

STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held in Room 6, Crispin Community Centre on 21st June 2022 at 7.05 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor L. Wolfers (Chair of Council)
Councillors: D. Goater, P. Goater, N Kellett, B Knickerbocker, A. Leafe, T Napper, H. Shearer and A. Sparkes

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Ruff – Clerk/RFO
Deputy Clerk/RFO – Z. Leach
County and District Councillor L. Leyshon
Manager of Crispin Community Centre

APOLOGIES Councillors: P Birch, S. Carswell, N Howiantz and N Smith.

24. NOMINATIONS TO FILL VACANT SEAT AND CASUAL VACANCIES

The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated. There was 1 vacant seat in the North Ward. In accordance with Standing Order 3 m it was agreed to vote on the co-option by a show of hands. It was also agreed that the co-opted member could sign their declaration of acceptance of office and join the meeting. The only candidate made a short presentation. It was noted that Councillor Sparkes signed the declaration of acceptance of office prior to the meeting, having been elected to the Council without a contest. Councillors Howard and Swift had also been elected to the South Ward without a contest. The meeting was adjourned from 7.10pm to 7.14pm to allow a member of the public to speak.

Councillor Leafe proposed Bruno Reina for consideration, and this was seconded by Councillor Knickerbocker.

The Council agreed to vote on the vacancy in the North Ward and the voting was - Bruno Reina – 9 votes.

RESOLVED

that Bruno Reina be co-opted to fill the vacant seat on the Council in the North Ward for the current term of office to May 2027.

Bruno Reina then signed his declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

25. MINUTES

Councillor Napper queried why Councillors Sparkes, Howard and Smith had resigned. Councillor Shearer explained that this was a technical issue relating to being eligible to have the general power of competence.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 17th May 2022 which had been circulated were approved as a correct record, showing Councillor Napper as absent rather than giving apologies, and signed by the Chair.

26. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

27. 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.

Councillor Shearer declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to the County Council and stated that she would keep an open mind when considering issues at County or Parish level.

Councillor Wolfers declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Street and Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce as she worked freelance for them.

Councillor Napper declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to Glastonbury Town Council.

28. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

There was no Police representative at the meeting.

Councillors were reminded that the next Meet the Team meeting would be held on 24 August 2022 at 7 pm at the YMCA.

Councillor Napper advised of the key priorities that the Meet the Team are looking at: To repaint the zigzags at Elmhurst School, to repaint the zigzags in the police bay on the High Street and the zebra crossing at McDonalds, where a number of accidents are taking place because it is near to the junction.

RESOLVED

- A. That Councillor Napper will email Councillor Leyshon with the issues regarding the zebra crossing at McDonalds and the repainting of zigzags at Elmhurst School and the police bay in the High Street for Councillor Leyshon to raise with Somerset Highways. Councillor P Goater to also email Councillor Leyshon regarding the accident involving a resident and their wheelchair at the McDonalds Zebra crossing.
- B. Councillor Leyshon to resend the list of where road markings need to be repainted and changes need to be made, to County Highways and Councillor Carswell

29. GRANT – VOLUNTEER DRIVERS SCHEME

The Manager of the Community Centre gave a brief presentation. She asked the Council to expedite a decision as there is a risk that if she does not secure the additional funding by the end of June the grant secured could be lost. The Manager would monitor any effect of the scheme on local taxi drivers.

There was a brief discussion on which allocation the funding might come from.

RESOLVED

- A. The Grant Application to be considered at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 27 June and all previous paperwork to be submitted.
- B. Councillor Leyshon to give Councillor Leafe the contact for the Lead on Children's Services at Somerset County Council.

30. PLANNING COMMITTEE

There was no planning committee held last month.

31. WORKING GROUPS

Notes of an informal meeting of the Council held on 31st May to consider which working groups to appoint were circulated with the agenda.

The Strode Theatre Manager had requested the £1000 grant agreed towards the book festival. The Clerk had requested that the Theatre Manager provides an update on the event.

There was a discussion about youth engagement, and it was agreed to consider a wider strategy including support from the YMCA.

RESOLVED

- A. that the notes of the informal meeting were agreed.
- B. that the following working groups be appointed for the ensuing year:
- Highways Working Group – Councillors Carswell, Knickerbocker, Napper, Smith, Sparkes – meet January, April, September.
- Street Community Library Partnership – Councillors P. Goater and Kellett – D. Goater as Deputy, Carswell for County Council, 3 Somerset Library Service Officers, Friends of Street Library, Parish Clerk to service committee
- Culture Working Group – Councillors D Goater, Howiantz, Knickerbocker, Leafe, Reina, Wolfers
Meet quarterly to consider events such as Chair’s Investiture, Merriman Park Fun Day, Remembrance, Christmas
First meeting to decide on events for whole year and look at workload for each to decide if a separate group is needed – also consider any ideas for smaller initiatives
- Community Well Being Working Group - Councillors Carswell, D. and P. Goater, Kellett, Knickerbocker, Leafe, Shearer, Smith and Wolfers
First meeting to decide what to do and terms and conditions
- Unitary Working Group - Councillors Carswell, P. Goater, Howiantz, Knickerbocker, Napper, Shearer, Smith, Wolfers
Meet as and when necessary
- Emergency Plan Management Team - Councillors Carswell, Kellett, Napper, Shearer, Smith, Wolfers and Parish Clerk, Fire Officer, PCSO
- C. that the Library Working Group is on hold until negotiations start on a possible move back to the 1924 building.
- D. that the remit of all working groups be rationalised.
- E. that the Policy and Finance Committee should consider what was happening with the organisations in Street such as the Theatre, Victoria Club, Library Trust, Community Centre and Crispin Hall and Greenbank Pool, especially if they were at imminent risk of closing
- F. that the Clerk will speak to Councillor Birch prior to the Extraordinary Council Meeting on Monday 27 June whether she wished to come off of the Theatre Management Committee.
- G. that Councillor Wolfers and P. Goater will report back on the Theatre users’ group as the management board had been disbanded once they have met with the

