STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held virtually using Zoom with remote

attendance on 19th January, 2021 at 7.12 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor A. Leafe (Chair of Council)

Councillors: P. Birch, S. Carswell, M. Daniells,

D. Drew, P. Goater, D. Knibbs, L. Mogg, T.W.E. Napper, A. Prior, H. Shearer and N. Smith

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Ruff – Clerk/RFO

J. Marshfield – Assistant Clerk

PC M. Pople – Street Beat Team

County Councillor Leyshon

APOLOGIES: Councillors R. Boyce – working, D. Goater –

Illness and L. Wolfers – another engagement –

reasons accepted

131. MINUTES

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 12th January, 2021 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.

132. MATTERS ARISING

No matters were raised.

133. 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 also declared an interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to the County Council and that he would keep an open mind.

Councillors Drew and Prior declared an other interest under Appendix B in the Pool as they were representatives of the Council on Mendip YMCA. They left the meeting from 8.18 p.m. to 8.20 p.m. after making representations.

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134. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

PC Pople reported that he had met with Councillors Knibbs, Mogg and

Napper and it was proposed that in accordance with the Busking Policy

busking should take place for 30 minute periods by the bench outside

of Boots, in the Library Garden subject to permission from the Trust

and outside of an identified charity shop in the High Street subject to

approval from the owner. PACT had been renamed Meet the Team

and the next meeting would be on 11th February. Street

Neighbourhood Watch would meet on 20th January.

RESOLVED

A. that the report and 3 busking locations be approved

B. that information be posted on the website, Facebook etc. explaining

that only one person from a household should be shopping under the

current restrictions at supermarkets

C. that the Highways Working Group would consider getting the speed

indicator devices working again and if the busking position outside an

empty shop needed to be revised as consent for a nail bar had just

been sought at 98A High Street

D. that the schools be asked to put an item in their newsletter

reminding pupils that they should not congregating with others at the

weekend or at other times.

135. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 8th December were

submitted as circulated. Members were reminded that pre application

proposals from Aster Group for social housing on sites at Cranhill Road

car park and Cemetery Lane would be considered at the meeting on

28th January. A letter on the proposals had been delivered to every

household and to date there had been 26 responses.

136. BROADBAND

Councillors Carswell, P. Goater and Prior had met with 2 residents who

had problems with their broadband speeds and a representative of

Truespeed. The company was looking to provide fibre cable in Street if

enough people were interested for this to be viable. The importance of

good broadband and the need to act quickly was acknowledged with so

many working from home including businesses and young people.

RESOLVED

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A. that the ACPO with Councillors P. Goater and Prior would meet

again with Truespeed to gather more information including contract

length, how many people needed to sign up, how quickly the service

could be provided and report back to the Council for this to be

progressed

B. that the ACPO with Councillor Mogg would contact BT to gather the

same information as in A. above and report back and the schools,

Clarks, Landsec etc. be approached

C. that Councillor Drew would assist the Clerk in writing an impartial

item to go on the website and social media giving details about the

matter, explaining about options available from companies and inviting

people to go on a list of those waiting to sign up for such a service and,

people be invited to post their actual speeds on Facebook.

137. GRANT TO MENDIP YMCA

The report from the YMCA was submitted as circulated. Councillor

Drew reported that it was hoped that Discovery would take over the

lease of the building from which the Youth Club was run. County

Councillor Leyshon would find out if this was going ahead and report

back. Councillor Drew was thanked for all her work with the YMCA and

the good relationship that she had built up with them.

RESOLVED

A. that a grant of £5,000 be paid to the Mendip YMCA for the Street

Branch in April and then a further £5,000 be paid at the start of the

school holidays provided that everything was going well with the use

of the building etc.

B. that a letter of congratulations be sent to the former Chief Executive

of Mendip YMCA who had been awarded the OBE.

138. CASUAL VACANCY ON SOUTH WARD

The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated. No

candidates had come forward.

RESOLVED

that the matter be considered again at the February meeting and the

website be connected directly to Facebook.

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139. HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP

Discussion took place on lowering the speed limit in the parish to 20

mph. The cost was around £20,000 and this could be put forward to

the County Council as a small improvement scheme. The two County

Councillors had applied for Glastonbury to have a 20 mph speed limit

in 2017 and this had not happened yet. Glastonbury Town Council had

agreed to pay £10,000 towards the cost.

