



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

Present

Councillors Shyama Ananthan (Chair), Geoffrey Andrews, Karl Durr-Sorenson, Simon Jacobson, Adrian Oldman, Val Saunders and Louisa Stinton

Absent

None

In attendance

Kate Montgomery (Deputy CEO / Deputy Town Clerk), Stephen Sawyer (Representative of Stroud Rotary Club), Deborah Howell (Business Administration Apprentice), Njigina Moppett (Community Development Support Officer).

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Minett and Nolson (personal).

2. Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

None.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

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

4. Questions from the public

There were no members of the public present.

5. To welcome the new Community Development Support Officer

The committee were introduced to the new Community Development Support Officer. The chair welcomed them to the Council.

6. To receive a member of Stroud Rotary Club regarding their Centenary Project

Stephen Sawyer from the Stroud Rotary Club gave an update on the Centenary Project. Although the club celebrated their 100th anniversary in 2021, there was an outstanding £1,750 remaining. The club had a preference to spend the remaining funds on a piece of community or public realm equipment in partnership with the town council.

The Chair thanked the club for their offer and requested the Deputy Chief Executive Officer to circulate potential opportunities for the committee to consider before confirming at the next meeting of the Community Committee.

Action: Deputy CEO

7. To receive an update from the Community Development Officer (verbal)
The update was received via the Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

Councillor Oldman requested that a further report about the Chapel Street Community Café was prepared for the next meeting.

Action: CDO

8. To receive an update regarding the Participatory Budgeting Project
The committee thanked the team for the update and confirmed that they were pleased with the new emerging partnerships with The Door and Creative Sustainability.

9. To receive the budget monitoring report to the end of October 2024
The report was received.

10. To recommend a draft budget to Council
The corrected budget was distributed to members. The new figures of 0.4% increase were noted and **approved** for recommendation to full council.

Action: CEO

11. Reports from grants awarded by the committee
The Committee received the reports.

12. Reports from SLA providers
The Committee received the reports.

13. Funds available for 2024-2025
It was noted that the following funds were available:

Arts and Culture	£9,500
Small Grants	£3,165
Community Support Fund	£3,800

The committee questioned the difference between the figures for this item and the figures in the budget. The Deputy CEO explained that this was due to the accounting system accruing and paying invoices in this financial year which had been approved the previous year.

14. Grant applications

a) Arts and Culture

CTF / Lantern Fest

The committee **approved** the full award of £2,500 as outlined in the application.

The committee offered two hours of officer time to the organisations for future funding applications to ensure the Lantern Parade is sustainable for future years.

Community 18/11/24

Goodwill

Members **approved** the award of £1,000. It was noted that the insurance quote seemed high. Councillor Oldman offered to put the group in touch with a potentially cheaper insurer which was noted.

b) Community Support Fund

Place Outside

The committee noted that it was not clear how many participants would be from the parish. The CDO team were asked to work with the organisation to ensure that participants were referred from the town's community hubs such as Chapel Street. The Deputy CEO was asked to confirm the cost per participant.

The committee **delegated** an award of up to £1,000 to the Deputy CEO to grant if residents were successfully enrolled in the workshops.

Wild Kids

The committee highlighted reservations about the vehicle for funds for the application. Members were supportive of the scheme and requested that the applicant works with the council's fundraiser to re-apply in March. The committee **deferred** the decision until the new application was received.

Action: Fundraiser

c) Small Grant Fund

No applications were received for this fund.

Actions: Deputy CEO

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Chair

Date