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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