

STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held in Room 6, Crispin Community Centre, Leigh Road, Street, on 17th October 2023 at 7.05pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Clerk: Z. Leach
Somerset Councillor: L. Leyshon

APOLOGIES: Councillors: P Birch, A Leafe, T Napper and B. Reina
PC H Gratton

99 MINUTES

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19th September 2023 which had been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Council held on 4th October 2023 which had been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

100. MATTERS ARISING RESOLVED

That the Acting Clerk will check if the Principal of Strode College will be attending the Sustainable Street meeting on 19 October 2023

101 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

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

102. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

The Chairman made a presentation to retired PC Mark Pople and, on behalf of the Council and community of Street, thanked him for his 22 years of dedicated service.

Sergeant Simon Lancey encouraged use of the online reporting mechanism for reporting any dangerous driving which includes a facility to upload images or videos.

Sergeant Simon Lancey further advised of the Street Safe App which enables the public to record any areas where they feel unsafe.

Sergeant Simon Lancey advised that he was not aware of any changes to the no cold calling policy regarding utility companies.

RESOLVED

That officers will share on the Council website and social media links for online reporting of dangerous driving and the Street Safe App.

103. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 19th September 2023 were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting be noted.

104. DISABLED ACCESS IN STREET

Cllr Howiantz provided a verbal update on the progress of work on disabled access in Street. Cllrs Birch and Howiantz completed a survey of the High Street and Clarks Village and found that most shops in the High street were difficult for a wheelchair user to access. Cllrs Birch and Howiantz have developed an advisory pamphlet for distribution which will be followed up with a personal visit. Cllr Howiantz advised that a quotation had been received from Emprint for £72 to produce 300 copies.

RESOLVED:

A that the Council approve the printing of 500 copies by Emprint – the cost to be met by the Council; subject to the removal of the comment regarding the propping open of doors.

B that Councillor Howiantz share the pamphlet with Street Neighbourhood Watch for distribution amongst their members.

C that the production and distribution of the advisory pamphlet is the start of a developing campaign which will also include hidden disabilities and that Councillors: Howiantz, Kellet, Sparkes, Swift and Wolfers form a Task and Finish Group to investigate this.

105. EQUALITY DIVERSION AND INCLUSION GROUP

Cllr Reina had sent his apologies.

RESOLVED:

that the Equality, Diversion and Inclusion update is carried over to the November Council meeting

106 YMCA Update

Councillor Howiantz provided a verbal update. The Service Level Agreement between Street Parish Council and YMCA has been signed. This is a positive statement regarding the development of youth club provision and the project facilitates the drawing together of all the different youth work in the area in a coordinated and integrated support system which provides a basis for outreach work.

Thanks were given to the Champions (Cllrs Howiantz, Kellett and Leafe), Cllr P.Goater, the Director of Youth and Community and Youth Work team leader at the YMCA.

107 HIGHWAYS

Notes of the meeting held on 20th September had been circulated with the agenda. Cllr P.Goater highlighted that the Council has an earmarked reserve of £3753 for S106 monies for bus shelters and bike racks that remains unspent.

RESOLVED

- A that the notes be agreed.
- B that the Council purchase two more Speed Indication Devices to put in the High Street - the Highways Working Group to decide which type to purchase and where to be located – subject to permission from Somerset Council
- C that Councillor P.Goater’s request to be appointed to the Highways Working Group is added to the November Council agenda for approval
- D that the Highways Working Group will discuss signage at its meeting on 1 November and bring a report back to Full Council.

108 LIVESTREAM TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Notes of the meeting held on 28th September 2023 had been circulated with the agenda.

Cllr Kellett gave a presentation to Council on the findings of the Livestream Task and Finish Group - the OWL 3 technology was the recommendation of the group – at a cost of approximately £5,000 for two units.

RESOLVED

- A that the notes be agreed
- B that the Council proceed with the purchase of OWL 3 technology at approximately £5000 for two units. Expenditure to be taken from the contingency fund.

109. COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING WORKING GROUP

Cllr Knickerbocker provided a verbal report of the meeting of the Community and Wellbeing Working Group held on 11th October 2023.

