STREET PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council held in Room 6, Crispin Community Centre on

12th April 2022 at 7.25 p.m.

 PRESENT: Councillor L. Wolfers (Chair of Council)

Councillors: P. Birch, D. Drew, D. Goater, P. Goater,

 J. Howard, D. Knibbs, A. Leafe, T.W.E. Napper, A. Prior,

 H. Shearer, N. Smith and A. Sparkes

 IN ATTENDANCE: L. Ruff – Clerk/RFO

 PC M. Pople – Street Beat Team

 County and District Councillor L. Leyshon

APOLOGIES Councillors: R. Boyce, S. Carswell and M. Daniells – another

 engagement – reasons accepted.

259. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2022 which had been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair and the following was ratified -

Minute No. 247 – second sentence to be altered to read ‘It was noted that a 1 year

Extension with Blachere had been recommended for the Christmas illuminations for the High Street and Parish Rooms and this was agreed.’

Minute No. 258 – replacement of Councillor Napper with Councillor Knibbs on the

Victoria Field Charity Committee.

260. MATTERS ARISING

 Councillor Napper referred to the notes of public question time on 15th March and

 was unhappy that the College would not provide a venue for the fair as previously

 discussed to come to Street in May. It was agreed to ask the College again to assist

 the community by allowing the fair to use the overflow car park for the proposed

 week in May when most students would have left and it would be empty.

261. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillors 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.

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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. He also declared an other interest

under Appendix B in Street Football Club.

Councillor Howard declared an other interest under Appendix B in any

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

Councillor Drew declared an interest in any matters relating to the Street Library as she was a member of the Friends of Street Library.

Councillor Wolfers declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any

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

262. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

 PC Pople gave his report and informed members that another fire had been lit at

 the Skate Park that day causing more damage to the concrete surfacing.

 It was agreed to leave replacing the damaged ramp until steel fencing replaced the

 wood fence at McDonalds and to look at solutions to deal with anti social behaviour.

 PC Pople agreed that CCTV surveillance was not the perfect solution.

 There was speeding all around Street. Councillor Shearer had arranged for the

 Walton Community Speed Watch to contact Councillors Smith and Sparkes.

 PC Pople would monitor parking on the corners of Harvester Drive and that area and

 Councillor Napper would try to get the zig zag lines there repainted.

263. PLANNING COMMITTEE

 The notes of the informal meeting on 16th  March, 2022 were submitted as

circulated.

RESOLVED

that the report be agreed.

264. INTERNAL AUDIT AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

 The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated. Details of the independence

 of Probusiness Ltd. from the Council, it’s skills and experience in internal audit and

 that the payroll function was completely separate to the internal audit function were

 contained in the report.

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 RESOLVED

 A. that the report be agreed including the terms of reference for the Internal

 Auditor

 B. that Probusiness Ltd. be engaged to carry out the internal audit for the years

 Ended 31st March 2023 and 2024 for a maximum fee of £625 + VAT and to carry

 out the payroll function and file the annual PAYE return online for a fee of around

 £34 + VAT per month for 3 employees or more to 31st March 2024 – the payroll fee

 would rise if there was a change in statutory requirements

 C. that the Council did not consider that any events had occurred during the

 financial year or after the year end which had or could have consequences on it’s

 finances.

265. TASK AND FINISH GROUP – SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE

 The Clerk reported on the matter as set out in the agenda.

 RESOLVED

 that a meeting date is agreed at the annual Council meeting on 17th May for the

 Policy and Finance Committee to consider the grant applications and make final

 recommendations to Council.

266. FIRE SAFETY AT PARISH ROOMS

 The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

 RESOLVED

 that the report be agreed.

267. NEW TREES FOR MERRIMAN PARK

 The report of the Assistant Clerk was submitted as circulated. Councillor Napper to

 send details of trees which had died at Middle Brooks and of the green area at

 Blenheim Road where more could be planted. The District Council had a plan for

 tree planting which might include these sites. Councillor Drew hoped that there

 could be a scheme as in other places where families could gift a tree and/or

 maintenance of it in memory of a loved one.

