

STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held virtually using Zoom with remote attendance on 16th March, 2021 at 7.04 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor A. Leafe (Chair of Council)
Councillors: P. Birch, S. Carswell, M. Daniells,
D. Drew, D. Goater, D. Knibbs, L. Mogg,
T.W.E. Napper, 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 Leyshon
V. Appleby, D. Atkins, K. Carr – Merriman Park
Community Group

APOLOGIES: Councillor R. Boyce – working – reason
accepted

181. MINUTES

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 2nd March, 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.

182. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Napper reported that he had raised the fact that 2 horses were tethered on the grass in the middle of the bypass with County Highways and asked PC Pople to investigate as well. Councillor Shearer stated that she would also raise this with the District Council.

183. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillors Carswell, 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.

Councillor Drew declared an other interest under Appendix B in the Library as she was a Friend of the Library and a representative on the Community Library Partnership and Councillor Prior was a volunteer. They did not leave the meeting as no significant decisions were made.

Councillors Carswell, Daniells and Mogg declared an other interest under Appendix B in moving the war memorial within Merriman Park and left the meeting from 7.44 p.m. to 8.15 p.m.

Councillor Leafe declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the grants for the Glastonbury and Street CLP as his job was involved with this and left the meeting from 9.40 p.m. to 9.45 p.m. Councillor Prior took the Chair for this item.

184. MERRIMAN PARK

Representatives of the Merriman Park Community Group together with park designer, Kate Carr gave a presentation on the past history, overall design for the Park, works carried out and planned for the future and funding applied for and received. The Group organised the annual Fun Day with the Council and raised funds through raffles etc.

The Clerk reported that the mound by the toddler equipment in the new play area was very popular and had become quite worn with muddy areas and exposed stones which could cause injury. The area needed to be made safe as soon as possible. The ACPO reported on the suggestion from the Highways Group that the remaining Section 106 funding be used to provide bike racks in the Park.

RESOLVED

A. that the war memorial be moved to the new location as soon as possible, subject to a contribution of £5,000 towards the cost from the Community Group with the Council allocating £5,000 towards the cost of providing the sensory garden and/or fitness area – the Community Group would need to agree this decision

B. that Kompan be requested to rectify the mound in the new play area and make it safe as rubble was used to form it and there are exposed stones

C. that if Kompan did not agree to carry out the work needed on the mound quickly, SLH Services be engaged to do this for £1,694.20 + VAT

D. that the remaining Section 106 funding be used to provide bike racks in the Park.

185. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

PC Pople reported on the issues raised at the recent Meet the Team meeting and that there would be a report back to the next one on 22nd April. The Clerk reported that a resident of Houndwood Close had complained about an increase in anti social behaviour in the area with noise, damage, intimidation and speeding. It was noted that any such issues including cold calling should be reported by phoning 101 or 999.

County Councillor Napper reported that a dip in the road discussed had been reported in 2020 and should be rectified by Highways.

The ACPO reported that the County Council would be making a Traffic Order in due course and various restrictions etc. were being considered for inclusion including in Iy Thorn Road and Overleigh. He asked PC Pople to email in the next 2 weeks with any suggestions and to ask the traffic wardens to do the same.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted and information be included on the website on how to report scams to Action Fraud and to report incidents of anti social behaviour or cold calling to the Police by phoning 101 or 999.

186. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 16th February were submitted as circulated.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

187. PROJECTS WORKING GROUP

The notes of the meeting on 18th February were submitted as circulated. The ACPO reported that the bid to the Climate Change Emergency Fund had not been successful and he would report on this matter at the next meeting. County Councillor Leyshon thanked him for the work done on this application.

RESOLVED

that the report be agreed.

188. HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP

The ACPO submitted a report of the meeting on 25th February and proposed parking restrictions which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

that the report be agreed and delegated authority be given to the ACPO in consultation with County Councillors Leyshon and Napper to agree the final recommendations to be put forward to the County Council by the end of March on parking restrictions, repainting faded markings, new no HGV signs and locations for new speed indicator device poles.

189. STREET COMMUNITY LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP

The Clerk reported that the Library had re-opened on 8th March with a limited service and the ACPO that the new signs would go up in a few days.

RESOLVED

that the reports be agreed and approval given to the re-opening of the Library from 1st March for 4 hour periods detailed by the Library Service with no need at present for volunteers subject to Covid rates.

190. BUSINESS ACTION GROUP

Councillor Prior reported that the Group was considering lots of ideas and that the ACPO was involved with many actions. It was agreed that all members be invited to a presentation on digital boards the next day and that this be recorded and sent to members. 3 companies had been asked to submit details and the one chosen could consult with Landsec, Millfield and others and seek funding. Glastonbury, Langport, Somerton and Taunton all had or were going to have digital boards. The ACPO had contacted the County Council and in principle such boards could be installed provided they were not a distraction for motorists. A licence would be needed from Road Records and a Section 171 licence to carry out works on the highway. He also stated that the item on broadband provision was on the website.

