

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL

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| Held on | Tuesday, 21 st November 2023 at 7 pm. Room 6, Crispin Community Centre, Leigh Road, Street. |
| Members Summoned and Present: | Members Summoned and Present: All Councillors; Bryan Knickerbocker (Chairman), Nina Swift (Vice Chairman), Simon Carswell, Deb Goater, Peter Goater, Jean Howard, Neil Howiantz, Nicholas Kellett, Andy Leafe, Terry Napper, Heather Shearer, Adrian Sparkes, Nicola Smith, and Laura Wolfers. |
| Absent: | Cllrs Pam Birch and Bruno Reina. |
| Officers Present: | Jenny Service, Parish Clerk |
| In attendance: | Members of the public (11) |

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public question time

Members of the public were invited to make representations to the Council on any matters relating to the work of the Council or to raise any issues of concern. *Note: the Council is unable to make formal decisions under this item, but items raised may be recommended for consideration at a future meeting.*

3 residents raised concerns at the meeting. Topics raised included crime, safety, graffiti, anti-social behaviour and an incident at Woods Batch underpass (currently under investigation by Police).

The Chairman thanked residents for attending this public question time and raising their concerns.

Somerset Councillor reports

No matters were raised under this section.

Neighbourhood Policing Team

The Clerk provided a summary of headlined from PC Hannah Gratton, Neighbourhood Policing Team. This included: Issue in the Library Gardens, ongoing crime prevention strategies relate. An update on crime and ASB in street - www.police.uk website provides latest crime statistics. Importance of reporting all crime and incidents through 101 or online for non-emergencies and 999 for emergencies. It is vital that everything that is happening in street is reflected in the statistics otherwise it is impossible for the Neighbourhood Policing Team to bid for the right resources. The team will be at the Street Festive Market to engage with the community and will advertise on social media.

The full council meeting commenced at 7:10 pm

MINUTES

118. Apologies for absence
It was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies for absence from Cllrs Reina and Cllr Birch – both due to illness.
119. Declarations of interests and grant of dispensations
Councillors were reminded of their duty to declare any interests in the business to be transacted.
No interests were declared.
120. Confirmation of minutes
RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 11th October 2023 were approved for signing as a true record of the decisions taken.
121. Reports
 - i. Chairman's Report
The Council received a verbal report from the Chairman's which included updates on activities and events since the last Council meeting.
 - ii. Clerk's Report
The Council received a verbal report from the Parish Clerk which included updates/actions on behalf of the office.
122. Committee minutes
The Parish Council **NOTED** the receipt of DRAFT minutes of recent committee meetings.
These minutes will be considered for approval as a record of decisions made at the next meeting of the respective Committee.
 - i. Planning Committee (17th October 2023).
 - ii. Policy & Finance Committee (7th November 2023).
123. Street Festive Market
Members received and **NOTED** the Officers report from Danielle Price (Assistant Clerk & Community Engagement Officer).
124. Defibrillator cabinet
 - i. It was **RESOLVED** to install the defibrillator cabinet (location chosen - side wall of building opposite Crispin Hall) and accept the quote supplied for electrical works for £163.32.
 - ii. It was **RESOLVED** to task the Culture Working Group with determining what other defibrillator support is available in Street and consider what other support may be required.
125. Probation graffiti clean-up and litter pick
Members were asked to consider proposal by the Neighbourhood Policing and Probation Services to engage with Community Payback. Probation run groups of supervised individuals to complete their unpaid work sentenced by the courts. This often comprises of gardening, decorating, litter picking and graffiti removal. It was **RESOLVED** to – proceed with Community Payback and invite Probation to next council meeting.

