STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held in the John Webster Room - main Library,

Street Parish Rooms on 19th October 2021 at 7.12 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor L. Wolfers (Chair of Council)

Councillors: P. Birch, R. Boyce, S. Carswell,

M. Daniells, D. Drew, D. Goater, J Howard, T.W.E. Napper, A. Prior, H. Shearer, N. Smith

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Ruff – Clerk/RFO

M. Sandiford - ACPO

County and District Councillor L. Leyshon

PCSO T. Richards – Street Beat Team

APOLOGIES: Councillors: D. Knibbs, A. Leafe, L. Mogg and

A. Sparkes - another engagement - reasons

accepted

128. MINUTES

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 13th October 2021 which had been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the addition of the following after ‘ It was

agreed to find out who owned the wall and consider other options.’ -

‘A number of members asked for a deferment but were told this could not be done.’

129. 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 declared an other interest under Appendix B in any

matters relating to the County Council and stated that he would keep an open mind when considering issues at County or Parish level.

Councillor Drew declared an interest in any matters relating to the Street Library as she was a member of the Friends of Street Library and did not vote on the decision made at Minute No. 135.

Councillors Birch, Howard and Smith declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to Greenbank Pool as they represented the Council on the Management Committee. Discussion on this was of a minor nature.

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Councillor Wolfers declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any

matters relating to Street Chamber of Commerce as she worked freelance for it. No such issues arose while she was present.

Councillors Boyce, Carswell and Daniells declared an other interest under Appendix B in Minute No. 138 as they represented the Council on the Merriman Park Community Group and did not vote on the decision made.

130. GREENBANK POOL

The Clerk explained that the Council had given a substantial grant to

the Pool Trust for many years. Members had been discussing lot of

ideas to make it more sustainable with the Trust for 2 years. The grant

request for 2022 had not yet been received.

Councillor Smith explained that lots of ideas had been put forward but

nothing had progressed. Councillors really wanted to work with the

Trust and needed it to be transparent about income streams, costs and

how the facility would be upgraded. Councillor Daniells explained that

a number of business plans had been put forward over the last 2 years

and details given of grants which the Trust could have applied for,

particularly during the pandemic. There was only so much the Council

could do as the trustees owned the Pool. The Trust needed to engage

with the Council and public. It was important that the Pool opened in

2022 and that there was a business plan to move forward so that a bad

situation was not created due to a lack of investment. The meeting

was adjourned from 7.25 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. to allow R. Clark to speak.

RESOLVED

that the Pool Trust be asked to hold a public meeting in the next few

weeks with the Council’s representatives on the Management

Committee being present together with others on the Trust to explain

what would happen going forward – members and public to put forward

specific questions before the meeting so that the Trust had time to

consider them.

131. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

PCSO Richards gave the Council his monthly report. The next Meet

The Team meeting would be on 18th November at the YMCA foyer.

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Councillor Napper raised the problem of graffiti on cabinets at The

Mead, bikes being ridden at speed on the pavement in the High Street

and people sleeping overnight in vehicles parked around Merriman

Park. The Police had not received any reports or complaints about

parked vehicles being lived in and this should be reported as evidence

although it would be difficult to take action if the vehicles were taxed,

insured and legally parked.

132. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 21st September were

submitted as circulated.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

133. MATTERS ARISING AND ASSISTANCE FOR VULNERABLE

The report from County and District Councillor Leyshon was submitted as circulated. Millfield were still planning what they would do for Christmas. The situation could be reviewed after Christmas to see what donations had been received by the organisations and how much energy prices etc. had risen.

The Chair, Councillor Wolfers left the meeting at 8.05 p.m. and the Vice

Chair, Councillor Prior took the Chair. The meeting was adjourned from 8.11 p.m. to 8.18 p.m. to allow R. Clark to speak.

District Councillor Leyshon explained that if the Council made it clear that land etc. was to be used for a specific community facility such as a

pump track and would stay that way for 25 – 50 years this would preclude a default to the economic value. The Clerk had received plans of the 3 areas to be checked. She explained that other options such as paying for an enhanced service rather than taking over an asset entirely could be discussed. She also explained that planning consent would be needed for a pump track etc. and the difficulties in gaining consent for the Skate Park due to its proximity to one house on the other side of a very busy and noisy road.

Councillor Smith proposed that the amounts set out in the Street Community Support Plan Winter 2021/22 for the organisations listed be paid monthly for 6 months with a break clause after 3 months, and a review in December to decide whether to go on in January 2022. This

was seconded by Councillor Shearer and members requested that the way in which they voted be recorded and this was as follows:

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Members Voting For Motion Members Voting Against Motion

Cllr. Birch None

Cllr. Boyce

Cllr. Carswell

Cllr. Daniells

Cllr. Drew

Cllr. Goater

Cllr. Howard

Cllr. Napper

Cllr. Shearer

Cllr. Smith

Cllr. Wolfers

Councillor Prior abstained from voting. The motion was duly carried.

RESOLVED

A. that an extraordinary Council meeting be held at 6 p.m. on 11th

November to consider possible transfer of assets and other matters

with R. Clark in attendance for discussion on Woods Batch

B. that prior to the meeting on 11th November councillors would meet

to draw up questions including those for R. Clark on Woods Batch and

clarification be gained on what could be done at each of the parks and

any limitations.

134. HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP

The notes of the meeting on 30th September had been circulated.

Councillor Smith was willing to set up a community speed watch but at

least one other person was needed to do this.

RESOLVED

that the report be agreed.

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135. LIBRARY WORKING GROUP

The notes of the meeting on 12th October had been circulated. It was

felt that the Parish Council could trigger a break clause if all 3 parties

did not agree on a proposal and the Clerk would check this. The

meeting was adjourned from 8.27 p.m. to 8.29 p.m. to allow R. Clark to

speak. Councillor Drew explained that quite a few factors were not

certain such as the repairs for the 1924 building and changes due to

the new unitary authority. She felt it was important to keep an open

discussion over the next couple of years. Councillor Leyshon reported

that the County Council did not expect any change in the position

regarding libraries prior to Vesting Day on 1st April 2023.

RESOLVED

that the recommendations be agreed with the addition of the words ‘if

necessary’ at the end of recommendation D regarding the break

clause.

136. CULTURE WORKING GROUP

The notes of the meetings on 28th September and 12th October had

been circulated. It was agreed that GFM should contact the District

Council regarding pop up music at the weekly market. Councillor

Shearer explained that a proposal would be drawn up for the Council

to consider regarding the setting up of an umbrella association to stage

events, working with the Council and other organisations.

RESOLVED

that the reports be agreed and the Council to have a stall at the EATS

event on 20th November to engage with people on something to be

decided – a rota to be agreed for members to man the stall

137. BUSINESS ACTION GROUP

Councillor Prior reported that 4 digital boards would be placed within

Clarks Village and a small group would meet that company soon to

discuss how different models might work for the Council. The Group

would discuss digital boards on 4th November and the Clerk’s business

plan would be updated. There would then be an informal meeting of

the Council to discuss the project.

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The ACPO reported on a meeting with Truespeed and that by May

2022 residents should be connected. The company was offering to

sponsor community events and this would be publicised on the website

and social media. The Council wished to record the credit due to

former Councillor P. Goater who had contacted Truespeed initially

which had been important in getting them to come to Street a bit

sooner.

Councillor Napper asked if the owners of the former Tesco building

were paying rates and was reminded that this was a matter for the

District Council of which he was a member.

138. WAR MEMORIAL IN MERRIMAN PARK

No public or press were present and it was agreed that this item could

be taken as a non confidential item. The confidential report of the

ACPO had been circulated to members. He had carried out a risk

assessment as recommended by the Council’s insurers which had

been circulated to members. The Council needed to decide what

action was appropriate.

RESOLVED

that the ACPO should explore an aesthetically pleasing fence around

the memorial as some form of barrier, no more than 700mm in height

with an access gate for authorised persons and report back with 3

quotes – there would also be a notice and an interpretation board -

the notice and orange temporary fencing to remain in place until a more

permanent solution had been agreed and provided.

139. REPORT FROM CHAIR

On behalf of the Chair the Clerk informed members that a copy of the

standing orders had been re-issued for reference. She encouraged

those who had not already done so to arrange their one to one session

with herself and the Clerk. Landsec would start improving the garden

area at the side of the Parish Rooms on 4th November.

140. PARISH PATH LIAISON OFFICER

Councillor Leyshon reported that she had not seen the PPLO recently.

It was felt that other members should assist with this work. The Clerk

reported that as necessary a contractor could be engaged to clear

paths. If planting was planned some greenery could be included to

make compostible Remembrance wreaths for future years. Timberland

Millfield and the College carried out litter picks at times and might assist

the PPLO.

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It was suggested that the fir tree to be removed from the open area in

Merriman Park be transferred to the large planter by the Parish Rooms

to grow there and save on the cost of having a new cut tree each year.

The root system might not be good enough for this but it would be

Investigated.

141. MENDIP STRATEGIC TOURISM FORUM

It was agreed to publicise the need for a champion to set up a

Walkers Are Welcome scheme in Street on Facebook, in the Library etc. as there were a number of local walking groups which might be interested in this initiative.

142. CHAIR UPDATES

There were no updates.

143. CORRESPONDENCE/MINOR MATTERS

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

that the Friends of the Library would grant £400 towards the costs of

the blinds for the ground floor.

RESOLVED

that the report be agreed with the tourism grant application to the

District Council being changed to be for the refurbishment and updating

of the 4 finger posts and if the grant was not given, to report back.

144. REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

No further reports to be made.

145. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The latest bank reconciliations for all accounts at 30th September, 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 September, 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 30th September, 2021 be noted and the schedule of receipts

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

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

146. MATTERS FOR REPORT

The Clerk had circulated information regarding the former Tesco

building and a rewilding event. As previously agreed colour copies of

the 3 logo designs were circulated. It was agreed that Fontology be

asked to come back before the November meeting with 3 new ideas

which members could consult some people on to gauge their reaction –

1 logo with an icythyosaurus similar to the existing ones and blocked in

with shapes and 2 others perhaps 1 based around the new banner

designs – all to be colourful with a less staid font.

Councillor Smith thanked members who had agreed to be part of the

mentoring scheme which she and Councillor Drew were organising with

the YMCA.

The meeting ended at 10 p.m.

Councillor Wolfers left the meeting at 8.05 pm

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

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