

STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held in Room 6, Crispin Community Centre on 15th November 2022 at 7pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Deputy Clerk: Z. Leach
Assistant Clerk: D. Price
County and District Councillor: L.Leyshon
PCSO B. Jackson
J.Joseph – Avalon Agro Ecological Project

APOLOGIES Councillors: P.Birch, J. Howard, and B. Reina – another engagement - reasons accepted.

128. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15th November 2022 which had been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

129. MATTERS ARISING

Strode College Sports Centre Grant Application - The Deputy Clerk reported that the Sports Centre Manager is meeting with SASP to discuss possible funding for the holiday activity bursary for students on free school meals.

RESOLVED

that the Council will consider the grant application from Strode Sports Centre at a future Council meeting once the Sports Centre Manager has had the opportunity to meet with SASP and feedback the outcome of this meeting.

130. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillors Carswell, 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.

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

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

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 Sparkes declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to the Victoria Club as he is a Trustee.

131. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

PCSO B. Jackson was in attendance and advised of a recent sexual assault which took place in broad daylight. The assailant is still at large so advised all of the need to be vigilant.

Councillors Shearer and Napper had attended an extraordinary meeting in Glastonbury which focussed on crime in Glastonbury Town Centre. They heard from the new Inspector for Street and Glastonbury who set out the actions being taken and challenges being faced.

Questions for PC Pople should be forwarded to him by the usual means of contact.

RESOLVED

that the new Inspector for Street and Glastonbury will be invited to present to Street Parish Council at a future Council meeting with a focus on Street.

132. PRESENTATION ON AVALON AGRO ECOLOGICAL PROJECT

The Council received a presentation from J. Joseph on the work of Avalon Agro Ecological Project. This is a pilot project bringing together farmers/growers, conservation bodies and 5 Parish Councils, of which Street is one, to enable agroecological transition to products that will create a sustainable future for farming and food. Before enablement can take place there is a need to engage and educate. The Parish Council is being asked to promote farmer engagement and public participation.

133. PRESENTATION ON LGBT+ ISSUES IN EDUCATION

Councillor Reina was not present. The presentation will be deferred to a future Council meeting.

134. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 18th October 2022 were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

135. POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting of 1st November were circulated with the agenda and appear as Annex A to the minutes in the Minute Book.

Councillors discussed the Estimates and recommended Precept for 2023/24.

A few Councillors raised concerns about increasing the Precept in the current economic climate, where many families are experiencing severe financial struggles. The Precept was previously raised by 23% in 2022/23 and a further 12% rise this year would be a significant rise over two years.

A councillor commented that any increase in Precept should come with a clear rationale as to why it is being increased and how the additional monies will be spent.

Councillors Shearer and Leyshon commented that the County Council is looking at a series of mitigations (hardship grants) to help support families and a financial statement will be released later in the month.

A Councillor commented that 'Christmas Party' is listed under 'Events' at item 6 of the Estimates for 2023/24 - this is not accurate as individual Members and Officers pay for themselves.

RESOLVED

- A. that a grant of £20,000 be awarded to Greenbank Pool in 2023/24 with the following condition -

Future Developments – the Trustees of the CIO to support the formation of a Friends of Greenbank Pool with an agreed resident as Chair, offering a voice for the users of the Pool, to encourage more volunteering and to develop fundraising opportunities. The Trustees to work with the Council and the Friends on sustainability plans for 2023 onwards.

- B. that an additional £10,000 be ringfenced and the Pool Trust be invited to make a presentation on how it could use this funding to subsidise people living in Street on lower incomes and how evidence would be provided that this had been delivered and/or, on a project for Street residents such as free swimming lessons for under 10s or adults
- C. that the Pool Trust be informed that the Council was prepared to look at any sustainable projects which it might wish to put forward.

- D. that a grant of £300 be made to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance from monies unspent from the chair's allowance 2021/22 and 2022/23.
- E. That approval of the report and the Estimates for 2023/24 and Precept on Somerset Council for 2023/24 in the sum of £650,000 – an increase of 12% of £18.45 (£1.54 a month) on a Band D property (council tax base to be confirmed in mid-December and figures revised accordingly) – additional £12,000 to be added to the Contingency Fund to total £42,000 - be deferred for decision at the Full Council meeting on 6th December. The Clerk will be asked to provide information on how the additional monies raised from the increase in Precept in 2022/23 have been spent and how monies raised from any planned uplift in 2023/24 would be spent.
- F. that the word 'Party' is removed from the Events listed at item 6 on the Estimates 2023/24.
- G. that all recommendations be agreed with the exception of the setting of the Precept, see resolution E above.

136. CULTURE WORKING GROUP

The notes of the Culture Working Group meeting of 2nd November were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED
that the report be noted.

137. CLIMATE CHANGE

The notes of the Environmental and Climate Change meeting of 3rd November were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED
that the report be noted.

