STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held virtually using Zoom with remote

attendance on 20th October, 2020 at 7.21 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor A. Leafe (Chair of Council)

Councillors: C.E. Axten, P. Birch, R. Boyce,

S. Carswell, M. Daniells, D. Drew, D. Goater,

P. Goater, L. Mogg, A. Prior, H. Shearer, N. Smith and L. Wolfers

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Ruff – Clerk/RFO

M. Sandiford – Assistant Clerk Projects Officer

PC M. Pople – Street Beat Team

County Councillor L. Leyshon

D. Atkins and V. Appleby – Merriman Park

Community Group

APOLOGIES: Councillor T.W.E. Napper – another

engagement – reasons accepted

73. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th September, 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.

74. MATTERS ARISING

No matters were raised.

75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillors Carswell, P. Goater 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.

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 Axten, Carswell and Daniells declared an other interest

under Appendix B in moving the war memorial as they were representatives of the Council on the Merriman Park Community Group and left the meeting after making representations from 8.28 p.m. to 8.35 p.m.

76. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

PC Pople asked people to donate to charities through the official

collection boxes rather than to people in the street asking for money as

they were often part of an organised group. It was agreed to publicise

this on the website and Nub News and that Councillors Drew and

Shearer would prepare a statement including services for the

homeless. The Beat Surgery and Road Safety Unit would be at the

market on 21st October.

77. CASUAL VACANCY ON NORTH WARD

The Chair welcomed Councillor Nicola Smith to the Council. The Clerk

submitted a report which had been circulated. D. Knibbs was the only

candidate for consideration as E. Bartlett had withdrawn due to other

commitments. Councillor Shearer proposed Deborah Knibbs for

consideration and this was seconded by Councillor Mogg.

Voting was by show of hands and was as follows -

Deborah Knibbs – 12 votes (Councillors Boyce and Drew did not join

the meeting until later.)

RESOLVED

that Deborah Mary Knibbs be co opted to fill the vacant seat in the

North 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

Projects, Unitary and Culture Working Groups until May 2021.

78. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting on 15th September 2020 were submitted as circulated.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

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79. CHAIR’S REPORT

Councillor Leafe reported that he and Councillor Smith had met Robin

Peters, Theatre Manager to discuss the future plans and an update would be sent in due course. The grant given by the Council had been key to the success of the application to the Arts Council for a large grant. The Chair wished to record his thanks to Councillor Axten for all her work in driving forward with the provision of the new play area at Merriman Park.

80. PARISH PATH LIAISON OFFICER

County Councillor Leyshon reported that the PPLO would have more time to clear paths through the Winter and members should email her if they knew of any which needed attention.

81. PROJECTS WORKING GROUP

Notes of the meeting on 1st October 2020 had been circulated with a report from the ACPO on the cycle path extension. Councillor Smith reported that the Theatre was happy to host meetings if and when a Chamber of Commerce was set up. Members were concerned about the impact on the High Street if shops closed as a result of difficulties due to Covid restrictions. It was acknowledged that many people now shopped online and at supermarkets and that this was a difficult problem to address. It was noted that Councillor Shearer was Vice-Chair of the Group and not Councillor Axten as stated in the notes. Councillor Shearer felt that the plans and surveys for the cycle path extension should be funded as if the County Climate Change bid was not successful funding from other sources could be sought.

RESOLVED

A. that the report be agreed and the Group to consider how the High

Street might diversify to draw people to it

B. that the required plans, topographical and tree surveys be commissioned at a cost of around £3,500 for the cycle path extension and delegated authority be given to the ACPO in consultation with the Chair to agree the details – funding to come from the Contingency Fund

C. that a pre application meeting in regard to the SCC bid for the cycle path extension be requested with Mendip District Council to assist with the request.

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82. RELOCATION OF WAR MEMORIAL WITHIN MERRIMAN PARK

The ACPO submitted a report which had been circulated. The meeting

was closed from 8.29 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. for D. Atkins to speak. It was

closed again from 8.35 p.m. to 8.36 p.m. for V. Appleby to thank the

Council for agreeing the final costs for the project. The Clerk thanked

the ACPO for all his work on this project and the cycle path extension.

RESOLVED

A. that the District Council’s legal costs for the required Section 106

agreement attached to planning consent for the works be met but an

accurate quotation be requested and a wish that this would not be

more than about £2,000 – discussions to be held if much more was

quoted

B. that the Clerk would read through the agreement, it not being

considered necessary to seek legal advice from the Council’s solicitors

C. that any other costs associated with setting up a bond etc. be paid.

83. PATH TO RECOVERY

Councillor P. Goater reported that meetings between the town councils, the District Council, Visit Somerset, Landsec and others continued. Information between Mendip and the towns was being shared on Facebook etc. as all would be stronger if working together. The Clerk

and Councillors Carswell and Goater would be attending the first meeting of the Strategic Tourism Group on 22nd October.

