

STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held in Room 6, Crispin Community Centre on 7th October 2022 at 2pm

PRESENT: Councillor L. Wolfers (Chair of Council)
Councillors: P.Birch, P. Goater, J.Howard, N.Howiantz, B. Knickerbocker, N.Smith, A.Sparkes and N. Swift

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk: L. Ruff
Deputy Clerk: Z. Leach

APOLOGIES Councillors: S.Carswell, D.Goater, N.Kellett, A. Leafe, T.Napper, B.Reina and H.Shearer – another engagement - reasons accepted.

98. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 28th September 2022 which had been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

99. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillor P.Goater declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to the District Council and stated that he would keep an open mind when considering issues at either District 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 Sparkes declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to the Victoria Club as he is a Trustee.

Councillor Howard declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to Crispin Hall & Community Trust, Victoria Club and Friends of Strode Theatre as she is a Trustee.

100. LCN CONSULTATION

A verbal summary was provided on the various meetings on Local Community Networks (LCNs) attended and on the experiences from Buckinghamshire Unitary Council and Cornwall Unitary Council who presented at the Somerset Conference attended by Councillors Carswell, P.Goater, Wolfers and the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. The Cornwall model felt more cohesive of the two and afforded Parish and Town councillors voting rights, subject to ratification by the unitary Council. The

Buckinghamshire model gave only unitary councillors voting rights; but other stakeholders were given the opportunity to have their input.

The Councillors considered the three boundary proposals. Proposal A was balanced by geography with 18 evenly sized LCNs, Proposal B balanced by population and proposal C was for fewer LCNs that were a close match with existing local plan geographies, meaning that in the short to medium term LCNs would each work with one Local Plan. It was noted however that constituency boundaries are changing in 2027.

For the parish of Street, proposal A and B were in fact of an identical structure. A strength of proposal A was the similarity in topography and with proposal B it was more democratic with the population base. Councillors felt that proposal C was too large an area, resulting in a loss of the 'local' element and potential for more conflict and difficulty in reaching consensus with the increased number of stakeholders this would bring. There would also be increased logistical issues in attending meetings.

Exmoor have been trialling a funded pilot scheme whereby they decide priorities for road repairs and an officer of Somerset Council acting as Highway Steward carried out agreed high value minor maintenance works. This has been fairly successful. It was commented that Somerset LCNs would not receive any funding initially.

Discussion took place and consensus reached on the Street Parish Council responses to the consultation. Councillors also wished to submit their own individual responses to the consultation.

RESOLVED

A that the Deputy Clerk completes the online consultation response on behalf of Street Parish Council; supporting Boundary Proposal A and B, but not supporting boundary proposal C and supporting the name 'Community Partnerships.' The Deputy Clerk will circulate a copy of the agreed responses to the full Council for information.

101. LIBRARY GARDEN WALL

The Clerk provided a verbal update. The lowest tender was £34,000 to repair the pavilions.

RESOLVED

The Clerk will investigate funding and grants and report back at the October meeting.

102. MATTERS FOR REPORT

A decision was made in 2017 to stop the reading of a prayer at the Investiture event. A discussion followed on whether a prayer should be reintroduced for the upcoming Investiture.

The Chair has received an invite to attend Chard's Remembrance Service at 11am on Sunday 13th November but is unable to attend.

There have been further reports of antisocial behaviour at the library gardens. The Chair reminded all persons to report any incidents to 999 or 101.

RESOLVED

- A that the Investiture programme will continue as it, without the insertion of a prayer.
- B that any Councillor wishing to attend the Chard Remembrance Service to represent Street, contact the Parish Office.

The meeting ended at 3.15pm

Chair _____