXTRA CARE (USE CLASS C2)

FOOD AND DRINK (USE CLASS A3/A4/A5), CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ARM TO

THE A39 QUARRY BATCH, A39 WEST WAY AND WEST END JUNCTION,

ASSOCIATED INTERNAL ACCESS ROADS AND PATHS, PARKING AND SERVICE

AREAS WITH DETAILS OF ACCESS – LAND AT 347021 136787 GRAVENCHON WAY

STREET FOR MR. MARK FITZGERALD – OUTLINE – SOME MATTERS RESERVED

To consider the outline application and make recommendations for submission to

Mendip District Council. The plans and documents including the response from

Highways can be viewed on the Council’s website and can be found on Mendip

District Council’s website at

<https://publicaccess.mendip.gov.uk/online-applications/> and then enter the

application no. above.

The applicant Mark Fitzgerald will be attending to speak on the application and

answer any questions.

6. CLOSURE OF HIGH STREET (report attached)

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To: Chair and Members of Street Parish Council

STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held virtually using Zoom with remote

attendance on 18th August, 2020 at 7.03 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor A. Leafe (Chair)

Councillors: C.E. Axten, P. Birch, S. Carswell,

M. Daniells, D. Drew, D. Goater, P. Goater,

L. Mogg, T.W.E. Napper, A. Prior, H. Shearer and L. Wolfers

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Ruff – Clerk/RFO

M. Sandiford – Assistant Clerk Projects Officer

County Councillor L. Leyshon

PC M. Pople – Street Beat Team

APOLOGIES: Councillor R. Boyce – in hospital – reason

accepted

30. MINUTES

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 28th July, 2020 which had been circulated were approved as a correct record and arrangements would be made for them to be signed by the Chair in accordance with current guidance. The decision to keep the High Street closed to the end of September at Minute No. 25 was ratified. The Clerk reported that she had received quite a number of emails from residents of roads being used by traffic as an alternative to the High Street and all but 2 were opposed to it being closed. The matter was due to be reviewed on 15th September but an item would be added to the agenda for the extraordinary meeting on 25th August to consider current arrangements for the road closure and costs.

31. MATTERS ARISING

No matters were raised.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillors Carswell, P. Goater, Napper and Shearer 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. Councillor Napper declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to the County Council and that he would keep an open mind.

All members present declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the alteration of the Parish Rooms for Council and library use and that they had been granted dispensation to speak and vote by the Clerk and would keep an open mind when considering the matter. Councillor Axten declared that she was Chair of the Friends of Street Library and Councillors Drew and Prior that they were a Friend of the Library.

33. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

PC Pople thanked Councillors P. Goater and Mogg for arranging for

trees at the edge of Houndwood to be cut back to discourage anti social behaviour. He had also received a lot of emails from residents

who wanted the High Street to be reopened. Those illegally camped in the former Tesco car park by South Side car park had moved on during Sunday and he was not aware of any associated anti social behaviour. He asked that if anyone was seen begging in the High Street this be reported to the Police. It was felt that busking and the like was not much of a problem in Street at present but a charter had been discussed previously.

34. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting on 21st June 2020 were submitted as circulated. Information on proposed changes to the planning system and a White Paper on planning had been circulated to members and it was felt that this should be dealt with at higher level authorities.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

35. CHAIR’S REPORT

Councillor Leafe reported that he had met with the manager of Strode Theatre and a representative of the Community Centre to discuss how the grants given to them were being used. The Breakfast Club was now being run by the Community Centre in the Library Garden and was very well attended. Councillor Mogg would advise the Chair about putting his monthly report on social media.

36. PARISH PATH LIAISON OFFICER

County Councillor Leyshon had not seen Jake Dalton and hoped that he was starting an apprenticeship. She would advise on a suitable gift in recognition of his community service if this was the case.

The Clerk advised that where hedges were growing over footpaths if details were sent to her then the owners of the land could be requested to cut them back. There was a small grassed area at Grangefields which looked very untidy as the grass and hedge had not been cut. Councillor Carswell was investigating this matter.

37. PROJECTS WORKING GROUP

Notes of the meeting on 6th August 2020 had been circulated. It was noted that the Section 106 funding was £55,300.55 from the previous

Business Park development. County Councillor Leyshon was checking that there was no time limit on using it. Match funding could be applied for from the County Council towards extending the cycle path along the bypass.

The Clerk reported that now that the alterations to the Parish Rooms were underway it had been established that some external maintenance works and some interior works which were not included in the tender document needed to be carried out. There were also some savings on works not required and a substantial saving on not having the temporary library and office. The architect for the project had changed and there was now a good team working well together. Councillors Axten and P. Goater explained the value which would be added to the building and the exciting new facilities to be provided including a digital den with a 3D printer.

