

Mrs. L.A. Ruff, Clerk of the Council, Street Parish Rooms, 6 Leigh Road, Street, Somerset BA16 0HA Tel. (01458) 440588

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**13th January 2022**  **PLEASE NOTE DATE TIME VENUE**

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the Street Parish Council which will

be held in **Room 6, Crispin Community Centre, Leigh Road, Street**  **on TUESDAY, 18TH JANUARY, 2022** for the purpose of transacting the business specified in the following agenda. **In accordance with Standing Order 1 t a councillor shall speak only in relation to the motion under discussion and shall not exceed 3 minutes without the consent of the Chair (excluding motions moved under 1 r).**

Public Question Time will commence at approximately **6.55 p.m**. The Chair will allow each person who has registered with the Clerk to speak for up to 3 minutes on any subject/s and will firstly explain the procedures for the meeting. The Council meeting will commence at approximately **7 p.m**. or as soon as Public Question Time is closed by the Chair. Notes of Public Question Time on 7th December 2021 are attached – **Page 4.** Numbers may be restricted in accordance with Covid guidance at the time. All attendees except children under 16 years may be required to check in by scanning the NHS QR code poster or providing their name and number. Current rules must be adhered to including, if relevant, social distancing, wearing a mask and hand sanitizing. Anyone experiencing Covid symptoms must not attend. It may be necessary to invite people in to the meeting in several sessions to keep within permitted numbers. Alternatively residents are encouraged to make written representations on issues rather than attending in person – contact details above.

In accordance with standing orders 7 c and d, a member with a disclosable pecuniary interest must leave the meeting and be placed in the waiting room during the relevant item of business, unless permitted to remain following the grant of a dispensation. Councillors with an interest in relation to any item of business being transacted at a meeting under Appendix B (Other Interests) or where a matter relates to a financial interest of a friend, relative or close associate, may (i) make representations, (ii) answer questions and (iii) give evidence relating to the business being transacted but must thereafter leave the meeting and be placed in the waiting room, unless permitted to remain following the grant of a dispensation. At a convenient time the Chair will also give this opportunity to any members of the public who have registered to speak with the Clerk prior to the meeting.

Yours faithfully,

****

L.A. Ruff

Clerk of the Council

**AGENDA**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - acceptance of any reasons offered.

2. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 11th January 2022 (attached) **Pages 5 – 9**

3. MATTERS ARISING

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4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on agenda items and to

receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests

(if any). Clerk to grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.

5. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

6. PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive and note minutes of the meeting held on 7th December (attached) **Page 10** The Mendip Local Plan Part II 2006 – 2029 was adopted by the District

Council on 20th December and forms part of the development plan for the Mendip

district.

7.PARISH OR TOWN STATUS

To consider the report of the Clerk (attached) **Page 11**

8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 amended

by the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, it is probable that

a resolution will be passed at the meeting to exclude the press and public for item

no. 9, 10 and 11 as they involve confidential staffing and quotation information.

9. INFORMAL STAFFING COMMITTEE

To receive confidential notes of an informal meeting held on Zoom on 12th January

and consider recommendations (attached for members only) **Pages 12 – 13** and to

appoint the Chair to serve on this Committee.

10. REFURBISHING FINGERPOST SIGNS

To receive the Confidential report from the Assistant Clerk (attached for members

only) **Pages 14 - 16**

11. QUOTES FOR WAR MEMORIAL RAILINGS

To receive the Confidential report from the ACPO (attached for members only)

**Pages 17 - 18**

12. HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP

To receive notes of meeting on 13th January (to follow) **Pages 19 – 20**

13. COMMUNITY AND WELL BEING WORKING GROUP

To receive a verbal report of meeting on 17th January

14. BUSINESS ACTION GROUP

To receive notes of the meeting on 6th January (attached) **Pages 21 - 24**

15. REPORT FROM CHAIR

16. PARISH PATH LIAISON OFFICER – County Cllr. Leyshon to give a verbal

report on behalf of PPLO Jake Dalton.

17. MENDIP STRATEGIC TOURISM GROUP

18. CHAIR UPDATES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS

19. CORRESPONDENCE/MINOR MATTERS (attached) **Pages 25 - 27**

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20. REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

AND COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Questions to be noted for written replies and matters for consideration

referred to the appropriate working group. All reports received have been

emailed to members.

21. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT (schedule of December payments attached for

approval and initialing by Chair) and confidential detailed income and expenditure by account report at 31st December 2021 including budget variance – emailed to members only with bank reconciliations and earmarked reserves

schedule. **Page 28 + Confidential attachment for members only**

22. MATTERS FOR REPORT

Consideration of items not on agenda for information only

(a) Report from Clerk

(b) Matters raised by members - TO BE NOTIFIED TO THE CLERK IN

ADVANCE OF MEETING.

