

STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held in Room 6, Crispin Community Centre, Leigh Road, Street, on 19th September 2023 at 7.10pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Clerk: Z. Leach
Somerset Councillor: L. Leyshon
Community Engagement Manager, Crispin Community Centre
Principal Strode College

APOLOGIES: Councillors: N.Kellett and A. Sparkes

82 MINUTES

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15th August 2023 which had been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

83. MATTERS ARISING

The Acting Clerk advised that no response had been received from Somerset Parking Team. The Acting Clerk will chase this.

84 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillor Carswell and Councillor 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 Somerset or Parish level.

Councillor Birch declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to Street Football Club.

Councillor 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.

Councillor P. Goater declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to the Victoria Club.

Councillor Howard declared an interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to Crispin Hall and Community Centre, the Victoria Club and Friends of Strode Theatre as she is a trustee of these.

Councillors Kellett and Leafe declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to Hindhayes School and abstained from voting on the Hindhayes grant application.

Councillor Napper declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to Glastonbury Town Council

Councillor Shearer declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to Mendip Community Transport.

Councillor Smith declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to Glastonbury FM as she is a board member and any matters relating to Merriman Park and Greenbank Swimming Pool as she attends meetings in a non-voting capacity. Councillor Smith is also helping the Salvation Army.

Councillor Swift declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating Greenbank Swimming Pool and to Street Library and Strode Theatre in her capacity as a Friend of Street Library and Friend of Strode Theatre.

Councillor Wolfers declared a pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Street and Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce as she is a board member any under Appendix B in any matters relating to Greenbank Swimming Pool as she attends meetings in a non-voting capacity.

85. WATER LEAK UPDATE

The Acting Deputy Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated. The homeowners named on the Joint Waste Water Notice had presented to Council during public question time.

The meeting closed at 7.19pm for the homeowners to answer further questions and reopened at 7.21pm.

The whole pipe has been renewed and the two supplies now separated. A water meter has since been installed at the residential property.

RESOLVED:

A that the notes be agreed.

B that Street Parish Council will cover the full cost of the repair bill of £2,400 and continue conversations with Bristol Water to hold them to account for a lack of due diligence.

86. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

PC Gratton introduced herself as PC Pople's replacement and reminded those present to email her with any concerns or issues they may have.

PC Gratton highlighted a concern regarding thefts in rural communities and urged anyone with any information to contact the police.

PC Gratton highlighted concern over the lack of Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) signage in the High Street and has approached Somerset Council about putting more signs up.

PC Gratton left the meeting at 7.25pm

87. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 15 August 2023 were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting be noted.

88. POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee held on 5 September 2023 had been circulated with the agenda.

The Acting Clerk submitted a report on 'Grant Applications' which had been circulated.

The Principal of Strode College gave a presentation to the Full Council in support of Strode Theatre's grant application for £40,000.

The Community Engagement Manager, Crispin Community Centre, gave a presentation to Full Council in support of the Centre's grant applications for the volunteer driver scheme and winter soup kitchen.

RESOLVED:

A that the minutes of the meeting be noted

B that the recommendations of the Grants report of the Acting Clerk be agreed with the deficit monies being taken from the Unitary Earmarked Reserves

C that Strode Theatre be awarded a grant of £40,000 which will support the Theatre in the current format for the academic year whilst the Theatre sets up a task and finish group to put a new structure in place

D that the YMCA are awarded a 3-year contract, with an option of 2 further years in the form of a service level agreement (SLA) for £32,000 a year to incorporate Street Youth Club and the content outlined in the vision document with delegated responsibility given to the Champions and Councillor P.Goater to work with the YMCA to finalise the details of the SLA

E that Family Counselling Trust Somerset are awarded a grant of £3000

F that Green Door Families are awarded a grant of £9000

G that the Clerk will write to the Alfred Gillett Trust to say that the Council has agreed to award a grant of £35,000 and these monies will be given to the AGT at the time that the funds are actually required to progress with the project – such time to be advised by the AGT

- H that the grant application from Hindhayes School for £20,000 is refused and feedback provided with regards to the amount requested and concerns over funding a salary
- I that the Crispin Community Centre is awarded a grant of £3000 for the Volunteer Driver Scheme and £2000 for the winter soup kitchen. Councillor P.Goater will work with the Crispin Community Centre on creating a Service Level Agreement for the next round of grant applications.

Councillors D.Goater and Leafe left the meeting at 8.05pm

89. LIVESTREAM TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Councillor Wolfers provided a verbal update on the visit to Glastonbury Town Council to research how they set up live streaming of meetings and the quality of the equipment/software used. The task and finish group will consider further and bring back a proposal paper with full costings to a future Full Council meeting.

90. COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING WORKING GROUP

The notes of the Community and Wellbeing Working Group held on the 12th September were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED

that the notes be agreed

91. EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI) GROUP

Councillor Reina gave a presentation to the group in support of a Council EDI working group which would be composed of Councillors and possibly members from organisations in Street who would initially meet approximately every 6 weeks and report back to Council.