The Clerk emphasised that a Chamber of Commerce was a separate body to the Council. The Chair asked the Council representatives appointed to the Chamber to work with the District Council to establish why a Chamber failed to be set up in Street and how this could be overcome.

The Clerk reported that Wetherspoons had applied for a pavement licence for socially distanced tables at the front of the premises within the existing area from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day of the week. Comments needed to be submitted to the District Council by 21st August.

RESOLVED

A. that the report and recommendations be agreed and the Clerk be given delegated authority in consultation with Councillors Axten, P. Goater and the Chair to agree quotes for the additional works needed at the Parish Rooms provided that the sums agreed for the project and associated costs were not exceeded

B. that the application by Wetherspoons for a pavement licence with the hours detailed above be supported by the Council

C. that it be noted that the road closure for the Christmas Cracker had not been applied for as the event for 2020 had been cancelled due to the pandemic and it was planned to have a bigger and better event in 2021

D. that an information piece be circulated to local businesses from the Council explaining -

the advantages of having a Chamber of Commerce including having a view on important issues such as the temporary closure of the High Street and the new Mendip tourism strategy and local shopping app – a small number of business representatives could form a Chamber and would receive support from Glastonbury Chamber on how to do this – the Chamber is an organisation which is separate to the Council – there was a small sum remaining from the previous Chamber and some funding could be obtained from the District Council – a Chamber could report to Council meetings on current issues.

38. PATH TO RECOVERY

Councillor P. Goater reported that meetings between the town councils and the District Council continued. The new tourism strategy was to be considered. A pilot scheme for a local shopping app would run in Glastonbury and Street before being rolled out across the district. This would be funded by the District Council for the first year and then by individual shops/businesses. Councillor Drew asked who set business rates as she understood that there were many independent shops in Frome as their rates had been cancelled. County Councillor Leyshon explained that smaller shops were not paying rates at present but that this might not continue. The rates system involved pooling and was very complex. It was agreed that details on how to get rates reassessed should be added to the leaflet to be sent out to businesses.

39. REOPENING OF LIBRARY AND PARISH ROOMS

A meeting was held with the Library Service on 13th August. Councillor Axten reported that the mobile library service in Street was working well. Very careful consideration would be given to safe opening of the library and Parish Rooms when the works were completed. Detailed plans were in progress for the provision of a really good library system including the digital den. Account was also being taken of the future needs of the Council including when the library moved back to the original building. The refurbishment would give better space for the Council to use and hire out.

There would be a soft launch and then in a few weeks a full launch of the new facilities. Staff and volunteers would receive training. It was hoped to arrange tours of the building and a programme of events to be delivered by the Library Service and the Friends. The library and Community Centre had already combined to deliver a recent reading event.

RESOLVED

that the report be received.

40. STREET COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

County Councillor Leyshon reported that all those who had needed help with shopping now had an alternative such as a neighbour to assist them. The Salvation Army and Community Centre would continue. The Support Group was only set up as a temporary measure and without a further furlough scheme there would not be enough volunteers of the right age to run the service again. It was hoped that the Group would not be needed in future. Councillor Shearer reported that the District Council was using experience gathered to keep communities more resilient. County Councillor Leyshon explained that the County Council had a Local Outbreak Management Plan and could close a business, organisation etc. if there was a local outbreak and arrange testing very close to this very quickly. The County Public Health Team would organise tracking and tracing.

41. CHAIR UPDATES

No reports were made.

42. CORRESPONDENCE/MINOR MATTERS

The Clerk had submitted a report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

A. that Councillors Daniells, Leafe and Prior be appointed to the Projects Working Group

B. that a Unitary Working Group be set up to look in detail at the implications of local government reorganisation including what the Council might want or not want to take over and the potential costs and benefits – Councillors Carswell, Drew, P. Goater, Napper, Prior and Shearer

C. that Councillor Mogg would replace Councillor Leafe on the Appeal Panel as he was also on the Staffing Committee

D. that a form to be sent to candidates for co-option to the Council be circulated to members for comment – information would be given on what the Council did and candidates asked to state which committees and working groups they would want to join.

43. REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

District Councillor Shearer was responsible for community and environmental health matters and reported that anti social behaviour had increased as people often became confused and upset about the changing Covid guidance. Often there was not enforcement power but if members had issues they could raise them with her and the District Council. She served on the Depravation Working Group which was looking at community resilience and reducing the affects of loneliness in liaison with local councils and communities. District Councillor Carswell reported that publicity would soon be coming out on the reopening of dry facilities at Strode Pool from 20th August and of the pool itself from 1st September.

44. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The latest bank reconciliations for all accounts at 31st July, 2020 had

been prepared successfully and sent to all members with the monthly

income and expenditure by account report, the final report of receipts

and payments for June and schedule of earmarked reserves. A consolidated summary had also been sent out and would be considered by the Policy and Finance Committee in September.

RESOLVED

that the report and schedule of payments as circulated be approved

and initialled by the Chair and the income and expenditure by account

report at 31st July, 2020 be noted and the schedule of receipts and

payments for August be attached as Annex A to the minutes in the

Minute Book in order to publish payments of £500 or more.

45. MATTERS FOR REPORT

The Clerk had already reported that an item would be added to the agenda for the meeting on 25th August to discuss arrangements and possible costs relating to the High Street closure. Councillor Mogg felt that the entrance to Clarks Village by Fusion Recruitment should be opened as there were now lots of people visiting Street. Councillor P. Goater was meeting with the Manager and would ask for this entrance to be opened to the High Street.

The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

Councillors D. and P. Goater and Shearer arrived at 7.10 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM NO: 6**

**To: Council**

**From: Clerk**

**Subject: Closure of High Street**

On 16th June the Chair reported that arrangements were being made to close the High Street from Farm Road to Vestry Road on a temporary basis to assist with social distancing as the shops were starting to re-open and there could be queues. This initial closure was due to end on 7th August and on 28th July it was agreed to keep the High Street closed until the end of September.

The Council also saw the temporary closure as a pilot for possible pedestrianisation at a later stage. This would of course if agreed involve lengthy negotiations and consultations and considerable expense. Since the closure began around 10 weeks ago a steady stream of emails have been received from residents. All emails and 1 letter have been circulated to councillors for consideration.

* Emails in support of closing High Street 2 - 1 suggesting 1 way system
* Emails opposed to closing High Street 20 + 1 letter

It is extremely unusual for residents to contact the Council in this way and thus the number of objections received and the numerous valid and important reasons detailed for ending the closure are seen as significant. Most of the residents live in either Orchard Road or Vestry Road which are the main alternatives to the High Street along with Cranhill Road and Southleaze Orchard. The only other temporary road closures of this nature now are at East Reach, Taunton where the alternatives are A roads and pedestrianisation has been discussed for a number of years. Wells market place also remains closed but has a different set up as it is managed by the City Council and there are a number of cafes which are placing tables and chairs outside facilitated by the closure. This closure does not involve diverted traffic travelling along any other residential roads. As things continue to return to normal traffic volumes will increase. Highways do not consider that the closure is necessary to support the pavement licence applied for by Wetherspoons for it’s frontage from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

When the decision was made to keep the closure until the end of September it was understood that there would be no cost to the Council. However I can now clarify that the County Council funded the closure including one marshall from around 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. until 7th August. The District Council agreed to fund the marshall until 18th September. During this time one of the NSL civil parking enforcement officers has acted as the marshall but in recent weeks they have also been carrying out other duties at times and have not always been in the High Street which is only busy at certain times. If the closure were to continue it is likely that the marshall and signage etc. would now need to be provided by Glastonbury Carnival Club as NSL are returning to their normal duties and the cost would be around £600 - £1,000 a week.

On 7th August a Tranche 2 bid for £20,000 was submitted to the Department of Transport for planters and semi permanent traffic management that would not require marshalling and keeps the road closed. It is not known when the results of the bid will be received and there is no guarantee that it will be successful. To have a continuous road closure for a minimum of 3 months there are 3 options -

* Council funds marshalls until Tranche 2 funding comes through at £600 - £1,000 a week
* Council funds the new scheme – one off cost without marshalls
* Council temporarily funds the scheme until Tranche 2 funding comes through and County Council can reimburse but this funding is not guaranteed.

This is a community driven initiative and County Highways could open the High Street again quickly if this is the decision of the Council. The temporary closure has been in place for around 10 weeks with the aim of assisting social distancing and keeping people safe. It has also given the opportunity to trial possible future pedestrianisation of the High Street. It appears that in general pedestrians are not using the road to walk in, are only using the zebra crossing to cross over, are not keeping to the one way system and that there is space for queues on the pavements. The queue outside of Nat West goes down Farm Road which has remained open and is busy with diverted traffic. Safety concerns for pedestrians have been raised as the barriers at either end are only across half of the road and vehicles have been seen driving through the closure in the evening and at other times, sometimes at speed. The surrounding roads - Cranhill, Orchard and Vestry Road are less safe as they are carrying increased traffic and are all quite narrow with narrow pavements.

In view of the above and in particular the safety concerns and costs from 18th September the Council is asked if it wishes to continue with the closure and if so, which of the 3 options above to agree.

L.A. Ruff Clerk

25.08.20