

STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held in Room 6, Crispin Community Centre on
21st March 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, A. Leafe, T. Napper,
B. Reina, H. Shearer, N. Smith, A. Sparkes and N. Swift

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk: L. Ruff
Deputy Clerk: Z. Leach
Assistant Clerk: D Price
County and District Councillor: L. Leyshon

APOLOGIES None.

215. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th March 2023 which had been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

216. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk advised that the Council had received a quote of £450 for protective lacquering of the new murals at the Library gardens. The Council will need to secure a quote from RSL for lower scaffolding which will be needed for the artist to paint the stonework and for the builders to complete their works. The Clerk confirmed that the Council would be liable for the cost of this.

217. 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 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.

218 COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

PC Pople was not present.

219. PRESENTATION ON LGBTQ+ IN EDUCATION

Councillor Reina gave a presentation on his research work on LGBTQ+ in education which was followed by questions from the Councillors.

220. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 21st February 2023 were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED
that the minutes of the meeting were noted.

221 GRANT – GREENBANK SWIMMING POOL

The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated, together with a paper from the Trustees of Greenbank Pool in connection with their Grant application for 2023/24.

Cllrs Smith, Swift and Wolfers met with the Pool Trustees on 27th February. They confirmed that they did not vote or make any decisions at that meeting and the Pool Trustees held a separate meeting once the Councillors had left.

The Trustees of Greenbank Pool do not wish the conditions, as resolved by Council on 15th November 2022, to be attached to the Grant; but they do intend to consider the formation of a Friends of Greenbank Pool.

The Council acknowledged that in the past the Parish Council Grant had been used to subsidise season tickets for local people and that the Pool is extremely busy and an asset to the community.

RESOLVED

- A. that the report be noted.
- B. that Greenbank Pool is awarded a grant of £30,000 for 2023/24 without any conditions attached.

222. ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Deputy Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

Councillor Shearer provided feedback to the Council on a conversation she had with a Finance Director at Somerset County Council in relation to the security of funds held in the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund (PSDF). The Council noted that the Finance Director was not regulated and therefore unable to provide specific advice to the Council.

The Clerk requested that the three Bankline signatories are sent the CCLA PSDF factsheet each month for review and feedback.

Discussion followed on how Council funds should be split between the Natwest Bank Business Reserve account and the CCLA PSDF acknowledging the Council's duty to protect public money.

RESOLVED

- A. that the report be noted.
- B. that up to £500,000 of the Council's funds will be invested in the CCLA account.
that the Bankline authorised signatories will be sent the CCLA PSDF factsheet each month for review and recommendation
that Council approval of retaining funds in the CCLA PSDF account will be a standard agenda item at each Full Council meeting.

223. REMEMBRANCE EVENT MEETING

The notes of the Remembrance meeting held on 21st February were circulated with the agenda. The Deputy Clerk advised that considerable discussion took place around

the prominence of the new War Memorial, at the URC, in the Remembrance event. The Remembrance Parade and Service for 2023 will in the main follow the same format as 2022 with a greater focus being given to the Remembrance event at 11am on the 11th November at the new War Memorial.

RESOLVED:

A that the report be noted.

B that Officers contact representatives of Shadrach Trust to inform them of the Council's intention to consider relocating the new War Memorial from the Shadrach Gardens at the United Reformed Church.

224. CULTURE WORKING GROUP

The notes of the Culture working group meeting of 6th March 2023 were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

225. COMMUNITY WELLBEING GROUP.

The notes of the meeting of the Community Wellbeing Group of 8th March 2023 were circulated with the agenda.

The Assistant Clerk clarified that the Eventbrite platform will be used for future 'Discover Your Community' events for Stallholders to book stalls. The banners will be refined for the next community event to have less emphasis on 'Street Parish Council' but will still display the Street Parish Council logo.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

226. SUSTAINABLE STREET WORKING GROUP

The notes of the meeting of the Sustainable Street Working Group of 8th March 2023 were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

227 YOUTH OUTREACH AND MENTAL HEALTH WORKING GROUP

The notes of the meeting of the Youth Outreach and Mental Health Working Group of 9th and 15th March 2023 were circulated with the agenda.

Meetings are scheduled with the Clerks at Yeovil Town Council, Frome Town Council and Shepton Mallet Town Council to explore the youth provision in those towns and their experiences of organisations delivering youth outreach. Following which, a meeting is scheduled with YMCA Brunel to enable Councillors to ask questions and explore their bid proposal further.

RESOLVED

- A. that the report be noted.
- B. that Fairthorn Consultancy be informed that the Council did not wish to pursue their proposal any further.
- C. that the Clerk will send an email confirming the details of the scheduled meetings with other Councils to discuss their youth work provisions and of the meeting with YMCA Brunel to discuss their proposal further.

228. STREET HEATH

A verbal summary of the visit to Street Heath was provided by the Chair of Council in item 244 below.

229 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

The Deputy Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

- A that the report be noted.
- B that the Policy & Finance Committee meeting to review the internal audit and annual governance and accounting statements is moved from Tuesday 9 May to Tuesday 13 June.

230 PARISH PATH LIAISON OFFICER

RESOLVED

that Parish Path Liaison Officer will be removed as a standing agenda item moving forward.

240 CORRESPONDENCE/MINOR MATTERS

The Deputy Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

A that the report be agreed.

B that Councillors Birch and Howiantz are appointed to the Highways Working Group.

C that Councillor Knickerbocker is appointed to the Youth Outreach and Mental Health Group

D that the Council accept the gift of the two benches outside of the Parish Rooms from Landsec and that they are added to the asset register and insurance policy accordingly.

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

County and District Councillor Leyshon advised that a factsheet will be sent to Parish Councils with contact details for the new Somerset Council. The new Council is currently undertaking the recruitment of tier 3 positions for Service Directors.

County and District Councillor Carswell apologised that his Mendip email account had been down and he had been unable to access emails for a couple of weeks.

District Councillor Napper advised of unauthorised encampment in a location near to Street Heath.

County and District Councillor Shearer advised that adult social care is currently looking at services for supporting informal carers.

Councillor Wolfers thanked all Mendip District Councillors for their endeavours on behalf of the Council and community of Street.

RESOLVED:

that County and District Councillor Shearer will discuss the unauthorised encampment near to Street Heath with District Councillor Napper outside of the meeting.

242 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The latest bank reconciliations for all accounts at 28th February 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 February, 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 28th February 2023 be noted and the schedule of receipts and payments for February be attached as Annex A to the minutes in the Minute Book in order to publish payments of £500 or more.

243. MATTERS FOR REPORT

There were no matters for report.

244. REPORT FROM CHAIR

The Chair reported that the Discover Your Community event had been a great success and expressed her thanks to the Assistant Clerk and Councillors involved in running the event.

The Chair and various Councillors enjoyed a guided visit to Street Heath and discovered how the Heath adds to sustainability and Co2 footprint reduction.

The Chair gave a speech thanking the retiring Clerk on behalf of the Councillors and Community of Street for all of her dedication and efforts in 34 years of service.

RESOLVED

that Councillors will consider for the next Council meeting if they wish the Council to acquire any commemorative items to be displayed in street in commemoration of the coronation of King Charles III

The meeting ended at 8.55pm

Chair _____