138. CHRISTMAS TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Assistant Clerk gave a verbal report on the meeting of the 10th November. Festive Market Banners will be displayed at various locations. The Remembrance poppies and soldiers currently displayed on lamp posts throughout the High Street will be replaced with additional signage for the Festive Market which has all been produced in-house. Only 5 stalls remain available for the Festive Market.

Councillor Swift proposed that the Council sends a Christmas postcard to all primary schools for distribution to their pupils. The cards would include information to

signpost families on where they can access various means of support. Councillor Swift has obtained a quote of 6 pence a postcard for 1500 copies. The Assistant Clerk shared two potential designs with the Council.

RESOLVED

A that the Officers arrange for the production of 1500 Christmas Postcards via a local printers, at a cost of 6 pence per copy, to be hand delivered to schools and nurseries for distribution to their pupils. Any remaining postcards to be made available in the community centre. A preferred design was agreed by the Council.

B that the Assistant Clerk will circulate a festive market stall rota to Councillors.

139 REPORT FROM CHAIR

The Chair, accompanied by Councillor Knickerbocker, attended the installation of The Right Reverend Dr Michael Beasley as The Bishop of Bath and Wells, at Wells Cathedral last week. It was a memorable occasion.

The Chair thanked the Councillors for their attendance at the Remembrance Parade and Service. The Community of Street came out in huge numbers to show their respects. It was an honour to have the attendance of General Sir Peter Wall, former head of the British Army, at the event. The Chair informed the Council that 914 Squadron (Glastonbury/Street) Air Cadets have offered to help support both Glastonbury and Street in the organisation of their events next year.

RESOLVED

that Officers seek permission to plant the Hazel Tree, gifted by the Bishop of Wells, in the flower bed next to the entrance to the Parish Rooms.

140. PARISH PATH LIAISON OFFICER

No report was made.

141 CORRESPONDENCE/MINOR MATTERS

The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

The Deputy Clerk advised that the Library Trust had given permission for the refurbishing of the pavilions in the Library Gardens and the new murals. The Clerk is waiting to hear whether planning permission is required.

The Deputy Clerk reported that the County Council had received a large number of responses to the LCN consultation and that there was no clear winner in respect of the 3 options for the geographical areas and discussions are ongoing.

The Council discussed Woods Batch Subway - it is covered in offensive graffiti which cannot be removed. The Parsh Council agreed to take responsibility for the subway some years ago and the County Council have requested that it is cleaned up. The Chair advised that part of Glastonbury's Art Grant through the Town Fund included a mural in Street and suggested that Woods Batch Subway may be a suitable place for this.

RESOLVED

- A that Councillors would not take forward the suggestions for a Councillor Community Fund.
- B that the Clerk will be asked to provide an update at the next meeting on the refurbishing of the pavilions in the Library Gardens and the new murals.
- C that Councillors Howiantz and Knickerbocker are appointed to serve on the Policy & Finance Committee
- D that Kim Von Coels is contacted to explore the possibility of a mural in the Woods Batch Subway

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

County and District Councillor Leyshon advised of traffic light renewals at the junction with Farm Road and the A39 bypass which should improve safety. The plans for the multi-user path have encountered difficulties due to the dropped curbs which will need to be changed for safety reasons. Councillor Leyshon will follow up with Mendip District Council. Somerset Council are under huge financial pressures. Tier 2 and 3 employees, whose jobs are under threat, have been notified. TUPE work has commenced.

District Councillor Napper raised concerns regarding the back up of traffic onto Brooks Road which at certain times of the day is horrendous.

County and District Councillor Shearer reported that she had undertaken a wonderful visit to Apple Tree Court and will share her monthly report on visits attended.

Councillor P. Goater reported that the Crispin Shopping Centre, including the Tesco building, has been sold. The footprint extends into the car park in Vestry Road. Plans are in the embryonic stage and further information will be provided in due course. The company that has purchased the site will present to the Council in the January Council meeting.

Councillor P.Goater will contact Councillors on the Emergency Plan Review Group to arrange a time to meet to formalise the Street Community Emergency Plan.

143. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The latest bank reconciliations for all accounts at 31st October 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 October, 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 October 2022 be noted and the schedule of receipts and payments for October be attached as Annex B to the minutes in the Minute Book in order to publish payments of £500 or more.

144 MATTERS FOR REPORT

The Clerk has circulated via email the new parliamentary constituency boundaries proposals. The Closing date for comments is 5 December 2022.

RESOLVED

that delegated power be given to the Deputy Clerk in liaison with the Chair to respond to the proposals taking into account any comments received from Councillors.

145 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.

146 STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Staffing Committee advised that an informal meeting had been held with the Deputy Clerk and Assistant Clerk as they had reached the end of their probation period. A formal meeting of the staffing committee would take place on the 30th November.

RESOLVED

that if Councillors wish to speak to Officers in depth on a matter they will telephone first to check on the Officer's availability and where necessary book an appointment.

The meeting ended at 7.50pm

Chair