

STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held in Room 6, Crispin Community Centre on
21st February 2023 at 7pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk/RFO: L. Ruff
Assistant Clerk: D. Price
PC Pople – Street Beat Team
M. Beasley, C. Cleaves and J. Revill - Street Chamber of
Commerce

APOLOGIES Councillors: A. Leafe – reason accepted.
B. Reina – reason accepted.
County and District Councillor: L. Leyshon – reason accepted.

190. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 17th January 2023 which had been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

191. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Napper expressed his disappointment that the new owners of the Crispin Centre had not been present at the previous council meeting.

There was a discussion about the plans for the 50th anniversary celebrations going ahead for Strode College, Crispin School and Brookside School, as not further information had been shared. Councillor Napper wanted to know if there was still a blue heritage plaque on display at Strode College.

Councillor Napper made a small personal comment on having the Pride banners.

It was noted that Councillor N Kellett was listed as both present and as having sent apologies for the Sustainable Street notes that were circulated.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:02 – 19:03.

RESOLVED

A. That both the owner and a representative from their planning team would be presenting at at the annual Parish meeting on 21st March 2023.

- B. The Assistant Clerk agreed to contact EM Print to confirm a date for the banners.
- C. It was agreed that the office would follow up on specific plans for the celebrations and add the 50th anniversaries to the next Culture Work Group Agenda for consideration.
- D. J. Revill agreed to investigate if the blue plaque is still displayed at Strode College and confirm back to council.
- E. Officers would amend the attendance section of the notes from the Sustainable Street meeting.

192. 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 Howard declared an interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to Crispin Hall and Community Centre, of which she is a Trustee, the Victoria Club, of which she is a Member Trustee and Friends of Strode Theatre.

Councillor Wolfers declared another interest in any matters relating to Street and Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce as she is a Member.

Councillor P. Goater declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to the Victoria Club as he is Chair.

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

Councillor Howiantz declared a personal interest under “another interest” under Appendix B in matters relating to in Taking the Space Theatre’s grant application, as he knows the applicant and refrained from voting on this application.

Councillor N Kellett declared a personal interest under “another interest” under Appendix B in matters relating to the Victoria Club Football Club, as his son has involvement. Therefore, he refrained from voting on this application.

193. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

PC Pople advised that priorities continued to relate primarily to the restoration of the cemetery gate at the "Batch", supporting young people and monitoring speeding issues in the High Street.

The three highest volume of callouts were at The Foyer (YMCA building); the High Street and Street Hill.

PC Pople explained the local Neighbourhood Watch team were looking for new members and encouraged the council members to volunteer. He confirmed the next AGM would be 8th March.

Councillor Smith referred to a vehicle which had been seen speeding on the High Street and PC Pople agreed to investigate.

RESOLVED

PC Pople agreed to circulate an email confirming the time of the Neighbourhood Watch AGM.

194. PRESENTATION ON STREET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

C. Cleaves delivered an overview of Street Chamber of Commerce's objectives towards helping Street thrive as a business community.

The Chamber are dedicated to sharing knowledge, best practices and helping to support community projects in an inclusive and sustainable manner. They hope their projects will provide networking opportunities locally, boost communication and help rejuvenate the High Street. It was explained the council could keep up with their activities via their monthly newsletter and their website.

The council were given information on membership (which is completely free) as well as a calendar of events for the remainder of 2023, including two recruitment fairs.

The members of the Chamber of Commerce explained about their collaboration with Business Studies students at Strode College and the footfall project they had been working on with data provided by Street Parish Council.

The £2,000 funding Street Parish Council had provided had been spent on a new website and automating their directory, as well as covering the costs of promotional fliers to encourage membership (totalling £640). The remaining funds have been earmarked to assist with recruiting administrators to oversee their newsletters and social media channels.

195. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 6th January 2023 were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting were noted.

196. 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.

197. STAFFING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting of 7th February 2023 were circulated with the agenda.

The Clerk/RFO, L. Ruff, and the Assistant Clerk, D. Price, left the meeting at 19:35 and returned at 19:40, while the item was discussed.

RESOLVED

- A. That the minutes of the meeting and the recommendations were agreed.
- B. That the laptop used by the retiring Clerk/RFO would be wiped by a specialist and then retained.
- C. The Assistant Clerk would have a new laptop and equipment that would ideally be sourced locally, and the old laptop would be wiped. Officers would investigate getting it repaired and reused if possible.
- D. That future confidential items (requiring the exclusion of public, press and/or staff) be considered at the end of the meeting, to ensure the public and press do not need to leave and then return.

198. POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Annual Investment Strategy was discussed with a view to decide on the best way to manage the investment of substantial funds when the precept payment of £650,000 is received at the start of April.