Cllr Knickerbocker thanked Councillors and the Acting Deputy Clerk for their efforts with the recent Discover Your Community event. Improved signage is required for future Discover Your Community events. Volunteer welcomers could be considered at future events.

110. REMEMBRANCE MEETING

The Acting Clerk provided a verbal report of the meeting held on 11th October 2023. The organisation of the event is all in hand. The Order of Service has been finalised - it will be a shorter service than the previous year, which was considered too long. It has been confirmed that Major Eddie McGee will act as Parade Marshall this year, in the absence of Matt Tomlinson.

111. REPORT FROM CHAIR

The Chair provided a verbal summary of his attendances during the month. The Discover your Community 'Active Street' event was well attended. The Chair thanked those Councillors who attended. The Chair attended Brookside School for the Golden Gateway Plaque unveiling for Brody Williams. Brody wishes to inspire young people and to make them aware of the hard work, discipline and dedication required to be successful. Street's Remembrance Day Parade will be held on Sunday 12th November; meeting at the Royal British Legion at 2pm. The Chair was in attendance at events at Strode Theatre to celebrate its 60th Anniversary.

112. CORRESPONDENCE/MINOR MATTERS

The Acting Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED:

- A that the report be agreed.
- B that a payment of £24,000 is made to the YMCA as back payment to April of this year with the final payment of £8000 for 2023/24 due in January 2024
- C that a reward of £300 is offered for information leading to the arrest of the perpetrator(s) of the vandalism of the trees at Merriman Park - post on Facebook and Street nub and emphasise commemorative trees.
Acting Clerk to check with SLH if the vandalised trees will survive and officers to investigate the purchase of tree guards for young trees.
- D that available Councillors attend the parish rooms for coffee at 10am on Monday 23 October to meet the new Clerk followed by a local tour.
- E that the Acting Clerk circulate the date of the Street Naming Pilot virtual meeting to all Councillors once available.
- F that Councillor Sparkes be appointed to the Emergency Planning Working Group
- G that Councillor P.Goater's request to be appointed to the Emergency Planning Working Group is added to the November Council agenda for Council approval
- H that provisional dates (post 6.30pm) are circulated for a meeting of the Emergency Planning Working group

113. CHURCHILL RETIREMENT LIVING.

The Acting Clerk prepared a report which had been circulated with the agenda. Councillor Carswell advised that he and Councillor Leyshon had met with Churchill in the Crispin Centre on 6th October, as Somerset Councillors, to look over the plans.

RESOLVED:

- A that the report be noted.
- B that the Acting Clerk organise a meeting of the Council with Churchill Retirement Living

114 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND SOMERSET COUNCILLORS

Somerset Councillor Leyshon provided further details of the meeting with Churchill: The planning application should be submitted by the end of October and the public consultation resulted in just 5 responses. Churchill advised that phosphates will not be a problem as they have purchased enough p credits to cover the Street development. Section 106 monies will come later. Churchill are not interested in converting existing buildings, everything that they do is new build. The route into Leigh Road will be the main route for pedestrians and vehicle access. The development will comprise two terraces of cottages, one terrace of 6 and one terrace of 5 together with 45 apartments. The development will be for over 55s.

The financial position at Somerset Council is more difficult and are looking at where cuts are going to come in. A risk management paper will go to the executive in November.

Somerset Councillor Shearer informed the Council that Somerset Council will try to give a steer as soon as it knows what services it may not be able to support. In the meantime, the Parish Council may wish to consider services it may wish to take on locally.

115 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The latest bank reconciliations for all accounts at 30th September 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 September, 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 30th September 2023 be noted and the schedule of receipts and payments for September be attached as Annex A to the minutes in the Minute Book to publish payments of £500 or more.

116 CCLA PUBLIC SECTOR DEPOSIT FUND (PSDF) ACCOUNT

The CCLA factsheet and statement for September 2023 had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED:

that funds are retained in the CCLA PSDF account.

117 MATTERS FOR REPORT

Councillor Smith raised the issue of a classroom at Hindhayes School that is deemed not fit for purpose.

RESOLVED

that Councillor Shearer investigate what the situation is regarding the Hindhayes School classroom which needs remedial action and report back.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm

Chair _____