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To: Chair and Members of Street Parish Council

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NOTES OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME HELD BEFORE

COUNCIL MEETING ON 7TH DECEMBER, 2021

The Chair read out a statement explaining that as far as the Council was aware Greenbank Pool would open in April 2022, subject to Covid restrictions, under much the same system as previously. No grant request for 2022 had been submitted to date and this was not an item on the agenda. Volunteers were needed to help make the Pool sustainable for the future.

One resident asked the Council to co-ordinate a public meeting attended by its representatives on the Pool Management Committee where the Trust could clarify the position with regard to opening in 2022, season tickets etc. He also asked that a condition of any further grant be that Street residents be given a discount on season tickets. The Assistant Clerk then read out statements on this issue from 4 residents. A petition asking for the Pool to remain fully accessible for local people and signed by 6 residents was handed in at the end of the meeting and then circulated to members. Councillor Carswell suggested that the Council should write to the Trust stating that the public felt strongly about the need for a public meeting or a written statement setting out the plans for 2022 which could be displayed on the Council’s website. This would be agreed during the Council meeting so that it was minuted.

A resident asked the Highways Group to see if the 30 mph sign in Vestry Road was correct. She attended the Knit and Knatter sessions which were very good.

Councillor Napper would contact the Clerk and Councillor Shearer regarding undergrowth which needed to be cleared at Torlon Grove and a lighting problem there.

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STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held in Room 6, Crispin Community Centre on 11th January 2022 at 6:00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor L. Wolfers (Chair of Council)

Councillors: R. Boyce, J. Howard, L. Mogg, T.W.E. Napper, A. Prior, H. Shearer, N. Smith

Councillor S Carswell arrived at 7:52 pm

Councillor D Knibbs arrived at 7:58 pm

IN ATTENDANCE: J. Marshfield – Assistant Clerk

M. Sandiford – Assistant Clerk and Projects Officer

County and District Councillor L. Leyshon

J Minshull - Artist

APOLOGIES Councillors: Birch, Drew, Goater,

Leafe and Sparkes - another engagement –

reasons accepted

188. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2021 which had been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

189. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillors 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 Mogg declared an other interest in item 7 on the agenda -Planning Application no. 2021/2637/FUL erection of 33 affordable homes with associated access, parking and landscaping land at 347350 137003 Cemetery Lane, street for Aster Group as he lives near the proposed development and left the meeting at 7:40 pm and returned at 8:08 pm after the Council’s decision was made.

Councillor Wolfers declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any

matters relating to Street Chamber of Commerce as she worked freelance for it.

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Councillor Howard declared an other interest under Appendix B in any

matters relating to the Crispin Hall as she was a trustee.

190. PRESENTATION – ARTIST JONATHAN MINSHULL

The confidential report of the Clerk had been circulated. There was no need to agree to exclude the press and public as none were present. Jonathan informed the Council that the 4 murals for the back wall of the library gardens will revamp the library garden area and displayed a visual board of how the wall will look once completed. Jonathan’s vision is for the panels to look like an outdoor art gallery and the 8 ft x 4 ft Marine ply panel boards will enable this. Each panel will have a have a 2-inch boarder and be sealed with sever layers of lacquer. The lacquer will help prevent graffiti. Once the panels size has been decided the composition of the artwork can be determined. Once the library wall renovations have been completed the 4 murals panels would be installed.

RESOLVED

A. That Jonathan Minshull be commissioned to produce 4 murals for the back wall of the library gardens along with the background wall and pillar section painted in a tromp l’oeil style at a cost of £4000 using the

funding from the Creative Mendip grant

B. That the Clerk or Assistant Clerk in consultation with the Chair be given delegated power to agree details and to apply for a grant from the Clark Foundation for around £1,587 to cover the costs of securely fixing the 4 panels to the wall, covering the entire area with a protective lacquer and possibly some cost of larger panels if used – it was noted that if the application was not successful the cost would be met by the Council under the approval agreed in July 2021 of up to £5,000.

The meeting was closed at 6:45 pm for a short break and reopen at 6:50 pm

191. WORKS AT STREET SKATE PARK

A confidential report on the proposed works at the Skate Park from the ACPO had been circulated.

Councillor Daniells commented that there had been more antisocial behavior within Merriman Park over the past year and suggested that CCTV would be more beneficial here rather than the Skate Park.