126. Westway, Street - Scheme Consultation
Members were asked to consider a Parish Council response to the Westway, Street - Scheme Consultation MN004264. **RESOLVED** – to support and welcome the Westway, Street scheme proposals for Somerset Council to develop a pedestrian/ cyclist improvement scheme along a section of A39 Westway in Street, to provide a shared-use footway/cycleway between Clarks Village Access Road and Glaston Road.
127. The Crispin Centre
The shopping mall is about to become vacant with the imminent departure of the last shop. The centre will be closed to avoid incurring ongoing costs and reduce risk of vacant premises being more vulnerable to anti-social behaviour. Street Parish Council were invited to consider the timing of closure.
RESOLVED – to accept the offer by management to close the centre after Christmas to allow the route through from the carpark to be used by increased footfall in the run up to Christmas.
128. Memorial trees
The Parish Council were asked to consider replacement of memorial trees and requirement for tree guards due to vandalism October 2023. Discussion also took place around criminal damage and wider issues of anti-social behaviour.
i. **RESOLVED** – Officers to obtain a quote for split tree guards from local company Bannell Engineering and approved a delegated budget of £1,200 to Officers for tree guards.
ii. **RESOLVED** – that Street Parish Council replace the three trees (include planting and upkeep at £625).
i. **RESOLVED** – that the Parish Council contact schools and collages reference the vandalism.
Officers to investigate community engagement through local publications. *Communications Policy to be considered at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee on 28th November 2023.*
129. NALC Foundation Award
RESOLVED - That Street Parish Council work towards the NALC Foundation Award. Costs approved: £50 registration paid to NALC; £80 accreditation fee paid to SALC.
130. Member Officer Protocol
RESOLVED - to adopt the SLCC Member Officer Protocol to include the amendments by Cllr Sparkes.
131. Working Groups and Committee structure
i. **RESOLVED** - to appoint Councillor Peter Goater to the Highways Working Group.
ii. **RESOLVED** - to appoint Cllr Peter Goater to the Emergency Planning Working Group.
iii. The Clerk provided a short verbal report on the structure of Committees, Working Groups / tasking finishing groups.
iv. **RESOLVED** – To adopt a ‘motion request’ form to manage workflow.
v. **RESOLVED** – That the Parish Council begin a review of the Committee, Working Group and Task and Finish Group structure (including terms of reference and decision-making powers) at the Implementation Training Day on 24th November 2023.
132. Draft budget 2024/25 and Somerset Council’s asset and service devolution
i. The Parish Council **NOTED** the letter from Cllr Bill Revans Leader of Somerset Council: asset and service devolution. Members received a report from the Policy and Finance Committee.
ii. The council received a short report from Policy & Finance Committee which included an update on the draft budget for 2024/25, the Somerset Council asset and service devolution. Cllr Shearer provided a short update from Somerset Council.
iii. Emergency light spend was **NOTED**.

- iv. The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to explore the asset and service devolution letter further during the Implementation Training Day on 24th November 2023 which will then be considered at the extraordinary meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee on 28th November 2023 (in conjunction with the DRAFT budget). *Policy and Finance Committee to bring recommendations to the December PCM.*

133. Finances

- i. The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to approve the finances for month 10 (emailed on 16th November 2023) including the latest bank reconciliations for all accounts at 31st October 2023 with the monthly income and expenditure by account report and earmarked reserves.
- ii. **RESOLVED** – SLCC membership renewal approved (£348).

134. Christmas lights

Members were asked to briefly discuss the Christmas Lights following their recent installation. The Parish Council will consider the matter in full at a future meeting after gathering more information (including feedback from residents and a report from Officers).
The Parish Council will conduct a survey to capture residents views at the Festive Market.

135. Anti-social behaviour

The Chairman provided an update on anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the Parish. Street Parish Council are determined to keep Street a safe place. Members discussed support from the Neighbourhood Policing Team and options to keep Street safe. Members discussed ASB in the form of a firework let off in the library gardens (reported to Police), and reports of a serious incident at Woods Batch underpass (Police investigating). Discussion took place around publicising Street Safe on the Parish Council website and the importance of logging all incidents of crime and ASB to secure the right policing resources.

136. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and **NOTED**:

- i. Letter from resident reference speeding on Portway. Highways Working Group to consider in full.
- ii. Letter from student at Elmhurst School. Highways Working Group to consider in full.
- iii. Somerset Sight – request for befriending volunteers.

137. Information to raise for consideration at the next meeting

This item must be for information only. Any matter that requires a decision must be set as an agenda item at a future meeting.

- i. Woods Batch underpass (including graffiti).
- ii. Highways Working Group structure.

138. Date of next meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will take place at:

7pm on Tuesday 5th December 2023 at Room 6, Crispin Community Centre, Leigh Road, Street.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9:56 pm.

These minutes were adopted on 5th December. under minute reference 141. as a true record of the decisions taken and are duly signed below by the chair of that meeting.

Signed: _____