

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the**

**MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**Monday, 1st July 2019, at 7.30pm**

**Present: Cllrs Alice Campbell, Kevin Cranston (Chair), Laurie Davies, Steve Dechan, Rob Green, Camilla Hale, John Marjoram (from item 9), Steven Naumann, Margaret Poulton, Haydn Sutton and Chas Townley**

In attendance: Marianne Sweet (STC Communications), Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk), Kate Montgomery (Deputy Clerk), Two representatives from Earth Protectors

Absent: Cllrs Lunnon and Price

**Action**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Andrews (work), Arundel (personal), Bloxsom (work), Sage (Personal) and Schoemaker (work). Also received from Stroud District Councillor Pickering.

**2. Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations**

None

**3. Gifts and hospitality**

Cllr Cranston declared a gift from the Mayor of Putten, Netherlands.

**4. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the annual council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May were **approved** by the members present and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

The agenda was reordered as follows.

**6. Mayor's remarks**

The Mayor reported on the Annual Town Meeting and awards and noted that the environmental theme for the evening had been well received.

Events attended by the Mayor included: opening of new "Changing Places" facilities at Allsorts in the Brunel Mall; a celebration at Marah of reaching their target of 100 monthly meal donors; Paganhill Community Fayre; visit of representatives from Putten, Netherlands; opening of bottle filling station in Bank Gardens; Pride Picnic; and building a compost toilet at Hawkwood.

It was noted that the Mayor has been invited to attend events in October 2019 marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WWII atrocity in Putten, Netherlands. The town of Putten received financial support from Stroud after the war, which is recognised in the naming of their community arts centre, The Stroud.

The Mayor, Clerk and Deputy Clerk had also met with Inspector Blake and PC Tucker from Stroud neighbourhood policing team to discuss damage to the war memorial, graffiti and anti-social behaviour. The Clerk reported that there may be a possibility to add new CCTV cameras to cover areas not monitored by the current system.

### **7. Questions from members of the public**

Two representatives from Earth Protectors presented their plans to continue the work of Polly Higgins to make ecocide illegal in international law. The Council were invited to become the first Earth Protector Town. Members were supportive of the proposal and wanted to ensure that the agreement would be meaningful and capable of being rolled out to other towns.

It was **agreed** that the Deputy Clerk would work with Earth Protectors to develop a more detailed proposal for discussion at the Finance, Community and Policy Committee meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July, with a view to Council signing it off on 2nd September.

Deputy  
Clerk

### **8. District and County Councillors' reports**

District Cllr Townley expressed his disappointment at the refusal of Forest Green Rovers' planning application for a new stadium at Eastington. He reported that Stroud District Council's Strategy and Resources Committee had approved a property review which includes public toilets and the Chapel at Stroud Cemetery.

Cllr Townley reported that Stroud District Council had won a prestigious award for their waste and recycling service. He also noted, with regret, that the deliveries to the new Gloucestershire County Council incinerator were starting this week and encouraged people to recycle as much as possible to avoid their waste going to incineration. It was noted that Stroud District Council have put in place equipment for monitoring pollution from the incinerator.

District Cllr Sutton shared Cllr Townley's disappointment about the stadium application. He also reported that food waste collections in Stroud are at risk because Gloucestershire County Council are proposing changes to funding arrangements.

### **9. Clerk's report**

The Clerk invited members to volunteer on the Council's stand at the Stroud Nature Festival on 7<sup>th</sup> July when a new Garden Guardians project will be launched.

Concern was expressed about recent vandalism to the war memorial in Park Gardens. The Clerk was asked to suggest to Stroud District Council that the inscription is replaced with a cast iron plaque and to report further damage to the stonework at the base.

Clerk

Cllr Marjoram arrived during this item.

#### 5. **Vacancy on Green Spaces Committee**

Cllr Hale was elected to the Committee.

It was noted that Cllr Hale had resigned from the Finance, Community and Policy Committee, which had been oversubscribed. A request was received to take Cllr Hale's place, which would be dealt with at the September Council meeting.

Clerk

#### 10. **Provision of tourist information**

The Clerk presented a report on issues relating to the provision of information following the closure of Stroud District Council's Tourist Information Centre. It was noted that research is ongoing on potential long-term solutions, which will be presented to the Finance, Community and Policy Committee meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July, but in the meantime some temporary support to manage workload was needed.

It was **agreed** to authorise the Clerk to employ temporary staff until mid-September to help manage workload until a long-term solution is agreed. It was also **agreed** to purchase a display stand for leaflets to be housed temporarily at 2 John Street.

Clerk

#### 11. **Funding for cycle storage at Stroud station**

The Clerk presented a report on a successful application to Sustrans, in partnership with GWR, for a "Cycle Rail Grant" for cycle infrastructure at Stroud Station.

It was **agreed** to authorise a £13,000 match funding grant and delegate to the Clerk drawing up a grant agreement.

Clerk

#### 12. **Committee reports**

Report of the following meetings, having been previously been circulated were received:

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Consultations:               | 20 <sup>th</sup> May, 10 <sup>th</sup> June |
| Green Spaces:                | 4 <sup>th</sup> June                        |
| Finance, Community & Policy: | 17 <sup>th</sup> June                       |

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chair .....

Date .....