STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held virtually using Zoom with remote

attendance on 15th September, 2020 at 7 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor A. Prior (Vice-Chair) (In the Chair)

Councillors: C.E. Axten, P. Birch, M. Daniells,

D. Drew, D. Goater, P. Goater, L. Mogg,

T.W.E. Napper, H. Shearer and L. Wolfers

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Ruff – Clerk/RFO

M. Sandiford – Assistant Clerk Projects Officer

PC M. Pople – Street Beat Team

D. Knibbs – candidate for co option

R. Peters – Manager, Strode Theatre

APOLOGIES: Councillors R. Boyce, S. Carswell and A. Leafe

(Chair) – another engagement – reasons

accepted

51. MINUTES

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 25th August, 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.

52. MATTERS ARISING

No matters were raised.

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillors 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.

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Councillors Birch, D. Goater and Wolfers declared an other interest

under Appendix B in the grant to Strode Theatre for 2021/22 as they were representatives of the Council on the body and left the meeting after making representations from 8 p.m. to 8.10 p.m.

Councillors Prior and Wolfers declared an other interest under Appendix B in the grant to Crispin Community Centre for 2021/22 as they were representatives of the Council on the body and left the meeting from 8.12 p.m. to 8.16 p.m.

It was agreed that Councillor P. Goater should take the Chair for this item.

54. 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 agreed to investigate another place at Houndwood where young people might now be congregating. The Police community contact vehicle was now parked outside the Crispin Hall on a Thursday for people to visit. It was agreed to move a speed indicator device to Portway due to speeding and for the Police to monitor the volume of traffic. It was felt that traffic probably increased there while the High Street was closed but that this was a better alternative route to Vestry Road. It was agreed that the ACPO would assist PC Pople initially in setting up remote PACT meetings.

55. CASUAL VACANCY ON WEST WARD

The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated. D. Knibbs

was the only candidate able to attend and she spoke briefly before

agreeing to go in the waiting room for the vote. Councillor Mogg

proposed Deborah Knibbs for consideration and this was seconded by

Councillor Napper. Councillor Prior proposed Emma Bartlett for

consideration and this was seconded by Councillor Birch. Councillor

Wolfers proposed Nicola Smith for consideration and this was

seconded by Councillor Drew.

Voting was by show of hands and was as follows -

Deborah Knibbs – 3 votes, Emma Bartlett – 2 votes, Nicola Smith –

6 votes.

RESOLVED

that Nicola Smith be co opted to fill the vacant seat in the West Ward

for the current term of office to May 2023, that she should sign the

declaration of acceptance of office before or at the next ordinary

meeting of the Council and that she be appointed to serve on the

Planning, Policy and Finance and Staffing Committees and the

Highways, Unitary and Community Support Working Groups until May

2021.

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56. GRANT – STRODE THEATRE

Robin Peters, Theatre Manager explained that it was not financially

viable to reopen the Theatre with social distancing rules. His post had

been retained and his role was to bring about changes both now and in

a 2 – 3 year plan to develop more sustainable income and governance

structures for the Theatre.

In early October it would be known whether a bid for substantial

funding from the Arts Council had been successful. The College was

committed to seeing the process through with or without this funding.

The Clerk had spoken to the Deputy Principal and he had confirmed

that the College was extremely grateful for the support of the Council

and had every intention of reopening the Theatre when the audience

was big enough to be financially viable. It was very difficult to know

when this would be but it was hoped that it would be in a years time if

not sooner. The grant from the Council clearly demonstrated that the

facility was fundamentally important to the community and this helped

in attracting other sources of funding.

RESOLVED

that a grant of £20,000 be made to Strode Theatre for 2021/22 in

April 2021 and the Manager be asked to address the Council again

before then on the current position.

57. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting on 18th August 2020 were submitted as circulated.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

58. POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting on 8th September 2020 were submitted as

circulated and appear as Annex A to these minutes in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED

A. that a grant of £5,000 be made to Crispin Community Centre for

2021/22 and a further £5,000 be considered when information detailed

in recommendation A of Minute No. 5 had been provided

B. that the report and other recommendations made be agreed and

that meeting agendas be sent to Councillor Napper in the post.

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59. COMPLETION OF LIMITED ASSURANCE REVIEW

FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

that the report be agreed.

60. VICE-CHAIR’S REPORT

Councillor Prior reported that the Assistant Clerk and ACPO had been

consulting with local businesses and asking for a contact email so that

useful information could be sent out and representations on local matters received. Those contacted were generally very enthusiastic

about future pedestrianisation of the High Street and having a Chamber

of Commerce but none had time to help set this up. A few were not online and were interested in the free 1 year trial of a shopping app.

