



Minutes of the meeting of the
Community Committee
10th June 2024

Present

Councillors Shyama Ananthan (Chair), Geoffrey Andrews, Chris Minnet, Denise Nolson, Adrian Oldman, Val Saunders and Louisa Stinton

Absent

Simon Jacobson

In attendance

Kate Montgomery (Deputy CEO / Deputy Town Clerk), Laura Beattie (Community Development Officer (CDO)) until Item 6, and Hugh O'Boyle (Community Development Support Officer (CDSO)) until Item 6.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Karl Durr-Sorenson (work).

2. Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

There were six declarations of interest as listed below.

Cllr Louisa Stinton declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 11 b) grant application from Craftology

Cllr Denise Nolson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11 b) grant application from the Hygiene Bank

Cllr Adrian Oldman declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11 b) grant application from Stroud Assembly

Cllr Val Saunders declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11 b) grant application from Stroud Assembly

Cllr Geoffrey Andrews declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11 b) grant application from Periscope.

Cllr Shyama Ananthan declared a non-pecuniary interest in general as a Director at Paganhill Community Group.

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Committee of 18th March 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

4. Questions from the public

There were no members of the public present.

5. To receive an update from the Community Development Team

The CDO team provided a detailed written report on Community Development work since the last meeting. They also gave a presentation to councillors, outlining their work and priorities for the civic year ahead.

Community Dentistry

The team is seeking funding for mobile dental clinics in Stroud to address a gap in services for vulnerable community members. Supported by local officials, a funding application has been submitted and will be assessed this month. If approved, the team will collaborate with dental charity Dentaaid to provide clinics through the Network of Stroud Hubs, offering essential dental care and highlighting access issues to NHS dentistry.

NoSH

The team continues to support NoSH to develop including support, training and action planning.

Individual Hub support

The team continues to support hubs on an individual basis, facilitating meetings, championing projects and supporting events.

Stroud District Community Hub

The team are actively engaged with this initiative and are ensuring that the community is faithfully represented and advocating for additional community accessibility as it develops.

Chapel Street

The recent impact measurement surveys have shown that the community café has a positive impact on the residents who attend. The team will be reporting on this in more detail at the next meeting. Work to advocate for the community with partner agencies continues.

Stroud Seatory

The Seatory has returned for 2024, with the CDO team picking up the marshalling and organisation of the weekly drop in with the support of the Communications and Engagement officer.

Participatory Budgeting

The project is in its early stages, with the team undertaking initial meetings with a local school. Preliminary workshops will begin before the summer break.

General

The team has also been involved with the District Council household support fund voucher scheme, ensuring that the vouchers are available to any community member in need.

Work continues with safeguarding with multi-agency meetings being held when concerns are raised.

The team have been working closely with Citizens Advice to highlight the fund to provide transport costs for those unable to attend health appointments in Gloucester or Cheltenham hospitals.

The team is supporting efforts to expand the reach of Paganhill Transform to ensure there is benefit to all parties involved.

6. To receive the budget monitoring report

The budget monitoring report to end of April 2024 was noted, the Deputy CEO answered questions regarding allocations for the coming year.

7. To note the work plan for 2024-25

The work plan was noted. Councillors commented that it was a useful addition.

8. Reports from grants awarded by the committee

The Committee received the reports.

9. Reports from SLA providers

The Committee received the reports. Members asked that the Deputy CEO pass on their thanks to Citizens Advice and Play Rangers for the reports. The Deputy CEO was asked to request ward breakdown information from Citizens Advice and circulate by email.

Action: Deputy CEO

10. Funds available for 2024-2025

It was noted that the following funds were available:

Arts and Culture	£11,000.00
Small Grants	£4,000.00
Community Support Fund	£11,000.00

11. Grant applications

a) Arts and Culture

Periscope

This application was considered under the Small Grant criteria.

b) Community Support Fund

Craftology – Night Angels

Members were supportive of the project, however concerns were raised about a lack of detail in the application. Members also raised concerns regarding the accounts which had been sent with the application, which did not give any information about the organisation. The committee **approved** a payment of £500 towards the project on the condition that proper accounts were submitted to officers. The committee **delegated** the payment to the Deputy CEO but advised that this could be made as £250 now and £250 upon receipt of accounts.

Hope for Tomorrow

The committee **declined** to fund the application. As per the Grant Guidance documentation available on the council's website, the committee does not fund general running costs.

Stroud Against Racism

The committee **approved** a payment of £1,250 towards the Black History Month event.

Stroud Assembly

The committee **declined** to award a grant to the application. Members advised that officers should meet with organisers to gather more clarity about the project.

Stroud Pride

The committee **approved** a payment of £1,300 towards the ongoing support groups and Pride Picnic.

The Hygiene Bank

The committee **approved** £1,000 towards the project.

Top of Town Community Hub

The committee **approved** £1,000 towards the project.

Trinity Rooms

The committee **approved** £900 towards the project.

c) Small Grants

Periscope

The committee **approved** a contribution towards the project of £335 as a **Small Grant** for materials and printing. Members noted that although they felt the project had merit, the grant guidance does not allow the funding of individuals.

Action: Deputy CEO

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Chair

Date