

STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee held in Room 6, Crispin Community Centre on 1st November, 2022 at 6 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor P. Goater (Chair)

Councillors: S. Carswell, N. Kellett, N. Smith and L. Wolfers

IN ATTENDANCE: L.A. Ruff – Clerk/RFO
Z. Leach – Deputy Clerk/RFO

PRESENT BY
INVITATION: Councillor B. Knickerbocker

APOLOGIES: Councillors: P. Birch - illness, T.W.E. Napper and H. Shearer
– another engagement – reasons accepted

14. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6th September, 2022 which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillors Carswell and P. Goater 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. Councillor Carswell also declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to the County Council and stated that he would keep an open mind at either level.

Councillors Smith and Wolfers declared an other interest under Appendix B in the grant application for Greenbank Pool as they were representatives of the Council on that organisation. However, both members stated that they had not attended any meetings or had any communication with the Pool Trust and therefore did not need to leave the meeting when the item was considered.

Councillor Wolfers declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Street Chamber of Commerce as she worked freelance for it.

16. GRANT – GREENBANK POOL 2023/24

The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

A. that a grant of £20,000 be awarded to Greenbank Pool in 2023/24 with the following condition -

Future Developments – the Trustees of the CIO to support the formation of a Friends of Greenbank Pool with an agreed resident as Chair, offering a voice for the users of the Pool, to encourage more volunteering and to develop fundraising opportunities. The Trustees to work with the Council and the Friends on sustainability plans for 2023 onwards.

B. that £10,000 be ringfenced and the Pool Trust be invited to make a presentation on how it could use this funding to subsidise people living in Street on lower incomes and how evidence would be provided that this had been delivered and/or, on a project for Street residents such as free swimming lessons for under 10s or adults

C. that the Pool Trust be informed that the Council was prepared to look at any sustainable projects which it might wish to put forward.

17. ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE AND PRECEPT FOR 2023/2024

The Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated, including a confidential section for members only detailing staff salaries etc.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

A. that approval be given to the report and the Estimates for 2023/24 as attached as Annex A to the minutes in the Minute Book and the precept on Somerset Council for 2023/24 to be in the sum of £650,000 – an increase of 12% or £18.45 (£1.54 a month) on a Band D property (council tax base to be confirmed in mid-December and figures revised accordingly) – additional £12,000 to be added to the Contingency Fund to total £42,000

B. that subject to A above the information for the council tax section of the Somerset Council's website/leaflet be as attached as Annex B to the minutes in the Minute Book

C. that subject to A above the earmarked reserves at 31st March 2024 be as attached as Annex C to the minutes in the Minute Book

D. that subject to A above the general revenue reserves be set at £182,596 for 2023/24 to maintain current assets such as Street Skate Park, the Parish Rooms and Merriman Park and fund new projects or services as they arise

D. that consideration be given at a future Council meeting of having a nominated Chair's charity for the year and raising funds for this

E. that as £200 was not spent from the Chair's allowance in 2021/22 and around £100 might be left this year, a grant of £300 be made to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

18. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2022

The Deputy Clerk submitted reports which had been circulated. The detailed income and expenditure report by code at 30th September 2022 appears as Annex D to these minutes in the Minute Book. Attention was drawn to the following significant variations between the budget set and the income/expenditure.

EXPENDITURE 1321 Training Clerk and Members

Qualification fees for CiLCA training for the Deputy Clerk and Assistant Clerk have been incurred. It is anticipated that both officers will complete the training prior to the end of March next year.

INCOME 1190 Interest Received

Interest payments remain significantly higher than anticipated due to increase in rates, particularly for the CCLA account.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

19. PERIODIC REPORTS AND INSPECTIONS

The Deputy Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

that the report be agreed.

The meeting ended at 6.55 p.m.

Councillor Knickerbocker left at 6.50 p.m.