Councillor Howard suggested adding further signage to the Skate Park asking users to take more responsibility for their actions.

Councillor Napper suggested that reducing the height of the hedge may be a deterrent for anti-social behavior.

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RESOLVED

A. that the proposed works to the damaged ramp at the Skate Park be carried out and to monitor any further antisocial behavior with further quotes sought to dig out the existing damaged ramp area 10 metres x 3.5 metres and relay a new concreate area with polished finish to match the existing ramp

B. that CCTV should not be provided at present.

192. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 2021/2637/FUL ERECTION OF 33 AFFORDABLE HOMES WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS, PARKING AND LANDSCAPING LAND AT 347350 137003 CEMETERY LANE, STREET FOR ASTER GROUP

County councillor Leyshon explained that Mendip District Council estimate the capacity of Street Cemetery will be full within 11 years and that new cemeteries do not need to be placed near an original burial site. The land that had been offered to MDC from a local landowner is not suitable as there are electricity cables overhead and the only access to the land would be through Morland Road. County Councillor Leyshon expressed concern that there is a social housing crisis within the area and this piece of land has been within MDC’s Local Plan Part 2 for many years.

Councillor Daniells thought that the timing of this planning application submission has been underhanded by Mendip.

Councillor Napper suggested that the application should be re submitted as the plans have changed.

Councillor Shearer informed the Council that she would not be voting on this matter as she is on the Cabinet at MDC addressing commercial development of land use. She encouraged Councillors and residents to make a representation at the MDC Planning Board and will inform Councillors of the next meeting date. Councillor Shearer left the meeting at 7:58 pm and returned at 8:08 pm

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Councillor Wolfers proposed that the application be refused and the following recommendation be sent to Mendip District Council Consultation Responses and this was seconded by Councillor Daniells -

Street Parish Council understand the need for Social Housing within our area, however, we recommend that planning application 2021/2637/FUL be refused for the following reasons: -

* The plans have changed fundamentally
* The access and egress of the site along Portland Road along with the increased traffic generation to the main A39 Westway bypass will impact on residential and public safety.
* The loss of ecological habitats within the site and surrounding areas
* Confirmation of a future burial site within Street

Councillor Napper asked for the way in which members voted to be recorded and the voting was –

Members Voting For Motion Members Voting Against Motion

Cllr.Boyce Cllr. Carswell

Cllr Daniells Cllr. Howard

Cllr Napper

Cllr Prior

Cllr. Smith

Cllr. Wolfers

The motion was carried by 6 votes to 2 votes.

193. BOND WITH MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Council were informed that the £20,000 Bond held by the District Council until the war memorial in Merriman Park was moved, has still not been repaid.

ACPO Mark Sandiford gave a quick update on what the Bond was for

RESOLVED

That Councillor Carswell contact Julie Reader Sullivan at MDC to question when the £20,000 Bond will be returned to Street Parish Council and to report back at the next Council meeting.

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194. MATTERS FOR REPORT

The Assistant Clerk informed the Council that the Public Space Protection Order signage date need to be changed. MDC to issue sticky labels that can be placed on the original PSPO signage.

Councillor Wolfers informed the Council that a resident meeting to discuss Greenbank Pool will be held at the Bear Hotel on Wednesday 26th January at 6:30 pm and all are welcome to attend. Councillor Wolfers is working with County Councillor Leyshon and resident Mr Tim Rice to form a group Friends of Greenbank.

RESOLVED

That SLH Services be asked for a quote to attach the labels the Street PSPO signage.

The meeting ended at 8:16 p.m.

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STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Planning Committee held in Room 6 of the Community Centre, Leigh Road, Street on 7th December 2021 at 6:30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors D Knibbs- Chair, P Birch, L Mogg T Napper,

L Wolfers.

APOLOGIES: Councillor. A Leafe

IN ATTENDANCE: J Marshfield – Assistant Clerk

24. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2021 which had been

circulated, were approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chair.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Birch declared an interest in planning application 2021/2498/FUL as she knows the applicant and refrained from voting on this application.

26. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Assistant Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

2021/2568/LBC Installation of handrail to main entrance steps at 36 High Street, Street – APPROVAL

2021/2593/FUL Change of use from retail (Class A1/E) and 4-bedroom maisonette to 2no 1-bedroom dwellings and 1no 2-bedroom dwelling at 159 High Street – REFUSAL – inadequate parking for the number of units.