Councillor Wolfers had met with P. Eavis and it seemed probable that the Chamber of Commerce would start again and be requesting a grant. District Councillor Leyshon would report back when details were available on levelling up and economic regeneration funding. The ACPO reported that the Crispin Hall Manager was involved in setting up the #Street Soul Trader campaign which would be similar to Shop Local Glastonbury. Councillor Drew would send a link to a new idea to use empty shop spaces to grow food. Councillor Prior reported that the Greenbank Pool Group was looking at ideas such as merchandising, a café, events in the grounds possibly this year and the new online ticketing system. A substantial rates refund had been received.

The ACPO and Assistant Clerk were producing 4 or 5 colour maps of walks in the Street area which would be available from the Library which would also be the visitor centre and on the website. They were also working with a local resident on maps for walks around the boundaries of Street and on updating the Heritage Trail leaflet.

RESOLVED

that Councillor Mogg be appointed to the Group and the ACPO in consultation with the Group be given delegated power to give a grant of up to £250 for printing costs etc. associated with Street Soul Trader.

191. CHAIR'S REPORT

Councillor Leafe had no report.

192. PARISH PATH LIAISON OFFICER

County Councillor Leyshon would find out if the PPLO would be able to carry out maintenance work on paths. Councillor Prior reported a lot of litter around the area.

RESOLVED

that Councillor Daniells be asked to contact the Somerset Probation Service to see if they could clear litter and weeds in areas such as Cemetery Lane, Sainsburys car park and on the boundary with Glastonbury for a charge of around £10 a day.

193. MENDIP STRATEGIC TOURISM FORUM

The ACPO had given a good summary of current initiatives at the last meeting.

RESOLVED

that the Mendip Tourism Strategy as circulated be approved.

194. STRATEGY AND SURVEY

The Clerk submitted the report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

A. that the consultation and Summer survey be agreed with 5 prizes of £100 for the best suggestion from a young person etc. to encourage people to take part

B. that a meeting of the Unitary Group be held at 7 p.m. on 30th March to consider the response to the Secretary of State on the 2 unitary proposals.

195. CHAIR UPDATES

No reports were made.

196. CORRESPONDENCE/MINOR MATTERS

The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated. A resident had raised concerns regarding parking of a large vehicle and speeding in Portway. A bye election had not been called for the casual vacancy on the North Ward and the notice would go up inviting candidates for co-option.

RESOLVED

A. that the following appointments be agreed -

Appeal Panel – Daniells, Napper – 1 more needed
Grievance and Disciplinary Panel – Birch, Drew, Mogg
Street Community Library Partnership – Daniells
Victoria Club CIO – Birch
Mendip CCTV Users Group – Deputy – Leafe

B. that the Emergency Plan be sent to all councillors

C. that the ACPO and the Highways Group consider the issue of a large vehicle being parked in an area on the junction of Housman Road and Portway

D. that requests be made for overgrown hedges in Portway to be cut back

E. that consideration be given to introducing traffic calming in Portway as part of the development of land off Somerton Road with the District Council

F. that a grant of £2,000 be made to the Glastonbury and Street Community Learning Partnership for support as detailed during the Easter holidays and then a grant of £3,000 for support and resources over June to August from the allocation for Issues for Street – vulnerable people etc.

G. that the sum earmarked in reserves for new bike racks be altered to £3,753

H. that the report on investments with CCLA be noted and no change be made to the Annual Investment Strategy 2021/22.

197. REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

County Councillor Leyshon reported that ground condition reports for Cranhill Road car park were commercially sensitive and belonged to Aster. Nothing was happening with the 2 proposed sites for social housing while every possibility was being explored regarding the alternative land offer including access and the need to bury 2 power lines. Phosphates were also an issue.

198. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The latest bank reconciliations for all accounts at 28th February, 2021 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 February, 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 28th February, 2021 be noted and the schedule of receipts and payments for March be attached as Annex A to the minutes in the Minute Book in order to publish payments of £500 or more.

199. MATTERS FOR REPORT

The Clerk reported that SLH Services did not consider the problem of dog fouling in Merriman Park to be that bad. She was investigating CCTV provision with the other councils, Police and District Council and this was one long term solution for women's safety following the recent kidnap and murder of a young woman in another part of the Country.

Councillor Smith asked if the Council could create income in some way and the Clerk undertook to investigate the possible options. It was agreed to monitor comments on the Council's Youtube channel for any spam links etc. so that these could be removed promptly.

The meeting ended at 10 p.m.

Councillor Daniells arrived at 7.12 p.m.

Councillor Wolfers left at 8.30 p.m.

Councillor Shearer left at 8.58 p.m.

Councillor Drew left at 9.48 p.m.

Chair _____