Chair _____

STREET PARISH COUNCIL - ESTIMATES 2023/2024

1. ADMINISTRATION**STAFFING**

Net Salary Clerk)	
PAYE/NI/Pension)	
Deputy Clerk)	128,828
PAYE/NI/Pension)	
Assistant Clerk – Community Engagement)	
PAYE/NI/Pension)	

GENERAL

Payroll Costs		449
Telephone/Broadband		4,604
Insurance		2,880
SALC/SLCC/Com. Council subscriptions		3,119
Audit		2,118
Print/Post/Stationery		2,200
Binding Council Minutes		165
Advertising and Publicity		307
Room Hire		913
Computer Aid/RBS/Data Protection		4,773
Travel and Subsistence		400
Training – Staff/Members		2,500
Furniture/Equipment/Improvements		2,000
Chair's Allowance		825

SPC BUILDING

Rates		11,715
Electric/Gas		5,720
Water/Sewerage		428
Waste Collection		2,135
Janitorial		8,544
Maintenance/Renovations		3,000
Legal/Professional		400

LOAN 1 SPC BUILDING REPAYMENTS		22,222
--------------------------------	--	--------

LOAN 2 SPC BUILDING REPAYMENTS		7,985
--------------------------------	--	-------

CONTINGENCY FUND		42,000
------------------	--	--------

TOTAL		260,230
--------------	--	----------------

2. GRANTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

GENERAL GRANTS	25,000
OTHER GRANTS	
Mendip Citizens Advice Bureau	10,000
Twinning Association	0
Crispin Community Focus	10,000
Strode Theatre	20,000
Mendip YMCA	10,000
Library - Staffing	36,312
GREENBANK SWIMMING POOL	30,000
COMMUNITY SAFETY	1,000
TOTAL	142,312

3. COMMUNITY

CCTV MONITORING	10,632
HIGH STREET ENHANCEMENT	16,858
LITTER AND DOG BINS	2,000
HIGHWAYS	2,500
ISSUES FOR STREET – YOUTH, VULNERABLE	55,000
STRODE ROAD ALLOTMENTS	788
TOTAL	87,778

4. STREET SKATE PARK **12,804**

5. MERRIMAN PARK **37,180**

6. EVENTS

Chair's Investiture/Awards	1,320
Christmas Event/Lights/Party	20,776
Merriman Park Fun Day	6,600
Remembrance/Other	3,000
TOTAL	31,696

7. COUNCIL REFORM - STAFFING/ASSETS/SERVICES **100,000**

TOTAL GROSS PAYMENTS **£672,000**

ANNEX B

INFORMATION FOR COUNCIL TAX LEAFLET

The following information to appear on the Somerset Council leaflet/website -

Expenditure	2022/23	2023/24
Administration/CCTV/Events	£202,448	£238,409
Grants	£111,312	£111,312
Greenbank Swimming Pool	£ 18,000	£ 30,000
Skate Park/Merriman Park	£ 43,495	£ 49,984
Parish Rooms incl. loans/Community/High Street	£130,753	£141,295
Council Reform/Community Safety	£101,000	£101,000
	Gross Expenditure	£607,008
Less:	Income	£ 18,160
	Reserves	£ 8,848
	Precept	£580,000
		£650,000

Earmarked Reserves at 31.03.2024**ANNEX C**

Reserve	Opening Balance	Used to Fund expenditure	Added in Year	Closing Balance
Gratuity – NOTE – as recommended by Ext Auditors Aug. 2014, advice to be sought from NALC/SLCC before making any payments to the Clerk	2,295.00	2,295.00	-	0.00
Future Fund Sk Park/Scout Hut	23,000.00	-	-	23,000.00
Bike Racks and Bus Shelters S106 Funding – MDC – 1,555 Bus Shelters C. Hall, 4,692 Bike Racks Greenbank	3,753.00	-	-	3,753.00
Neighbourhood Plan Grant	4,890.00	-	-	4,890.00
PRooms 5 Yr Ext Paintwork 2025	5,000.00	-	-	5,000.00
Sensory Garden/Fitness M Park	5,000.00	-	-	5,000.00
Replacement Fund Skate Park	10,000.00	-	-	10,000.00
New Services (Unitary changes)/ Community Support	75,000.00	-	90,000.00	165,000.00
TOTAL	128,938.00	2,295.00	90,000.00	216,643.00