Councillors D. Goater and Leafe returned to the meeting at 8.17pm.

RESOLVED

that Councillors Howard, Howiantz, Reina, Swift and Wolfers form a working group to scope out what is required from an EDI working group and bring back a proposal to Full Council in 3 months' time.

92. REPORT FROM CHAIR

The Chair attended a number of events in September including attendance at the Mayor Making event for Glastonbury Mayor Indra Donfrancesco held at Glastonbury Abbey, attendance at Westminster to witness the swearing in of Somerset MP Sarah Dyke, attendance at Wells Cathedral to honour her late majesty Queen Elizabeth II and to mark the anniversary of the Accession of King Charles III, the High Sheriff's Garden Party in Bishop Sutton, attendance at St. Cuthbert's Church in Wells for a Battle of Britain Commemoration Service, the 50th Anniversary celebration at Brookside Academy and an event at Street Police Station to mark PC Mark Pople's retirement after 22 years of service.

93. CORRESPONDENCE/MINOR MATTERS

The Acting Clerk submitted a report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED:

- A that the report be agreed.
- B that the Acting Clerk contacts the Monitoring Officer or any other free service to seek advice on the Parish Council's legal position with regards to:
 - the close proximity of the proposed Churchill Retirement Living development to the parish building and
 - minimising the risk of prejudicing decisions the Council can make on the planning application.
- C that Energise Developments are appointed, at a cost of £1,650 to deliver an implementation session on 10 October 2023 and that Councillors Knickerbocker, Swift and Wolfers form a task and finish group to look at other Council structures and report back to Council prior to the implementation session using the template circulated with the agenda.
- D that Councillors Birch, Knickerbocker, Swift and Wolfers form a task and finish group for the upcoming Street Festive Market event
- F that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit, along with the certified AGAR, be published on the Council Website prior to 30 September 2023 and remain on the website for a 12-month period
- G that copies of the AGAR are available to purchase by any person upon request from the Parish Council, free of charge.
- H that a dog bin is placed in Grangefields Park play area subject to Somerset Council permission regarding location and emptying of bin – delegated power given to Officers to decide on the best bin to purchase within the agreed limit set aside in the Council's annual budget for dog bins – and an update letter sent to the resident who requested the bin.

94 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES
AND SOMERSET COUNCILLORS

Somerset Councillor Carswell advised that the Merriman Park Fun Day had been the most successful they have held, raising £2,800. It was noted that whilst the cost to put the event on is £6,600 it is an extremely valuable community event. Councillor Carswell gave his thanks to the Merriman Park Community Group, Officers and Councillors who helped with the event and raised concern for the future of the event and the need to encourage younger members or Members of the Parish Council to join the Merriman Park Community Group.

Somerset Councillor Shearer informed the Council that she had attended a good workshop on commitment to carers and is currently in the process of scoping what came out of the workshop. The Parish Council may wish to review how it supports carers in the future.

Somerset Councillor Leyshon advised that lots of decisions will be coming forward from the Executive of Somerset Council between now and budget setting.

Councillor Leyshon has witnessed a significant increase in the number of planning applications coming her way and asked if any Councillors have any queries with regards to an application to raise them with herself and Councillor Carswell.

Councillor Leyshon further advised of a request from the Parish Church about the possibility of putting a dropped kerb on the pavement on the college and school side so that people who park in the car park and need wheeled access across the road can go across from the College.

95. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The latest bank reconciliations for all accounts at 31 August 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 August, 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 31st August 2023 be noted and the schedule of receipts and payments for August be attached as Annex A to the minutes in the Minute Book in order to publish payments of £500 or more.

96. CCLA PUBLIC SECTOR DEPOSIT FUND (PSDF) ACCOUNT

The CCLA statement for August 2023 had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED:

that funds are retained in the CCLA PSDF account.

The press and public left the meeting at 9.01pm due to confidential item number 97.

The Acting Clerk declared an interest in item number 97 and left the meeting at 9.02pm. Councillor Knickerbocker clerked this section of the meeting.

97. STAFFING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 11 September 2023 were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED

- A that the minutes of the meeting be noted.
- B that the ACCE (current title) post be retained at scale point 27 thereafter rising to scale point 32 subject to satisfactory annual review.
- C that the DC/RFO would be retained at scale point 34 (2 points below the current salary as this will end when the “acting up” period expires) thereafter rising to scale point 39 subject to satisfactory annual review.
- D that officers delegate tasks to Members where appropriate to alleviate workload – particularly for the upcoming events – Discover your Community, Remembrance Parade and the Festive Market

E that the temporary worker continues to be employed through Fusion Recruitment until such time as the temporary worker is no longer required

The Acting Clerk returned to the meeting at 9.09pm.

98 MATTERS FOR REPORT
There were no matters for report.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm

Chair _____