

STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held in Room 6, Crispin Community Centre on 18th April 2023 at 7pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Clerk: Z. Leach
County and District Councillor: L. Leyshon
D Atkins – Street Twinning Association
Mark Wilcox – Director of Youth and Community YMCA
Jessica Lewin - Leader of Street Youth Club
2 champions from Street Youth Club: Alfie and Martha

APOLOGIES Councillors: S. Carswell, D. Goater and B. Reina

250. MINUTES

The minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 6th April 2023 which had been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

251. MATTERS ARISING

None.

252. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillor Shearer declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to the Somerset Council and stated that she 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 an other interest in any matters relating to Street and Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce as she is a board 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 an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to the Victoria Club as he is a Trustee.

253 TWINNING PRESENTATION

The Chairman of Street Twinning Association gave a presentation to Council about the Twinning Association and an overview of the two towns that Street is twinned with – Notre-Dame-de-Gravenchon and Isny im Allgäu . The twinning relationships are well established. The grant awarded by the Parish Council in 2020 will be used towards a recruitment campaign as the association is looking for more families/individuals to join. This campaign was delayed due to the effects of Covid-19. The Twinning Association is looking forward to welcoming and hosting friends from the Notre-Dame-de-Gravenchon later this week. The Chair would be delighted to hear from any member of the community interested in joining.

254 YMCA YOUTH CLUB PRESENTATION

The Leader of the Street Youth Club gave a presentation to Council on the works of the Youth Club. The Parish Council gives an annual grant to the Youth Club which equates to a third of the overall costs of running the youth club the rest is generated from fundraising.

The focus of the youth club is on looking at equality and providing social education to become good neighbours. The youths attending are mainly 10-16 year olds and the youth club is looking at how it can attract older teenagers.

Friday youth club is very popular and often oversubscribed. Mondays are more of a focussed support session for the more vulnerable. There is a multi-organisational approach. A drop in after school hub will be starting soon. The leader of the youth club recognised the need for holiday provision and this would be an ambition if resources were available. They also recognised the need for a streamlined coordination of all youth provisions in Street. The Leader of the Youth Club stated that if resources were available she would like to be in schools more and recognised a need for both targeted and outreach work.

RESOLVED

- A. Councillor Shearer will be invited to attend the next multi agency meeting.
- B. Councillors Leafe and Kellett will work with the YMCA who will bring costings for scoping to the next Council meeting.

David Atkins and the representatives from the YMCA left the meeting at 8pm.

255 COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

The next 'meet the team' will take place at 7pm on 7th June at the YMCA Street Foyer. The three priorities for discussion will be:

1. Flytipping – Gravenchon Way
2. Speeding vehicles
3. Pot holes

PC Pople stated that the highest calls received over the last three months were:

1. High Street (9 calls)
2. Glastonbury Road, Mere. (5 calls) The travelling community have now moved on.
3. Street Foyer.

Councillor Shearer advised that work is currently happening in North Somerset which it is hoped can be replicated on educating young people about bystander responsibility.

Councillor Knickerbocker advised that the opportunity to do a ride along with the police is available to any member of the public. Councillor Knickerbocker thanked PC Pople for his many years of service.

PC Pople advised that Councillors Smith and Sparkes require a third person to form a community speedwatch and appealed for volunteers

PC Pople advised that a new Chair for the Neighbourhood Watch has been appointed and their first meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening.

RESOLUTION:

- A. Clerk to arrange a presentation from the police at a future Council meeting to give more information on the breakdown of crime types that we have in Street.
- B. Councillor Shearer will report back at a future Council meeting on how CCTV is being streamlined/amalgamated from all the various areas into one.

256. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 22 March 2023 were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting were noted.

257. CULTURE WORKING GROUP

The notes of the Culture working group meeting of 3rd April 2023 were circulated with the agenda.

The Working Group proposed an additional £6,000 is spent to wrap the large tree in the library garden with lights. The current budget for Christmas lighting is £12,000 but this would not be sufficient to cover the wrapping of the tree. The tree would be lit all year round which would improve lighting in the library gardens. The Chair of the Council advised that Richard Clark has given his permission for this. Officers are exploring the possibility of a grant/sponsorship towards the lighting of the tree.

RESOLVED

- A that the report be noted.
- B that a maximum of £6k be spent on wrapping the large tree in the Library Gardens in lights. The cost of this to come from the Contingency fund.
- C that the Parish Council pay £460 towards the costs of food and beverages for the Twinning Association reception event at Strode College on 20 April 2023.

258. HIGHWAYS

The notes of the Highways working group meeting of 4th April 2023 were circulated with the agenda.

The working group requested support from the full council to work on their vision for the High Street and for permission to explore the costing of a traffic engineer.

