

STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee held in Room 6, Crispin Community Centre, Street, on 5 July 2022 at 6.15pm

- PRESENT:** Councillor P. Goater (Chair)
Councillors: P. Birch, N. Kellett, H. Shearer and L. Wolfers
- PRESENT BY INVITATION** Councillors: D.Goater, B.Knickerbocker, A.Leafe, T. Napper and B. Reina
- IN ATTENDANCE:** L.A. Ruff – Clerk/RFO
Z. Leach– Deputy Clerk and RFO
County and District Councillor L.Leyshon
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors: S.Carswell, N.Smith – another engagement – reasons accepted.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3 May, 2022 which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

In accordance with the Code of Conduct the following declarations of interest were made:

Councillors P.Goater and Shearer declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to the District Council and stated 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 either County of Parish level.

Councillor Napper declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to Street Football club as he was a member.

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 Leafe explained that the PFSA funding application from the Glastonbury and Street CLP was not in respect of his role.

All Councillors both former and new had recently received guidance and training on the Code of Conduct and declaring an interest.

3. GRANT APPLICATIONS – MENDIP YMCA AND SALVATION ARMY

The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated which included all information submitted with the full applications.

Grant for Street Football Club, Summer Fete and Dog Show.

All the relevant information was not currently available but would be available before the next Full Council meeting. A general discussion followed about the numbers usually in attendance at the summer event and the Councils desire to continue to support the event.

Support for the vulnerable in Street.

A discussion took place around the fact that the responsibility for PFSA funding was that of the County Council and the government. A more general discussion took place around the need for social care and mental health provision more widely across the community of Street and how the Parish Councils funds could be best spent and in a sustainable way.

Councillor Leafe explained the overwhelming challenges he and other PFSAs faced on a daily basis. Other support services were inadequate due to lack of staff and funding. They were trying to be proactive and work as cost effectively as possible, e.g., Forest School activities in the summer. It was important to make children happy rather than depressed. He explained that often those with mental health issues did not want to go out and so would not access any pop-up services set up at the community centre. PFSAs were able to build up a relationship with people who would then accept help from them.

The meeting was adjourned from 6.38pm to 6.40pm for a representative from the CLP to speak.

Councillor Leafe left the meeting from 6.38pm - 6.48pm

Strode College

A discussion took place around whether Strode College can dovetail with some of the services of the local schools and the £20,000 requested could form a group fund with all schools working collaboratively

Salvation Army

A discussion followed about the probable future need to investigate funding of fuel top ups given the escalating fuel costs and the challenge for those volunteering.

YMCA

A discussion followed about the need for greater outreach work in the community and the need to allocate funds more directly in this area. A discussion followed about the potential for the Council to advertise the scope

for future Grant applications it wished to receive to address the priorities identified as a Council.

Crispin Hall and Community Centre

The Councillors discussed the general requirement for greater scoping documents to accompany Grant applications. It was acknowledged that the installation of a lift is required to enable full access to the upstairs meeting rooms. The Crispin Hall and Community Centre requires the Grant from the Council to secure the funding of the remaining £10,000 from elsewhere.

RESOLVED

A. that a grant of £1,000 be given to Street Football Club for their summer fete and dog show; subject to receipt of accounts and a breakdown of how this will be spent before the next Council meeting.

B to go back to the new Principal of Strode College and discuss group funding and everyone working together within the schools where they need support.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

A. that a Grant of £27,000 be made to Street and Glastonbury Community Learning Partnership as a one-off payment towards the cost of additional PFSA hours.

B. that a grant of £4,600 be made to the Salvation Army for Aldi food vouchers, Foodbank and Christmas treats and hampers.

C that the Grant application from YMCA for £7,740.60 for SEND support, £3,235.32 for a life skills programme pilot and £2,405 for additional activities and equipment be refused and instead a group comprising of Councillors: Birch, D.Goater, Kellett, Knickerbocker, Napper, Shearer and Wolfers be set up to draft a request for Grant applications from local organisations to support local people in Street.

D that a Grant be made to the Crispin Hall and Community Centre of £4,400 towards the cost of a new lift (must be returned if not spent on lift), with the £600 unspent from Knit and Natter group, to be repurposed and put towards the cost of the lift.

4. BUDGET 2023/24

The Clerk submitted a report, which had been circulated. The Clerk informed the Committee that the last repayment for Loan1 of £22,222 is due in November 2023. Therefore, from the 24/25 financial year this will be additional monies available to the Council.

A brief discussion took place about the need to monitor the cost-of-living rise and the subsequent effect on the budgeted running costs for the Parish Rooms and to explore other avenues for making savings in running costs.

RESOLVED

- A. that the report be agreed, and quotations be obtained for the installation of solar panels and batteries at the Parish Rooms – Grants to be investigated.

5. INVESTMENT OF FUNDS

The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

that funds continue to be invested as they currently are and will be reviewed again, at the next meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee.

6. BI-ANNUAL GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT

The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated. The Risk Assessment had been updated to take account of the recruitment of the DCRO and ACCE who will be obtaining the CILCA qualification prior to the Clerk retiring in March 2023.

The Risk Assessment was amended to show that the Social Media Policy is updated every two years and not annually and that data is now automatically backed up in the Cloud.

RESOLVED

that the bi-annual risk assessment be agreed.

7. COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCE SCHEME

The Deputy Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

that the report was regrettably noted.

8. CONSIDERATION OF ORGANISATIONS IN STREET

A discussion followed of the organisations within Street, including the Football Club, that were potentially at risk of closure. It was agreed to find out what the current share price for Clarks International was and if dividends had started again. It was recognised that by the Council providing Grants to organisations, in certain circumstances this enabled them to secure further funding from elsewhere. It was reported that Strode College is looking to

consider the Theatre having its own bank account.

The meeting ended at 7.45pm

Councillor Leafe left at 7pm

Chair _____