

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the**

**MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018, at 7.30pm**

**Present: Cllrs Simon Arundel, John Bloxsom, Alice Campbell, Kevin Cranston (Chair), Rob Green, Camilla Hale, Sarah Lunnon, John Marjoram, Margaret Poulton, Alan Sage, Lucas Schoemaker and Haydn Sutton**

In attendance: Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk), Kate Montgomery (Deputy Clerk), Marianne Sweet (STC Communications), Gloucestershire County Councillor Eva Ward, Stroud District Cllr Simon Pickering and one member of the public.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Steve Dechan (personal), Steven Naumann (personal) and Chas Townley (SDC meeting).

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

It was noted that a dispensation previously granted to Cllrs Marjoram and Sutton in respect of the Subscription Rooms remains in force.

**3. Gifts and hospitality**

None.

**4. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> October were **approved** by the members present and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

**5. Mayor's remarks**

The Mayor noted that two recent committee meetings had been abandoned as not enough members had attended to achieve a quorum and reminded members of their responsibility to attend and to submit apologies if necessary.

The Mayor reported that Stroud station had been shortlisted by GWR for access improvements – further confirmation was awaited from the government about which sites would receive funding.

The Mayor had attended the Book Festival opening, two Concordat meetings and a meeting hosted by the Salvation Army about homelessness.

**Action**

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

A question was raised by a member of the public about the difficulties of cycling and walking in the town centre, because of the volume of vehicle traffic, in particular the station forecourt, Russel Street and the area in front of the Subscription Rooms.

The Clerk reported that these are all issues that the Shaping the Heart of Stroud Neighbourhood Development Plan seeks to address and a number of projects are already underway, including the creation of a masterplan for the station.

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

County Cllr Ward reported that she has received lots of complaints about potholes and road safety, and the resurfacing of Horns Road had been delayed. Cllr Ward had attended a police training course on using speed guns and noted that a number of community road safety groups are being set up.

Cllr Ward had also been participating in interviews for the new Stroud Town Council Community Development post jointly funded with Gloucestershire County Council.

District Cllr Marjoram reported on the Community Services Licensing Committee at which the decision had been taken to close the Stroud District Council Tourist Information Centre.

District Cllr Sutton demonstrated a new community project to create "Eco bricks" from empty plastic bottles filled with plastic waste.

District Cllr Pickering reported that the Environment Committee were due to consider recommendations for funding allocations from the Market Towns Fund at their meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Cllr Pickering had received lots of questions about plastic not being recycled and reported that audit data confirms that the majority of Stroud District Council's plastic is recycled in the UK and some in Germany and Turkey.

The Environment Committee were also due to consider a motion relating to climate change including a number of proposals to address becoming carbon neutral through, for example, housing, transport and land allocations for renewable energy. It was noted that the LEP, GFirst are working on an ambitious energy strategy.

## **8. Clerk's report**

The report was noted.

## **9. Public works loan application**

It was **resolved** to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for a Public Works Loan

Clerk

of £140,000 for a period of 10 years for the purpose of a contract for wall and stonework repairs at: Bank Gardens, Daisy Bank play area, Spider Lane Allotments, Bisley Old Road Allotments and Sims Clock.

### **10. Subscription Rooms**

A progress report was received together with draft contracts for the transfer of the Subscription Rooms from Stroud District Council and an onward lease and grant to the Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust.

It was noted that the Trust had approved their contracts at a meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December. A minor issue remained to be resolved about warranties for the roof works being carried out by Stroud District Council.

It was **resolved** to approve the draft contracts with any minor changes delegated to the Clerk.

Clerk

### **11. Lansdown Hall**

A recommendation from the Finance, Community and Policy Committee for a new phase of improvement works at Lansdown Hall was considered. The proposed works would include a new accessible entrance, improved toilets and bar/kitchen facilities. The Committee had not recommended ventilation in the main hall due to the high cost.

There was a lengthy discussion about the benefits and costs of providing ventilation in the main hall. It was noted that the general improvements should enable the Trust to become financially independent. The Clerk recommended that a public consultation should be conducted to establish public support for the project.

It was **resolved** to approve in principle proposals and budget estimates for development works at Lansdown Hall (Option 1) excluding ventilation, subject to public consultation and detailed costings.

Clerk

It was further **agreed** to do further research on ventilation for future consideration.

Clerk

### **12. Climate Change**

Cllr Sage introduced a report on climate change and described the recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as terrifying. Cllr Marjoram tabled a copy of letter that had appeared in the press signed by 100 academics, authors, politicians and campaigners calling for urgent action to prevent an environmental catastrophe.

A question was raised about how the impact of the proposals would be measured. The Clerk advised that there are some tools available, for example, for assessing fuel consumption and noted that the benefits of other potential projects, for example tree planting, would be self-evident. It was noted that good progress had already been, for example providing electric bikes and through planning responses.

Cllr Bloxson proposed an amendment to the motion relating to affordable housing which was accepted.

To facilitate the reduction of carbon emissions, it was **resolved** to:

- I. Commit to becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030, to include scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. Create a carbon audit and roadmap for achieving this aim by the end of 2019.
- II. Create a grant pot to encourage and enable carbon-reduction schemes within Stroud. The primary criterion for applications to the fund should be CO<sup>2</sup> savings per pound spent. This pot will be £10,000 for the 2019-20 financial year.
- III. Include environmental implications of recommendations in officer reports alongside legal, financial and equality implications. These will include the impact of recommendations on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as well as any other relevant environmental factors.
- IV. Seek ways to facilitate and encourage our community in reducing direct and indirect CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and to become resilient to changes caused by the changing climate. We will take active steps where possible to encourage:
  - a) More sustainable transport
  - b) Reductions in energy use in homes, businesses and elsewhere
  - c) co-operation with organisations seeking to develop low carbon and community led housing in Stroud.
  - d) Use and development of renewable energy sources
  - e) Production, sale and consumption of locally sourced food
  - f) Reduction in consumption of animal products
  - g) Any other methods of achieving the aims above

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

The Clerk was requested to identify the cost of conducting a carbon audit of the Council's operations for consideration at the next Council meeting.

Clerk

### **13. Training and Development policy**

Cllr Green presented the Personnel Committee's recommended draft policy. It was noted that the policy seeks to promote training for councillors as well as staff. The draft policy was **adopted** with a minor amendment to cross refer to the Council's policy on volunteering.

Clerk

### **14. Dignity at Work/Bullying and Harassment policy**

Cllr Green presented the Personnel Committee's recommended draft policy. The draft policy was **adopted**.

Clerk

**15. Stroud Connects Strategy and Action Plan**

Cllr Hale presented the Stroud Connects Strategy and Action Plan. It was **resolved** to adopt the Strategy and Action Plan and to allocate resources to meet the aims of the plan.

Clerk

**16. Committee reports**

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

Consultations:	5 <sup>th</sup> November
Personnel	12 <sup>th</sup> November
Finance, Community & Policy:	19 <sup>th</sup> November

The Clerk offered to arrange a briefing for councillors on the draft budget early in January – dates to be circulated.

Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Chair .....

Date .....