RESOLVED

- A that the report be noted subject to Councillor Knickerbocker being noted as not present at the meeting and the second paragraph under item 5, referring to a possible Traffic Engineer, listed as item number 6. High Street.
- B Councillors Carswell, Leyshon and the Assistant Clerk to bring a proposal on the costs of a Traffic Engineer to a future Council meeting.

259. YOUTH OUTREACH AND MENTAL HEALTH WORKING GROUP.

The notes of the Youth Outreach and Mental Health Working Group of 15th March 2023 were circulated with the agenda.

The Somerset Mind grant application had not gone before the Policy & Finance Committee for consideration in February as that meeting had been cancelled as it was not quorate. Instead, the grant application was scrutinised by the Councillors who sit on the youth outreach and mental health working group who made a recommendation to Council that an annual grant of £5,565 be awarded to Mind in Somerset for three years.

Councillors appointed as Champions are expected to keep in touch with organisations awarded a grant, to make visits as appropriate and report back to Council.

RESOLVED

- A That an annual grant of £5,565 be made to Mind in Somerset for 3 years for the Street Youth Matters peer support group involving 1-1 mentoring and regular group sessions subject to two Councillors acting as Champions for the project.
- B That Councillors Kellett and Howiantz are appointed as champions for the Mind in Somerset, Street Youth Matters project.

260. ASSET CHECK

A report by the Clerk was circulated with the Agenda. The Clerk had undertaken a 6 month check of assets in March 2023. All assets were in a good and safe condition with a number of actions recommended in the report.

RESOLVED

- A That the report be agreed subject to a report coming back to a future council meeting on the proposal for moving the noticeboard and map board currently outside the Crispin Hall.
- B To consider at the June Full Council meeting setting up a task and finish group to look at how the Parish Council can help point first time buyers on to the housing ladder.

261. CHAIRS REPORT

The Chair reported that she had participated in a meeting with the Mayor of Yeovil and representatives from the NHS and explained the role of Councillors in the community and how the NHS can signpost services to Councils for onward signposting to the community.

The Chair, Vice-Chair and Assistant Clerk have met with Natwest Bank in connection with the closure of the Street branch and were disappointed to learn that all they were offering was an opportunity for face-to-face meetings for customers in the

library for a 12 week period following the closure of the Street Branch. The Chair contacted Lloyds Bank and was assured that up until December the only branch of Lloyds in the area that would be closing is the one in Shepton.

262 CORRESPONDENCE/MINOR MATTERS

The Deputy Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

A that the report be agreed.

B that a Parish Meeting room be rented to Natwest Bank as a pop-up space every Monday or Tuesday between 10:00 – 15:00 over a period of 12 weeks to commence the week after the Natwest Branch in Street closes.

C that Councillor Howard will check if the bus stop audit of route 77 has been completed.

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

County Councillor Shearer advised that adult social care are looking at reinvigorating the carers service across the county.

County Councillor Leyshon advised of a grant opportunity to apply for up to £2000 for tourist centred projects in street this summer. The Parish Council could consider upgrading the Street Leaflet or interpretation boards in the Library gardens

RESOLVED:

that Interpretation Boards/tourism grant will be added to the next Culture group agenda for discussion.

264 CCLA PUBLIC SECTOR DEPOSIT FUND (PSDF) ACCOUNT

The CCLA factsheet and statement for March 2023 had been sent to the Councillors and reviewed by Councillors Carswell, P.Goater and Sparkes who recommended that funds continue to be invested in the CCLA PSDF account.

RESOLVED

that funds are retained in the CCLA PSDF account.

265 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

RESOLVED

- A. 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 March 2023 be noted and the schedule of receipts and payments for March be attached as Annex A to the minutes in the Minute Book in order to publish payments of £500 or more.
- B. that special dispensation is given for additional costs to the Chair's Allowance 2022/23 of £332 for the retiring Clerk's gifts.

267. MATTERS FOR REPORT

Councillor Swift attended a seminar on Wilding Churchyards which are a great place for biodiversity and proposed that the Council considers asking Somerset Botany Group to undertake a survey of the Cemetery.

A Councillor was concerned about the state of repair of the windows of the Library 1924 building which needed weather proofing.

RESOLVED

- A. that an item on the Wilding of Churchyards Project is added to the next Culture Working Group agenda.
- B to raise awareness via social media shares of the mobile phone alarms scheduled to ring at 3pm on 23 April.

Councillor Napper left the meeting at 9pm

268. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC.

RESOLVED

that the public present were excluded from the meeting for the next item no.20 as it involves confidential staffing information.

269. GRATUITY PAYMENT FOR RETIRING CLERK/RFO

The confidential report of the Clerk was submitted as circulated to members only.

RESOLVED

- A that the report be agreed
- B that PAYE and NI will be paid on the final gratuity sum of £2638.35
- C that the gratuity payment is not included as pensionable pay under 2013 LGPS Regulation 2(g).

The meeting ended at 9.10pm

Chair _____