2021/2498/FUL Change of use of 620.97square metres from agricultural to agricultural and storage use, change of use of 1,851.27 square metres from agricultural to storage use and siting of 77 shipping containers for storage use (part retrospective), upgrading of access & erection of 3-metre-high gated security fence at Brue Farm Hulkmoor Drove Street - REFUSAL- Concerns with access and highways safety. Design and appearance of 3m high security fencing - impact on public visual amenity. Suggest Hedging/landscaping around all of the perimeter fencing

NOTE - 0 new units approved – 1 since May 2021.

The meeting ended at 6:40 pm.

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AGENDA ITEM NO: 7

To: Council

From: Clerk

Subject: Parish or Town Status

Cllr. Wolfers has attended a number of different events as the Chair of the Council over the past 8 months and has been able to network with many other Chairs, Mayors and representatives of other community organisations. She recently met Cllr. Mark Keating, Acting Chair of Somerset County Council and discussed whether Street with a population of around 14,000 should have a Chair or a Mayor even if the Council remained as a Parish Council.

SALC have confirmed that the Council can decide whether to be a parish or a town council. With a town council the chair is entitled to use the title Town Mayor and the Vice Chair can use Deputy Town Mayor. The decision rests with the post holder. There are many town councils that have no tradition of the chair adopting the title of town mayor – Castle Cary, Somerton and Shepton Mallet all have town councils with a chair and the term mayor is not used. If the Council was minded to make this change it would be good practice to consult the local community first.

The Council could be called a community, neighbourhood or village council but SALC agrees that there is nothing to gain from this and it may well cause confusion.

L.A. Ruff

Clerk

18.01.22

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AGENDA ITEM NO: 14

**NOTES OF BUSINESS ACTION GROUP**

**Date:** 6 January 2022

**Attendees:** **Street Parish Council**

Cllr. Alan Prior (AP) Cllr Mike Daniells (MD) Cllr. Luke Mogg (LM) Cllr. Terry Napper (TN) Cllr. Nicola Smith (NS) Cllr. Pam Birch (PB) Cllr. Simon Carswell (SC)

Mark Sandiford (MS) ACPO

**Apologies:** Cllr. Deb Knibbs (DK)

**Absences:** Laura Wolfers (LW)

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| --- | --- |
| **Notes** | **Actions** |
| **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  Cllr Knibbs |  |
| **2. NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2nd DECEMBER 2021**  Circulated prior to meeting |  |
| **3. TRUESPEED UPDATE**  MS reported on the meeting that took place at 3:30pm, immediately before the BAG meeting.  The meeting was attended by MS, AP, MD, LM, TN, PB, SC and Jo Butt (Town Manager – Truespeed)  Unfortunately, Jo didn’t have the meeting in her calendar, so was understandably unprepared. However, Jo did confirm that installation was going well, and they were still on target to start connections by April. MS will send a further invite to ensure both Jo Mark Comer (Project Manager- Truespeed) were prepared for future meetings.  Jo confirmed that Truespeed have now received a £100m investment from Aviva, so will be able to accelerate progress into other areas.  In the next 3 or 4 weeks Jo will be sending invites to the network walk event, due to take place in March. This is a 20-minute walk around street, stopping at main sites of interest.  At the request of some members, Jo will forward a link to details of the available contracts on offer and associated monthly costs.  - 21 -  After Jo had left the meeting, some members raised concerns over the state of some pavements following cable installation. This will be monitored and any particular areas of concerns will be raised at the next meeting. | MS  Jo |
| **4. DIGITAL NOTICEBOARDS**  NS confirmed that she was still passionate about the project and had been communicating with DMD with regards to the possibility of having a single screen, financed by DMD, in exchange for the majority, if not all, of the advertising revenue, but where SPC would have media space for community engagement.  Although there was general disappointment within the group that the project is being scaled down to such a degree, the consensus was that one fully interactive screen, probably located on the wall of the Parish Rooms (although attached to the Clock in the High Street was also suggested), would satisfy the objective of improving public engagement, and allow community groups to advertise.  Opinions were expressed within the group that the Council Officers were not in favour of the project, and therefore had been unsupportive.  When asked if planning would be required, MS confirmed it would, as the screen would be located within a conservation area, however, LM expressed the opinion that planning would not be an issue, and TN confirmed that a precedent had been set as Glastonbury already had a screen.  MD did express loss of enthusiasm for the project once it was discovered the boards could not be used to support local businesses, and therefore would prefer a solution that allowed the council to have full control of the content. However, NS expressed concerns with this solution, as it would require resource to manage the content.  NS will continue to communicate with DMD, and hopefully a proposal could be considered at the February council meeting. | NS |
| **6. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE**  Members were keen to receive and update on the progress, following payment of the grant. Unfortunately, LW was not present at the meeting to provide an update. |  |
| - 22 -  **7. INCOME GENERATION FOR STREET**  There was an agreement that SPC should look to generate income and be more self-sufficient, particularly considering the potential impact that the new unitary council.  TN confirmed that most grants currently come from MDC, however in future they will come from the new Somerset Council and cannot say how that will progress.  PB confirmed that she is arranging a meeting with James Heappey to express concerns that Street has not benefitted from grants in the same as other towns have.  Discussion ensued around how other councils generate income. NS believes it is actively encouraged in Wales, while SC confirmed that investment in commercial property was popular, but less encouraged now due to the effects of the pandemic and the increased cost of borrowing money. SC confirmed that Frome have invested in Saxondale, the housing and commercial development, whilst Bristol City had invested in an energy company, which has not gone well in the current climate.  LM suggested projects such as a charity shop where profits are used to benefit the local community, and MD expressed the opinion that SPC should look at more ambitious projects to generate greater income that will make a real difference. |  |
| **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – INCREASING COUNCIL EFFICIENCY/PRODCTIVITY**  Following discussions of projects and income generation, AP made the point that SPC are constrained in what it can achieve by lack of resource, namely staff.  Various solutions were offered for this - freelancers, apprentices, and volunteers, rather than just employing more staff and thus increasing fixed costs.  MS expressed the opinion that additional resources alone will not make the council more effective. SPC also need clarity on the vision/purpose, objectives & priorities of the council. Everyone at the meeting agreed with this, with AP confirming he made this point several years ago, MD believing that the staffing structure should reflect the current needs of the council, and NS stating that any plan also needs to include infrastructure.  - 23 -  LM believes that the number of projects should be scaled back, so that the council can focus on what it is important, and also believes that the increased number of councillors is also an issue, as 16 councillors expressing their own opinions can also slow progress.  Members agreed that the council should work together and leave political opinions out of local council. |  |
| **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  The next meeting is scheduled for 4pm on 3rd February 2022. | All |

