



Minutes of the meeting of the
Community Committee
18th March 2024

Present

Councillors Geoffrey Andrews, Laurie Davies (Chair), Sue Fenton and Mark Graham

Absent

None

In attendance

Kate Montgomery (Deputy CEO / Deputy Town Clerk), Laura Beattie (Community Development Officer (CDO)) and Hugh O'Boyle (Community Development Support Officer (CDSO)), Ben Morris (Play Gloucestershire) and Max Beard (Play Gloucestershire).

The agenda was reordered as follows;

4. Play Gloucestershire Presentation

Representatives from Play Gloucestershire gave a talk about the work they are doing in Archway Gardens and Mason Road playing fields. The organisation passed on their sincere thanks to the council for their support during the pandemic which enabled them to carry on supporting children with outdoor play and activities when restrictions allowed.

The representatives reported on a new initiative in Kingswood, Gloucester which is convened by Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust and brings together partners from children's support services to intervene positively for children who are struggling with mental health and/or behaviour issues. It is hoped that this project will be available across the county in the next twelve to eighteen months.

The Chair thanked Play Gloucestershire for their presentation and confirmed that officers would be happy to support the project in any way they can.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jeremy Green, Adrian Oldman and Louisa Stinton (all personal).

2. Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

There were two requests for dispensations from Councillor Graham and one from Councillor Fenton due to non-pecuniary interests for the application for funding from Stroud Valley's Project under item 13, b.

The dispensations were granted in light of the interest of the public in the matter.

A pecuniary interest was registered from Councillor Graham for the application for funding from Hawkwood College under item 13, b. Due to the number of councillors required for quorum (four), this application was deferred to the next appropriate meeting.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Committee of 2nd January 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. Questions from the public

There were no questions.

6. To receive an update from the Community Development Team (verbal)

The CDO team provided a detailed report on Community Development work since the last meeting.

NoSH

The team have picked up some support around formalising the structure of the group as they would like to professionalise. This process should take twelve to eighteen months and once complete the team will be able to spend less hands-on time with the group and focus on supporting grass-roots organizations in the town. The food coordinator role has been secured for another twelve month period, with each member hub contributing to the salary costs. They hope to fundraise to continue the role into the future.

Hotspots

Some of the town's hubs have received funding via Hotspots as part of the UKSPF funding distributed by central government via SDC using GL11. Some will also receive a further payment in the 2024-25 financial year. These funds are unrestricted with few reporting requirements. The CDO team are supporting those hubs in receipt of the funding. This support has allowed the team to continue to build good relationships with GL11.

Top of Town Hub

This hub is struggling with volunteer capacity. The team are supporting the hub with recruitment and governance. GRCC have been asked to work with the hub to provide some additional support.

Middle of the Hill (MOTH)

SDC have announced a regeneration project at Nouncells Cross. The work identified by the hub has been marked as a priority. The hub passed along their sincere thanks to the Council ward members for their generous support for a defibrillator which was allocated via the Ward Specific Projects budget.

Chapel St

The team facilitated the screening of a film with Stroud Film Festival which was very well received by the community. The team are planning to undertake door knocking over the next few weeks to highlight the community café offer on a Wednesday and hopefully increase the input from local residents. The Salvation Army building is also being used for community well-being service appointments after the Independence Trust lost their offices in the town.

General

The team are responding to the need for additional safeguarding training across all hubs.

The team are now distributing vouchers on behalf of Stroud District Council (SDC) which allows for a more consistent system to be implemented.

The Independence Trust lost the contract for community wellbeing services in the town. The contract has been taken over by Rethink. The town council is offering the Stroud team the opportunity to have meetings in the back office as and when required.

The team is continuing to research community dentistry and any funding pots which might be available for this work.

7. To receive the budget monitoring report

The budget monitoring report to end of February 2024 was noted.

8. Lansdown Hall SLA

The SLA was **approved**.

9. Subscription Rooms Trust SLA

The SLA was **approved**.

10. Reports from grants awarded by the committee

The Committee received the reports.

11. Reports from SLA providers

The Committee received the reports.

12. Remaining funds available in the Grants Funds for 2023-2024

It was noted that the following funds were available:

Arts and Culture	£3,750.00
Small Grants	£2,500.00
Community Support Fund	£1,517.85

13. Grant applications

a) Arts and Culture

Stroud Chamber Music

The committee **declined** to fund the application as the benefits for Stroud residents were not clear. All care homes listed in the application fell outside the parish boundary.

b) Community Support Fund

Friends of Gastrells

The committee **declined** to fund the application due to the absence of evidence for the benefit to Stroud parish residents. The committee also highlighted the lack of detail about how the funds were to be spent and what aspects of the project were being requested. It was also noted that no other parish councils had been approached for funding. The Clerk was asked to ensure the applicant was aware of Rodborough Parish Council's funding scheme.

Hawkwood

Due to Councillor Graham's pecuniary interest the committee was unable to discuss this application. The application will be referred to Full Council for the 22nd April meeting.

Stroud Show

The committee **approved** the funding application of £1,500 on the condition that the organisers prove that they have sufficient cancellation insurance in place.

GWAAC (Air Ambulance)

The committee considered this application which had previously been deferred from the January 2nd meeting. The committee **approved** a payment of £1,000 towards the cost of a mission to Stroud.

SVP on behalf of Heavens Action Group

This application was considered under the small grant fund criteria.

c) Small Grants

SVP on behalf of Heavens Action Group

The committee **approved** an award to the group of £500 towards room hire and promotion. Members noted that due to the public interest in this project, it was important to consider the application in a timely manner. The committee requested that the action group apply the following financial year with a more complete breakdown of costs and plan to become self-funding.

Paint Festival

The committee **approved** an award of £500 for the festival.

Randwick Scouts

The committee noted that although the group fell outside the parish, they had informed the committee that one third of the children attending were from the Stroud parish. The committee **approved** an award of £250.

Resident Roots

The committee **approved** an award of £500 towards the event. The committee requested that the following conditions be met prior to payment;

- proof of insurance - specifically for this group
- requirement for a fiscal host to hold the funds - not a business
- risk assessment - to be forwarded to the Clerk
- confirmation that any surplus from the bar etc will be donated to a suitable local charity

Yard Trail

The committee **approved** an award of £500 on the following conditions;

- Transition Stroud were used as a fiscal host
- The organiser takes steps to professionalize to include events insurance, a risk assessment and a constitution

Members noted that this would be the final award made to the organisers should the above conditions not be met in the future.

The committee requested that the Clerk ringfenced any remaining funds to be carried forward into the 2024-25 budget.

Action: Clerk

14.Exclusion of the press and public

It was **resolved** in view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting. (No press or public were present.)

15.Review of SLA agreement

The Committee received a report regarding an SLA provider. Members approved the recommendation from the Clerk to suspend payments until suitable governance, financial and health and safety policies and procedures were in place.

Action: Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Chair

Date