Councillor P. Goater felt that if pedestrianisation did take place there would be consultation but that an alternative route should be an inner ring road including Stone Hill, Middle Leigh and Portway.

61. PARISH PATH LIAISON OFFICER

County Councillor Leyshon was not present but had submitted a written report.

RESOLVED

A. that SLH Services be asked to quote for maintenance of the roundabout by MacDonalds provided they had the correct highways training in place

B. that the Unitary Group should look at the cost implications of maintaining verges, roundabouts etc. so that the general appearance of Street was kept to a good standard.

62. PROJECTS WORKING GROUP

Notes of the meeting on 3rd September 2020 had been circulated with a report from the Clerk. Councillor Axten reported that work on the new play area at Merriman Park would start on 21st September and would be overseen by herself and the ACPO. Kate Carr, designer would mark out everything on site. The new play area would be open for the October half term holiday.

RESOLVED

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A. that the 2 reports and recommendations be agreed with Councillor Birch being appointed to the Working Group, a bid for funding from the County Council Climate Emergency Community Fund to extend the cycle/walk path as detailed be made on 1st December and up to £2,000 be spent from the Contingency Fund on a colour walk/cycle leaflet of routes around Street – support not to be given to the County bid from Somerset Wildlife Trust as it could affect the Council’s own bid

B. that the ACPO should ensure that the gate over the path at Merriman Park could be pushed either way so that mobility scooters etc. could pass through it

C. that a report be made to the next meeting of the Group on 1st October on publicity including a press release and signage to allow only dogs on leads in the section of Merriman Park near the fish and chip shop, instructing people to pick up dog poop and stating that this was a trial and that banning dogs from the Park was still being considered as dog faeces was so dangerous to children and others – the Merriman Park Community Group to be consulted and current legislation investigated.

63. PATH TO RECOVERY

Councillor P. Goater reported that meetings between the town councils and the District Council continued. A pilot scheme for a local shopping app would run in Glastonbury and Street before being rolled out across the district. Information between Mendip and the towns would be shared on Facebook etc. as all would be stronger if working together. He and the Clerk would be attended the first meeting of the Strategic Tourism Group on 22nd September. There would also be a district creative arts strategy.

64. ALTERATION OF PARISH ROOMS

Councillor P. Goater and the Clerk reported that all was going well with

the project. A proper pitched roof with drainage had been provided

over the lift area, all exterior walls would be repointed provided this was

within the budget and the current date for the works to be finished was

16th November.

RESOLVED

that the report be agreed and provision of solar panels on the building be considered for the future.

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65. STREET COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Councillor Shearer reported that the District Council, Spark and others were investigating how to build resilience communities beyond what had been done before. Shopping was still being done for a few people and the Group was ready to start up again if necessary.

66. CHAIR UPDATES

No reports were made.

67. CORRESPONDENCE/MINOR MATTERS

The Clerk had submitted a report which had been circulated. It was

noted that Councillor Napper was arranging for the District Council to

move a dog bin in Green Lane which was near to the lounge of one

house.

RESOLVED

A. that the report be agreed and the LGPS Employer’s Discretions

Policy as circulated be approved

B. that the Clerk in consultation with the Chair, Councillor P. Goater and the Merriman Park Community Group be given delegated power to obtain quotes for the category 1 works in the report on trees at the Park and Skate Park and to agree a quote and proceed

C. that the occupier of a house in Leigh Road be asked to cut back garden undergrowth which was over the pavement and details be passed to Councillor Daniells who was listing such problems.

68. REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

County and District Councillor Napper reported that the debate on having a unitary authority or authorities was ongoing and would be a long process.

69. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The latest bank reconciliations for all accounts at 31st August, 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 August, schedule of earmarked reserves and a consolidated summary.

RESOLVED

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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 August, 2020 be noted and the schedule of receipts and

payments for September be attached as Annex B to the minutes in the

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

70. MATTERS FOR REPORT

There were no matters to report.

71. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act

1960 as 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.

72. QUOTATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ON PARISH ROOMS

The confidential report from the Assistant Clerk had been circulated to

members only.

RESOLVED

that the lights for the Parish Rooms as detailed in the report be added

to the existing 2 year hire agreement with Blachere at a cost of

£2,251.38 per year.

The meeting ended at 9.12 p.m.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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