

## STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held in the First Floor Studio, Strode Theatre on 15th June, 2021 at 7 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor L. Wolfers (Chair of Council)  
Councillors: P. Birch, S. Carswell, M. Daniells,  
D. Drew, D. Goater, D. Knibbs, A. Leafe,  
L. Mogg, T.W.E. Napper, A. Prior, H. Shearer,  
N. Smith

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Ruff – Clerk/RFO  
J. Marshfield – Assistant Clerk  
M. Sandiford – Assistant Clerk Projects Officer  
County Councillor Leyshon  
M. Dear and J. Howard – co option candidates

APOLOGIES: Councillor R. Boyce – problems with car –  
reason accepted

### 24. MINUTES

The minutes of the annual meeting held on 4th May, 2021 which had been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 25. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Mogg would send a statement in response to the statement on social housing at Cranhill Road car park and land at Cemetery Lane made by the District Council for the information of members.

### 26. 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 Wolfers, Chair declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the grant application by Street Chamber of Commerce as she would be working for the organisation and left the meeting from 9.04 p.m. to 9.15 p.m. Councillor Prior took the Chair for this item.

Councillor Mogg declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the grant for Greenbank Pool item and left the meeting from 9.46 p.m. to 9.53 p.m.

Councillor Smith asked for guidance on interests. The Clerk was attending a training event on 8<sup>th</sup> July and would include guidance in the agenda for the next meeting.

27. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

The ACPO read out the report for PC Pople who was unable to attend. There had been a rise in bike thefts and it was suggested that the bike marking scheme be re-introduced by the Police.

28. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May were submitted as circulated.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

29. CO-OPTIONS TO NORTH AND SOUTH WARDS

The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated. There was 1 vacant seat in the North Ward and 1 vacant seat in the South Ward. In accordance with Standing Order 3 m it was agreed to vote on the co-options by paper ballot issued by the Clerk. It was also agreed that both of the co-opted members could sign their declaration of acceptance of office and join the meeting if present after all co-options had been agreed.

Councillor Carswell proposed Maggie Dear for consideration and this was seconded by Councillor Shearer. Councillor Shearer proposed Jean Howard and this was seconded by Councillor Mogg. Councillor Wolfers proposed Adrian Sparkes and this was seconded by Councillor Prior. Councillor Shearer proposed Sarah Cummins and this was seconded by Councillor Leafe.

M. Dear and J. Howard each made a statement to councillors. The Clerk then read a statement from S. Cummins and A. Sparkes who were unable to attend.

The Council agreed to vote on the vacancy in the North Ward and the voting was - S. Cummins – 2 votes, M. Dear – 1 vote, J. Howard – 5 votes, A. Sparkes – 5 votes. As no candidate had an absolute majority of votes cast it was agreed to vote on J. Howard and A. Sparkes and to strike off the 2 candidates with 2 votes and 1 vote. The voting was - J. Howard – 4 votes, A. Sparkes – 9 votes.

RESOLVED

that Adrian Sparkes be co-opted to fill the vacant seat on the Council in the North Ward for the current term of office to May 2023. He was not present and would sign the declaration of acceptance of office before or at the next meeting.

The Council agreed to vote on the vacancy in the South Ward and the voting was - S. Cummins – 4 votes, M. Dear – 2 votes, J. Howard – 7 votes.

RESOLVED

that Jean Howard be co-opted to fill the vacant seat on the Council in the South Ward for the current term of office to May 2023. She then signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned from 7.42 p.m. to 7.45 p.m.

30. HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP

The ACPO submitted notes of the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May which had been circulated. A request for the speed limit in Higher Brooks to be reduced had been referred to County Highways. The Group would consider a complaint from a resident of Tor View Court about the lorries, noise etc. in Somerton Road.

RESOLVED

that the report be agreed.

31. CHRISTMAS WORKING GROUP

The Assistant Clerk submitted notes of the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

that the report be agreed subject to the following -

- the Group to merge with the Culture Group until early 2022
- any remaining budget from 2021 to be used in 2022
- Greenbank Pool and The Grange to be considered as possible venues for the event in 2022 (it was noted that Greenbank would draw people to the High Street)
- grants to be sought for the event including possibly an ice rink
- more information to be given to both venues and a written guarantee obtained that the chosen one could be used in 2022 before detailed work commenced.

### 32. CULTURE WORKING GROUP

The Assistant Clerk submitted notes of the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May which had been circulated. Mendip District Council would be funding and organising a mini EAT festival in Street on 11<sup>th</sup> July.

RESOLVED

that the report be agreed with D. Atkins as the contact in respect of the awards ceremony at the Fun Day and P. Hopwood in respect of the Council's gazebo – councillors to ask residents to complete the survey on the day and the Community Group shield to be held by the Council and all organisations who had assisted during the pandemic be nominated for this award.

### 33. STREET COMMUNITY LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP

The Clerk gave a verbal report of an informal meeting of councillors held on 8<sup>th</sup> June to consider the history of the CLP and library. It was agreed that the library should be kept to the same good standard as at present in the publicly owned Parish Rooms. There would be a need to establish if the arrangement in the 1924 building would be financially viable bearing in mind VAT, rates etc. The team working on this would need to determine exactly what was required from any new arrangement prior to entering in to a binding contract.