84. ALTERATION OF PARISH ROOMS

Councillors Axten and P. Goater reported that all was going well with

the project. The building was expected to be handed over on 13th

November and then the move back in for the Council and Library would

start in accordance with Covid restrictions. A workman at the site had

tested positive for Coronavirus and those who had been on the site had

been required to self isolate for 14 days but the project was still on

track. Councillor Axten paid tribute to the Clerk for dealing with all the

details of the project and also thanked the Assistant Clerk and Library

staff.

RESOLVED

that the report be agreed.

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85. STREET COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Councillor Leyshon stated that the Group was hoping that the area would not go into Lockdown again and it would be difficult to cope without the furlough scheme. The Salvation Army was running the Foodbank and it was felt that it and the Community Centre were better prepared for future developments. Councillor Drew felt that the schools had organised their operations under the restrictions brilliantly. It was

agreed to publicise more information on the website on statistics relating to the Coronavirus etc. as Shepton Mallet did as it would be of

interest to local people.

RESOLVED

A. that M. Edmunds be invited to speak at the Policy and Finance

Committee meeting on plans for Christmas or if all the information was

not available at the next Council meeting and that she be informed that the Council felt that the Community Centre was integrating very well with the Salvation Army and doing fantastic work for the community

B. that the Policy and Finance Committee should consider allocating

money saved towards support during the current difficult period

including any ideas from the Community Centre, Salvation Army, YMCA etc.

86. CHAIR UPDATES

No reports were made.

87. CORRESPONDENCE/MINOR MATTERS

The Clerk had submitted a report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

A. that the report be agreed and the Projects Working Group to consider identifying some areas to recommend to the District Council as suitable for rewilding strips around the edges

B. that the Highways Working Group be asked to consider asking for

a 20 mile per hour speed limit around Merriman Park and the Police be

asked to monitor traffic speeds around the Park

C. that more information be requested on the grant application from Glastonbury FM and this be considered by the Policy and Finance Committee

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D. that in accordance with Financial Regulation 6.9 Councillor Daniells be appointed to authorise Bankline transactions using his own

pin number, password and card reader in the interests of security.

88. REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

District Councillor Shearer encouraged anyone to go to their GP or hospital if they needed to do so as the facilities were available despite the pandemic. She remained responsible for environmental health, licensing and public safety. District Councillor Leyshon was now responsible for Corporate Projects and Services. District Councillor Carswell was responsible for Economic Development assisted by District Councillor Goater. District Councillor Goater was on the Planning Board, was the heritage champion and was involved with tourism and connecting Devon and Somerset.

89. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The latest bank reconciliations for all accounts at 30th September, 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 September, schedule of earmarked reserves

and a consolidated summary.

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 30th September, 2020 be noted and the schedule of receipts

and payments for October be attached as Annex A to the minutes in

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

90. MATTERS FOR REPORT

The Clerk had sent the district survey on car parks to members to

complete. J. Bright of Farm Road had complained about competition

from jewellery stalls in the market. Mendip District Council had

explained that under the Competitions Act 1998 it was illegal to only

allow market traders which did not compete with shops on the High

Street. Councillor Axten pointed out that a tree to be felled in Merriman

Park near the war memorial was unsafe and that this was why it was to

be removed.

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Councillor Daniells had received a complaint from a resident about the

size of double decker buses travelling around Street every 15 minutes

with very few passengers. First Bus had informed him that the new

double decker buses were lighter than the single buses and were far

more efficient in accordance with new legislation coming in at Bath.

The buses ran from 6 a.m. to Midnight and some times went up on

pavements, cutting corners and travelling at speed. The buses were

now circulating every 20 minutes and seemed to be clashing with more

school runs. The ACPO pointed out the importance of buses for the

people who depended on them. Councillor Boyce gave details of who

to contact at First about dangerous driving and reported that there was

not enough room at the Wells bus station to change a single bus to a

double decker to go on to Bath and Bristol. There was CCTV on

buses. Councillor Drew agreed to inform Councillor Mogg where the

tree planting scheme in Walton was located. Councillor Birch thanked

District Councillors Carswell and Goater for assisting with a problem

involving a lime tree at steps in Isaacs Close. Councillor Smith

reported that post Covid the Theatre could be used for Council

meetings. Councillor Daniells felt that the Parish Rooms should be

used for meetings as it had been refurbished at considerable cost.

The meeting ended at 9.35 p.m.

Councillor Drew arrived at 7.48 p.m.

Councillor Boyce arrived at 8.20 p.m.

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

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