RESOLVED

that the Highways Group should explore having a 20 mph limit for the

parish or particular roads and report back in February and if it was

agreed to introduce this for the whole parish, County Highways be

reminded that this was what Street wanted rather than just a defined

area – members to email with their concerns to Councillor Goater.

140. PROJECTS WORKING GROUP

Notes of the meeting on 14th January had been circulated. Councillor

Napper reported that the finances of the Victoria Field Charity were in a

good position and it was ready to reopen when guidance allowed.

Councillor Smith felt that there should be greater dialogue between the

community and the Council so that better decisions could be made on

behalf of local people. It was noted that a new local newspaper for

Glastonbury, Street and Wells was being set up. The Clerk explained

that in the past funding amounting to well over £300,000 had been

obtained towards projects ranging from the clock in the High Street to

the two new play areas in Merriman Park through anonymous grants

from residents and local businesses, Section 106 planning money,

grants from the District Council and the Big Lottery.

RESOLVED

A. that the report and recommendation not to allow chickens at the

Strode Road allotments be agreed

B. that Councillor Smith would research how the Council might engage

more with the community and report back with ideas

B. that the grant of £1,176 be paid to Glastonbury FM.

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141. CHAIR’S REPORT

The report from Councillor Leafe was read out. The Assistant Clerk read out an email just received from the Salvation Army reporting a

large increase in the number of people seeking help with food as they

had lost their job or had a drop in income. There would be difficult months ahead. The PCs and printers for the Job Club were ready for use when restrictions allowed.

In view of the dire situation the Vice-Chair felt that moving the war

memorial in Merriman Park at a total cost of £18,556 should be deferred to 2022. This was not on the agenda and so would be considered at the next meeting.

The Chair left at 9.05 p.m. and Councillor Prior as Vice-Chair took the Chair.

142. PARISH PATH LIAISON OFFICER

County Councillor Leyshon had not seen the PPLO but would make contact with him.

143. BUSINESS ACTION GROUP

Councillor Prior reported that he had been assisting the person setting

up a new local newspaper and that the Group had met with Greenbank

Pool to consider how to raise funds etc. and would be meeting again.

The first meeting of the Group would be arranged to set a strategy and

then work on this as soon as possible.

RESOLVED

that the report be agreed.

144. MENDIP STRATEGIC TOURISM FORUM

Councillor Carswell reported that the District Council had signed up

with Visit Somerset and that this included free membership for 1 year

for all local businesses to have information on the website.

145. STREET PARISH COUNCIL AND STREET LIBRARY

The Assistant Clerk reported that the library in line with all but the

largest ones was currently closed. The library staff were working from

home and building up their online presence. The Community Library

Partnership would meet on 28th January. A few snagging issues at the

Parish Rooms were being resolved.

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146. CHAIR UPDATES

Councillor Shearer as Chair of the Staffing Committee which had not

met for over a year, would arrange a catch up meeting with staff to

discuss their well being.

147. CORRESPONDENCE/MINOR MATTERS

The Clerk had submitted a report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

A. that Councillor Smith be appointed to serve on the Greenbank

Pool Committee with Councillors Birch and Prior

B. that the Merriman Park Community Group be informed that the

Council did not agree that the bandstand should be allowed to gradually fall into disrepair as the cost of repointing etc. was minimal and consideration should be given to raising funds to have it restored

C. that the minor repairs at the Skate Park recommended in the

annual independent inspection be agreed

D. that the policies and procedures as reviewed by the Clerk be

approved.

148. REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

County Councillor Napper reported that the local R rate had increased

from 1.2 to 1.5. Care needed to be taken against any fake news being

spread regarding the vaccinations etc. County Councillor Leyshon informed members that the vaccination centre at the Bath and West Showground would be open by 25th January. The 3 temporary priorities for the District Council were to support the NHS with the testing and vaccination programme, to continue with statutory duties and to support the economic recovery. She explained that if people could not travel to a vaccination centre they should do nothing and they would then be contacted by their GP to be accommodated within the Primary Care network.

149. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The latest bank reconciliations for all accounts at 31st December, 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 December, schedule of earmarked reserves

and a consolidated summary.

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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 December, 2020 be noted and the schedule of receipts

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

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

150. MATTERS FOR REPORT

The Clerk agreed to send out guidance for members on declaring an

interest and keeping an open mind prior to the meeting on 28th January

to discuss proposals for social housing prior to planning applications

being submitted.

The meeting ended at 9.52 p.m.

Councillor Leafe left at 9.05 p.m.

Councillor Carswell left at 9.40 p.m.

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

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