RESOLVED

that the CLP should go forward with the next step following initial discussions with the Library Trust and begin to consider proposals for the Library to move back to the 1924 building from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

34. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

The Clerk gave a verbal report of an informal meeting of members on 8<sup>th</sup> June to consider transfer of assets/services, Local Community Networks and the future of Street and the Council. The ACPO reported that the first part of the survey asking residents for ideas of what they wished the Council to focus on over the next 5 years would take place from 28<sup>th</sup> June to 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Voting would take place from 16<sup>th</sup> August to 17<sup>th</sup> September and the results known by 30<sup>th</sup> September.

RESOLVED

A. that a map be marked of all the assets, services, ownerships in Street and the ones which the Council might be interested in be listed

B. that 'Your Community, Your Money, Your Say' should be at the top of the flyer, poster etc. for the Summer survey and the Council to consider the responses and what it also wanted to focus on a meeting in August.

35. BUSINESS ACTION GROUP

Councillor Prior would send out an update by email.

36. REPORT FROM CHAIR

Councillor Wolfers reported that she had met the High Sheriff for Somerset at a recent event and was arranging for him to visit various places in Street, possibly on the Fun Day. Street was in the top 10 of tourist attractions in the UK and had more visitors than the Tower of London. On 11<sup>th</sup> June a site meeting had been held with representatives of Millfield, Clarks Village and the Crispin Hall CIO to discuss improving the area between the Parish Rooms and the Community Centre. Clarks Village would provide 2 benches and Millfield would provide planting at the side of the Parish Rooms as an initial improvement of the area. A longer term plan could then be developed for a low wall and seat, fruit and vegetables, poetry lines encribed on paving etc., bat boxes, bug hotel and CCTV coverage. Funding could also be considered.

The Chair would also be meeting with James Heapey, MP and others to begin initial discussions on the former Tesco building, grants and funding and social housing development on Cranhill Road car park and land at Cemetery Lane. She would also ask if the MP would be holding any local surgeries in Street. The new Street Chamber of Commerce was planning an employment fair at Millfield.

37. PARISH PATH LIAISON OFFICER

Councillor Leyshon would thank the PPLO for his work on behalf of the Council and ask if he could clear the path by the football field at Smithfield Road.

38. MENDIP STRATEGIC TOURISM FORUM

There was nothing further to report.

39. CHAIR UPDATES

No reports were made.

40. CORRESPONDENCE/MINOR MATTERS

The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

A. that monthly councillor surgeries for 1 hour should start again in September – Health Connectors training would be useful for members

B. that approval be given to the application for a new premises licence for Premier Street Convenience Store, 80 High Street, Street

C. that provision of 4 digital boards should be considered and a grant of £8,000 be applied for towards these through SALC under the area of reconnecting people in the community – the Chair and 3 officers would review the Business Plan from Councillors Prior and Smith and then it would be submitted to the next meeting of the Council for consideration

D. that the grant application from Street Chamber of Commerce be supported in principle and more clarity and a business plan including figures, objectives and which businesses retail and other were keen to join be submitted to the next meeting

E. that 3 quotes be sought for 2 initial projects to improve the website, social media etc. for a maximum of £2,000 and the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair be given delegated authority to agree a quote – the projects to be reviewed in 3 months

F. that the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair be given approval to agree the necessary actions from the fire risk assessment report on the Parish Rooms and to carry these out within the set timescale.

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

County and District Councillor Napper reported that a fair had set up in the field by the Skate Park. M. Fitzgerald of Street Business Park had objected to this as it was part of proposals to expand the Business Park. The matter had been referred to the District Council regarding permissions.

County and District Councillor Leyshon reported that the small improvement scheme for Brooks Road would be revised and the dip in Glaston Road would be filled in. She would ask for an update on the list of highways requirements submitted for Street.

It was agreed that the additional grant of £5,000 previously agreed for the Crispin Community Centre should be paid as the recent meeting on plans had been satisfactory.

42. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The latest bank reconciliations for all accounts at 31<sup>st</sup> May, 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 May, 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 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2021 be noted and the schedule of receipts and payments for May be attached as Annex A to the minutes in the Minute Book in order to publish payments of £500 or more.

43. MATTERS FOR REPORT

Councillor Mogg reported that an increase in the use of electric scooters would be considered at the next PACT meeting.

44. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was not necessary to pass a resolution as no press or public were present.

45. GREENBANK POOL – GRANT

There was a need to clarify the plans and objectives for the Pool going forward. It was agreed to consider this at the next meeting.

46. CCTV IN PARISH ROOMS

The Assistant Clerk submitted a confidential report which had been circulated to members.

RESOLVED

that CID Fire and Security be engaged at a cost of £2,895.22 + VAT to provide the new CCTV system at the Parish Rooms as set out in the report.

47. REVIEW OF PHONE SYSTEM

The ACPO submitted a confidential report which had been circulated to members.

RESOLVED

that the system be upgraded to the BT Cloud Voice (subject to contract review) as set out in the report.

48. LIBRARY GARDEN

Initial negotiations had been made regarding improvement of the Library Garden in the short term. When this had been agreed it was proposed that the noticeboard and history board at the front of the Crispin Hall be moved up to Merriman Park.

The meeting ended at 10 p.m.

Councillors Drew and Leafe arrived at 7.05 p.m.

Councillor Birch left at 8.50 p.m.

Councillor Leafe left at 9.37 p.m.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_