 RESOLVED

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 that the Park designer be asked to provide a plan diagram showing existing trees,

 where new trees could surround the war memorial without being too close to it to

 affect the roots and keeping the wide grass space as this was the reason for moving

 the memorial and the type of new trees to be planted.

268. BUSINESS ACTION GROUP

 Councillor Prior reported that the contact at Truespeed had left the company.

269. REPORT FROM CHAIR

 The Chair offered to organise the Chair’s Investiture with awards although it had

 been agreed in February not to hold the event. Most members and the Clerk felt

 that due to staff shortage and timescales it was not possible to have the event for

 some months. The Chair and Councillor Smith were willing to organise an event if

 one other member would join with them. The Clerk would report at the annual

 meeting on the consequences of the loss of the general power of competence as

 at least two thirds of councillors would not have stood for election.

 It was agreed to organise an official unveiling of the new murals on the Library

 Garden wall at 11 a.m. on Saturday 14th May and to have a microphone for the

 Chair and artist to make speeches, send out invitations to the community, Mendip

District Council and press. Leaflets to be given out on the day explaining all about

the project and information and photos to be uploaded to the website.

The Chair had arranged for a person that she knew to provide a new backing for the

Chair’s chain of office with an attachment at the back for badges of the names of

previous Chairs. These could be gradually added on to spread the cost. It was

agreed to thank the person for this work and to add details of the past Chairs to the

website.

Members were invited to the Parish Rooms from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on 28th April

for coffee and cakes to say farewell to the Assistant Clerk, Jenny Marshfield who

was retiring. Members were also arranging an evening meal.

The Council wished to record a huge message of thanks and deep gratitude to

Jenny Marshfield for all her marvellous work with the Council over more than 6 years.

270. PARISH PATH LIAISON OFFICER

 County and District Councillor Leyshon was not present so there was no report.

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271. MENDIP STRATEGIC TOURISM GROUP

 No report was made.

272. CORRESPONDENCE/MINOR MATTERS

 The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

 1. List Entry Amended – Street War Memorial in Merriman Park

 RESOLVED

 that the amendment of List Entry No. 1455731 by Historic England to the new

 location of the war memorial within Merriman Park be noted and that this was

 shown on the accompanying plans as a small blue dot.

 2. Changes to Crossing at Farm Road

 RESOLVED

 that all options be explored through consultation with the College, Crispin School,

 Youth Club etc. on the preferred way/s to show support for all sections of the

 community including LGBTQ+.

273. STAFFING MATTERS

 The confidential report of the Clerk was submitted as circulated to members only.

 The Clerk left the meeting for this item. Councillor Shearer reported on the recent

 appointment of the new Deputy Clerk/RFO and on recruitment of an Assistant

 Clerk.

 RESOLVED

 that the report be agreed with annual leave and time off in lieu due to the Assistant

 Clerk and annual leave for 2021/22 due to the Clerk being paid to them.

274. REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND

 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

 The Clerk read out the report of County and District Councillor Leyshon.

 Councillor Shearer reported that 2 NHS Trusts would be merging and the District

 Council was appointing an officer to deal with anti social behaviour.

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 Councillor Drew was informed that the first floor of the Parish Rooms could be

 used by the Friends of the Library for children’s activities on a Saturday.

275. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

 The latest bank reconciliations for all accounts at 31st March 2022 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

 March, 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 31st March 2022

 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.

276. MATTERS FOR REPORT

 The Clerk reported on a request from Somerset Archives and Local Studies Service

 for a snapshot of the parish in the Platinum Jubilee Year. It was agreed that

 information on the new murals etc. be submitted together with an idea from

 Councillor Drew.

 The Chair reminded members of the Code of Conduct and the need to act in a proper

 manner at meetings.

 Councillor Smith asked how much it cost to open the Library each day and the Clerk

 explained that it was difficult to quantify this eg. as energy was provided for other

 users of the building including Council staff. The offices and Library were running

 very well together and discussions were ongoing regarding the eventual move back

 of the Library to the 1924 building.

 The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.

 Councillor Birch left at 8.10 p.m.

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

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