The grant applications for the Victoria Club Football Team and the Victoria Club's Coronation event were reviewed, as well as the application by Taking the Space Theatre.

It was acknowledged that the grant application from Somerset Mind would be considered by members only at the Youth Outreach and Mental Health meeting of 15th March, at 3pm, so it is aligned with the tender process.

Councillor Shearer agreed to find out if the closure of St Andrew's Ward in Wells was official and clarify if services were moving to Yeovil.

The ten policies due for review were considered.

RESOLVED

- A. The Annual Investment Strategy was approved subject to Councillor Shearer seeking advice from Somerset County Council regarding the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund and The Clerk contacting SALC. A report will go out with the next agenda reflecting feedback.
- B. That a grant of £750 to the Victoria Club Football Club and a grant of £3,000 for The Victoria Club Coronation event were approved. The grant application of £700 for Taking the Space Theatre was approved for the fact the enterprise engages young people in meaningful activities, but with a condition that more information will be requested to explore how the organisation will become more sustainable in future.
- C. All ten policies were approved.

199. STREET COMMUNITY LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP

RESOLVED

That the notes of the meeting were approved.

200. COMMUNITY WELLBEING GROUP

The notes of the meeting on 6th February 2023 were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the meeting were agreed.

201. SUSTAINABLE STREET WORKING GROUP

The notes of the meeting on 6th February 2023 were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED

- A. That the notes of the meeting were agreed subject to the amendment relating to Councillor Kellett not having been present.

202. YOUTH OUTREACH AND MENTAL HEALTH WORKING GROUP

The notes of the meeting on 6th February 2023 were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the meeting were approved.

203. CULTURE WORKING GROUP

The notes of the meeting of 8th February were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the meeting were agreed.

204. STREET HEATH

The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

That those councillors wishing to attend the meeting on 3rd March would arrange carsharing.

205. REPORT FROM CHAIR

The Chair reflected on the progress being made to enhance Street, including the restoration of the Library Gardens.

The Chair described the successful visit from the Lord Lieutenant (and their deputies), and the High Sheriff of Somerset. The feedback had been that they had all had a very enjoyable and informative day. It was a great opportunity to showcase the rich history and impressive attributes Street has to offer.

It was reported that there would be a working group created to be involved in the bicentenary of Clarks shoes in 2025 and that the Council could participate.

The Chair referred to the restructuring at the office when the current Clerk retires and further transitions for the Council relating to who will become the next Chair. The importance of open communication was emphasised.

It was agreed to consider having a Lengthsman and potentially sharing with Walton Parish Council.

RESOLVED

That the Assistant Clerk would follow up with EM Print to get an update on when the Union Jack banners would be going up and email the council with a date once confirmed.

206. PARISH PATH LIAISON OFFICER

Councillor Leyshon was not present at the meeting.

207. CORRESPONDENCE/MINOR MATTERS

The Assistant Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

- A. That Councillor Knickerbocker was approved to join the Planning and Staffing Committees and Councillor Howiantz was approved to join the Staffing Committee, Community and Wellbeing Working Group and the Youth Outreach and Mental Health Working Group.
- B. That the council would wait for the outcomes of the due diligence process Citizen's Advice Bureau are undertaking before considering how this may impact on services moving forward.
- C. The council agreed to be involved in the 200th anniversary celebrations for Clarks Shoes.
- D. That the motion be supported using the wording suggested by Councillor Knickerbocker and that a letter be written to the local MP.
- E. The council approved the plans for the sensory garden in Merriman Park and agreed and clarification on whether the Merriman Park Community Group or Street Parish Council would take on the responsibility for this work at the next meeting on 21st March.

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

County and District Councillor Carswell advised to anticipate potential disruption to IT communications when the New Somerset Council is formed due to the fact five systems would be amalgamated.

County and District Councillor Shearer reminded the Council to be patient with the final stages of the migration to the New Somerset Council and highlighted some decision making and feedback from individual teams may be interrupted or delayed as a result.

Councillor Shearer explained how some of the funding from the unitary council would be directed towards the Mendip area by way of improvements to the Strawberry Line for example.

District Councillor Goater confirmed he was participating in the final meetings with Mendip District Council and Somerset Waste Partnerships prior to the launch of the New Somerset Council.

RESOLVED:

Cllr P. Goater agreed to follow up on the situation with the Scout hut.

209. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The latest bank reconciliations for all accounts at 31st January 2023 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 December, 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 January 2023 be noted and the schedule of receipts and payments for January be attached as Annex B to the minutes in the Minute Book in order to publish payments of £500 or more.

210. MATTERS FOR REPORT

The Assistant Clerk confirmed there were no additional matters to report.

The meeting ended at 9 pm.

Chair