

STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held in Room 6, Crispin Community Centre on 6th April 2023 at 6.30pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Clerk: Z. Leach
YMCA
Mark Willcox, Director of Youth and Community
Jess Lewin, Team Leader Street Youth Club
Natalie Walton, Detached Team Leader
Freddie Jackson, Detached Youth Worker Yeovil

APOLOGIES County and District Councillor: L.Leyshon
Councillors: P.Birch, T. Napper, B. Reina and N. Swift

245. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21st March 2023 which had been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair; subject to adding at minute number 221 that the trustees of Greenbank Pool had also agreed to use social media.

246. MATTERS ARISING

None.

247 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

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

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.

Councillor S. Carswell declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to Merriman Park as he is Chair of the Merriman Park Community Group.

248. YOUTH OUTREACH AND MENTAL HEALTH WORKING GROUP

The Clerk had circulated a report with the agenda including notes of a meeting held with the YMCA on 28 March where the YMCA responded to a number of questions from the working group exploring further their bid proposal.

Councillor P.Goater, Chair of the Youth Outreach and Mental Health Working Group, read out a statement .The working group had met with Clerks to understand youth work being undertaken in Yeovil, Shepton Mallet and Frome. The group wanted work to be done to better understand the needs and desires of young people in Street to ensure that they can participate in society in a positive way. The tender requested bids for the supply of youth outreach to be conducted in Street. This would seek to understand the needs of young people and then work with them to undertake projects that engage and develop their skills. In addition, an understanding of activities provided by other organisations in the area would be developed. The response from the YMCA met all the criteria set out in the tender documentation.

The Director of Youth and Community, YMCA, gave a presentation to the Council in support of the YMCA tender bid for youth outreach in Street, supported by the team leader for Street Youth Club and the detached team leader and detached youth worker for Yeovil. This was followed by questions from Councillors.

As part of the proposal the YMCA had conducted an initial survey of 138 people, 50% of which were young people. The vast majority of those surveyed stated that there was not enough for them to do in Street. Part of the role of the YMCA would be to promote what is going on as some of this is down to lack of awareness. There are 2200, 10–19-year-olds in Street now and the YMCA would target to work with around 400 of these each year. If successful, the YMCA team would endeavour to find out what the needs of young people are and deal with what they present. The YMCA has been in the area for 10 years so would be able to hit the ground running with links with stakeholders.

The YMCA explained that in response to the requirements set out in the Council's tender document their proposal includes spending the first three months undertaking a full scoping and mapping exercise; the survey they had undertaken was simply to get an initial insight. A Councillor raised a concern of committing to a significant project without having this in-depth data available first.

The Team Leader for Street Youth Club explained how they build relationships with local schools. They meet with the school safeguarding teams once a term to share feedback. This is mainly secondary schools, but they will meet with primary schools when needed.

The YMCA gave assurance that they have strict safeguarding procedures in place to deal with any specific incidents of concern and will make the necessary referrals.

The detached youth workers talked about how they became involved in youth work.

The YMCA team left the meeting at 7.30pm.

Considerable discussions followed between Councillors over the best way to proceed. The Council recognised it wished to do something for the young people of Street and to invest in their future. Discussion followed on ensuring that the money is spent on where there is an identified need and not just a perceived need and whether, on reflection, the Council should commission a full scoping exercise first, prior to committing significant sums of public money to a three-year project.

The meeting adjourned for a rest break at 8.08pm

The meeting reopened at 8.13pm

RESOLVED

- A. that the report be noted.
- B. to ask the YMCA for a cost to create more in-depth scoping/mapping to ascertain the real problems in Street and not to continue with the bid as it stands for now.

249. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Carswell notified the Council that he has visited three retailers in Street to remind them of the licensing obligations to not sell vapes to under 18s or over 18s who are going out and supplying to under 18s.

Councillor Carswell notified the Council of a new premises licence application from Rams kebab shop. It is an existing business that is just looking to regularise its opening hours following a visit from him and then the Licensing Team at Mendip.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm

Chair _____