

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the

MEETING OF COUNCIL

Monday, 2nd July 2018, at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Geoffrey Andrews, Simon Arundel, John Bloxsom, Alice Campbell, Laurie Davies, Steve Dechan, Rob Green (from item 4), Camilla Hale, John Marjoram, Margaret Poulton (Chair), Alan Sage and Chas Townley (to item 5).

In attendance: Marianne Sweet (STC Communications), Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk), Stroud District Cllrs Simon Pickering and Martin Baxendale; Gloucestershire County Councillor Eva Ward; Elin Tattersall and Lois Taylor from Gloucestershire Rural Community Council.

Action

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cranston (work); Davies, Dechan, Naumann, Schoemaker and Sutton (personal).

2. Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

Cllr Townley declared an interest in the Subscription Rooms.

3. Gifts and hospitality

Cllr Poulton declared a visit to an event organised by the High Sheriff.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 14th May were **approved** by the members present and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

As Cllr Townley needed to leave early he was invited to give his report early. He reported on the publication of a new Corporate Delivery Plan; the need to deliver more affordable housing, a democracy celebration event at the Museum in the Park, recruitment of a new chief executive, the Subscription Rooms, a consultation on wheelchair accessible taxis and the parking consultation.

5. Presentation on community-led housing

Lois Taylor gave a presentation on community-led housing and answered questions from councillors. It was noted that funding has recently become available to support community-led housing and that Gloucestershire Rural Community Council can provide support on both site assessments and promoting community-led housing. Cllr Townley left the meeting.

6. Deputy Mayor's remarks

The Deputy Mayor reported on recent visits to the democracy celebration event at the Museum in the Park, the High Sheriff's garden party, Severn Freewheelers and Woodchester Mansion.

7. Questions from members of the public

There were no questions.

8. District and County Councillors' reports

District Cllr Marjoram had nothing to report.

District Cllr Pickering report on the approval of funding for feasibility for the canal project; garden waste service; single-use plastics; consultation on an updated Environment strategy and the potential for parish and town council employees to be delegated to issue fixed penalty notices for littering and dog fouling. He answered questions about the Subscription Rooms and garden waste.

District Cllr Baxendale reported on the consultation on the introduction of charging at the car park at Stratford Park. The Clerk reported on the results of the town council survey which would be considered by the Consultations Committee on 9th July.

County Cllr Ward reported that the lengthsmen would be working in town in the coming week; a biodiversity motion had been approved and that she is researching the process of creating TROs with a view to making it quicker and easier. Cllr Ward expressed concern about the impact of funding cuts on local services including supported housing, the women's refuge, and services for early years and older people. She reported on the potential for an innovative collaboration with the town council using the Growing Communities fund.

9. Clerk's report

The Clerk corrected the reported number of parking survey responses. The report was noted.

10. General Data Protection Regulations Policies and procedures

It was noted that the Finance, Community and Policy Committee will revisit questions relating to registration with the Information Commissioner's Office and councillor emails at their next meeting.

Policies and procedures relating to the General Data Protection Regulations recommended by the Finance, Community and Policy Committee were **adopted**.

11. Letter from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

A response to the Council's concerns regarding funding for Stroud District Council was noted.

Clerk

12. Subscription Rooms

The Clerk reported on negotiations with Stroud District Council over the terms of a transfer of the Subscription Rooms. It was noted that the transfer of the freehold will now be on 1/4/2019 and Stroud District Council will continue to operate the building until then.

With regard to the overage agreement the Clerk was asked to make enquiries about: the effect of a subsequent lease of the property (beyond the initial lease to the Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust) and a clause referring to changes in the law.

Clerk

The Clerk was asked to check whether the right form had been prepared for the transfer as it involves a partial transfer of one title. The Clerk was also asked to make enquiries about rights off access over Threadneedle Street.

Clerk

It was noted that as drafted the lease to the Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust will need to be approved by Stroud District before the transfer is completed.

It was **resolved** to approve the transfer of the Stroud Subscription Rooms by the end of March 2019 subject to:

- due diligence and legal requirements as agreed on 14/5/2018.

Clerk

It was **resolved** to delegate to the Clerk approval of the overage agreement and grant terms subject to:

- final confirmation from the council's solicitor,
- due diligence and legal requirements as agreed on 14/5/2018.

Clerk

It was **resolved** to delegate to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Sub Rooms Working Group, production of a grant agreement and timetable for the release of a £50,000 grant to the Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust.

Clerk

It was noted that the Trust will need funding before handover to cover set up costs, legal fees etc. It was **agreed** to delegate approval of funding to the Finance, Community and Policy Committee. The Clerk was asked to encourage the Trust to prioritise drawing up a code of conduct.

Clerk

Clerk

Cllr Hale reported on interviews with two shortlisted architects. Enquiries are being made about supplementary consultancy costs and decision will be made shortly. (Approval previously delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Sub Rooms Working Group.)

Clerk

There was a discussion about the potential for solar panels to be installed. Advice would be sought on this.

Clerk

13. Committee reports

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

Consultations:	21 st May, 11 th June
Green Spaces:	12 th June
Finance, Community & Policy:	18 th June

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Chair

Date