Notes produced by:

**Mark Sandiford, Assistant Clerk & Projects Officer**

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AGENDA ITEM NO: 19

To: Council

From: Clerk

Subject: Correspondence/Minor Issues

1. Guest Speaker – Annual Parish Meeting March 2022

To agree a guest speaker.

2. Council Tax Base for 2022/23

On 20th December 2021 Mendip District Council agreed the council tax bases for 2022/23 and for Street this will be 3794.31. The precept will be £580,000 and the tax on a Band D property will be £152.86 (previously estimated at £152.29 using the tax base from 2021/22 of 3808.45).

3. Fir Tree at Merriman Park

It was agreed to move the fir tree from the edge of the large grassed area in the Park, possibly to the large planter by the Parish Rooms. Advice from a tree expert is that the tree is unlikely to survive if moved and thus it would be better to save this cost and dispose of it.

4. Play Equipment at Merriman

**From:**  Assistant Clerk & Projects Officer

**Subject:** **Vandalised Play Equipment – Merriman Park**

Following an act of vandalism in April 2021, the Time Tracker Rotor was replaced in April 2021, at a cost of £478.41.

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Unfortunately, the same piece of equipment was targeted again in December and has subsequently been removed for safety reasons.

The council could look to replace the equipment, but there is a high probability that the clear plastic tracker could again be damaged.

Alternatively, the entire panel could be replaced with something more robust, such as a Slide a Puzzle or Noughts and Crosses board, as illustrated below:

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The cost of the alternative equipment is £1,776 or £1,731.60 respectively.

A picture containing ground, outdoor, blue, outdoor object

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A further option would be to leave the existing board in place, without the tracker.

Lee Constable, from County Play Inspections, has confirmed that this would not pose any entrapment hazard.

**Recommendation**

Due to the risk of further vandalism if a plastic tracker is installed, and the cost of alternative equipment, it is recommended to simply leave the existing board in place.

**Mark Sandiford**

**ACPO**

L.A. Ruff

Parish Clerk

18.01.22

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AGENDA ITEM NO: 21

To: Council

From: Clerk

Subject: Accounts for Payment

The latest bank reconciliations for all accounts at 31st December 2021 have been prepared successfully and sent to all members with the monthly income and expenditure by account report and earmarked reserves. Each reconciliation and original bank statement will be signed by Councillor Prior as part of the quarterly check of accounts and Councillors Carswell, Daniells and Mogg are doing an online check.

Receipts and, payments to be authorised, for December are detailed on the attached pages and will appear as an annex to the minutes.

L.A. Ruff

Clerk

18.01.22

Approved by Council on 18th January 2022 and initialled by Chair:

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