Principal of Strode College

- H. The Staffing Committee will comprise the following members:
Councillors: Birch, D. Goater, Napper, Shearer, Smith, Sparkes and Wolfers.
- I. Grievance and Disciplinary Panel will comprise the following members:
Councillors: P. Goater, Reina, Swift
- J. Appeal Panel will comprise the following members:
Councillors: Kellett, Knickerbocker and Leafe
- K. the culture working group will meet on Wednesday 6 July at 6pm in the Parish Rooms.
- L. Councillors will meet on Monday 1 August at 6pm in the Parish Rooms to discuss what has been learnt at the training sessions and then agree on priorities for the new year to be followed by an informal social event.
- M. that Councillors: P Goater, Knickerbocker, Kellett, Napper, Sparkes and Wolfers will form a task and finish group to scope a plan on Environmental and Climate Change Resilience.
- N. To invite Melissa Taylor, Climate Emergency & Resilience Officer at Glastonbury Town Council, to make a presentation to the Parish Council at the next meeting on 19 July
- O. that a decision will be made at the Extraordinary Meeting on Monday 27 June about whether to replace the union jack banners in the High Street.

32. REPORT FROM CHAIR

The Chair made her monthly report including events which she attended over the jubilee weekend.

The High Sheriff is coming to Street for the day and the Chair will organise visits to various key locations.

The Clerk reminded members that officers were already consulting with the schools and college on the best way of recognising the LGBTQ community.

There was discussion about how to recognise the community work of a particular Councillor.

RESOLUTION

Holding a Chair's Investiture in September, to be considered by the Council on the 19 July 2022

33. PARISH PATH LIAISON OFFICER

There was nothing to report.

34. MENDIP STRATEGIC TOURISM GROUP

The Deputy Clerk/RFO reported that Mendip had advised at the meeting on 9 June that the new cycle/walk link along the bypass from the roundabout to the entrance to Clarks Village Car Park will probably be installed by Somerset County Council.

The Section 106 funding of £55,000 held for the Business Park Development will still be needed and the County Council will fund the remainder.

The installation of electric charging points in Mendip owned car parks will be commencing next week.

Prior to submitting a bid to County for installation of bike racks across the district we will be consulted about potential locations.

All footfall data counters have been installed. All are operating bar one in Wells. Data should be available soon.

35. CHAIR UPDATES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS

Nothing to report.

36. ANTI GRAFFITI DAY

Councillor P Goater reported that the graffiti clean day on 29 May was very successful. A second event will be held on Sunday 26 June.

37. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

The Deputy Clerk/RFO submitted a report which had been circulated. There will be a conference in October and Local Community Networks will be considered.

38. CORRESPONDENCE/MINOR MATTERS

The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated. It was noted that the council's assets had been inspected and were all in good order.

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

Councillor Shearer reported that she had been appointed as the lead on adult social care at the County Council. The County Council was challenged with increasing need from an ageing population, people with learning disabilities etc leading to rising costs, with a limited budget.

Councillor Napper wished to attend a Smart Communities event organised by SALC on 30 June.

County and District Councillor Leyshon reported that there was no budget for LCNs. She was in discussions with the football club and Councillor P Goater about possible use of a unit by the Scouts. She would speak to the District Officer about the cycle/walk path extension on the bypass. The county council is waiting for the government to come back to them regarding the Walton bypass.

40. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The latest bank reconciliations for all accounts at 31st May 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 May, schedule of earmarked reserves and a consolidated summary.

It was noted that the grants of £10,000 to Greenbank Pool would be made on 13 July and in September

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 May 2022 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.

41. MATTERS FOR REPORT

It was agreed that an Extraordinary Meeting would be held on 27 June at 6.30pm venue to be notified. This to be followed by an informal session to update new and other members on current issues.

42. NEW STAFF

The Deputy Clerk and Assistant Clerk started on 6 June 2022 and have already made a big difference to the work of the Council. They have arranged to start the CILCA course around October after completing the necessary preparatory work. The aim will be for both of them to gain the CILCA qualification before the Clerk retires at the end of March 2023.

The agency worker finished on 15 June after 10 weeks. The total cost of this was £2223.

43. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended by the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it involved confidential staffing information.

44. STAFFING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the committee meeting on 27th May 2022 were submitted as circulated.

RESOLVED

that the report be approved

The meeting ended at 9.03 p.m.

Councillor Leafe left the meeting at 8.30pm

Chair _____