

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the**

**MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019, at 7.30pm**

**Present: Cllrs Simon Arundel, John Bloxsom, Alice Campbell, Kevin Cranston (Chair), Rob Green, Sarah Lunnon, John Marjoram (from item 7), Steven Naumann, Margaret Poulton, Vanessa Price, Alan Sage, Lucas Schoemaker, Haydn Sutton and Chas Townley**

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

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Geoffrey Andrews (personal), Laurie Davies (personal), Steve Dechan (work) and Camilla Hale (personal).

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

It was noted that a dispensation previously granted to Cllrs Marjoram, Sutton and Townley 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 10<sup>th</sup> December were **approved** by the members present and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

**5. Mayor's remarks**

The Mayor had attended the MTM Awards which celebrate successes in Asian, Black & Ethnic Minorities communities in the South West. He had also been the Master of the House for the Wassail.

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

No questions were received.

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

County Cllr Ward reported on the budget setting process and answered questions about proposed changes to budgets for looked after children, young people and adult social care.

**Action**

In response to a question Cllr Ward advised that she was not aware of any plans to remove the car displayed on County Council land at Wallbridge. The Mayor reported that the police had advised that they would not be pursuing a prosecution for Extinction Rebellion graffiti on highways structures.

Cllr Ward offered to investigate and report back on what contingency plans the County Council have for Brexit and whether they will pay residency fees for their EU employees.

Cllr Ward

District Cllr Townley reported on the Stroud District Council budget process and other items due to be discussed at the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January, including the transfer of the Subscription Rooms and allocation of the Market Towns fund.

Cllr Marjoram joined the meeting.

Cllr Sutton reported that the District Council had received congratulations from the government for high recycling levels.

District Cllr Marjoram expressed concern about the high numbers of “blocked” sites in the District, for which planning permission has been granted, but not developed

#### **8. Clerk’s report**

The report was noted.

#### **9. Subscription Rooms**

A written report had been circulated and the Clerk provided a verbal update. It was noted that the Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust had approved all of the contracts relating to the transfer of the business and staff, grants and the draft lease. The Clerk reported that a minor change to the break clause in the lease, under which the tenant would be able to give 6 months’ notice after 10 years had been approved under delegated authority. A booking system had been procured for the Trust and work had started on a new website.

#### **10. Meeting dates for 2019–2020**

Meeting dates for 2019–2020 were **approved**.

Clerk

#### **11. Carbon Audit**

A budget of £2,000 was **approved** for a carbon audit and it was **resolved** to delegate the appointment of an auditor to the Clerk.

Clerk

#### **12. 2019–2020 budget**

A revised draft budget had been circulated detailing changes to their budget agreed by the Green Spaces Committee at their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The revised draft budget was discussed at length.

It was **agreed** to amend the draft budget to reduce the impact on the precept by: releasing £20,000 from the new cemetery earmarked reserve to offset project costs; allocating £5,000 from the climate change budget to the purchase of an electric van for the Green Spaces team; and reducing the planned contribution to the Opportunities Fund from £10,000 to £5,000. It was **resolved** to set a budget of £1,340,044 for 2019–20 of which £260,075 would be funded from reserves, £397,016 from other income and the balance from the precept.

Clerk

**13. 2019–210 precept**

It was **resolved** to request a precept of £682,953 for 2019–20

Clerk

**14. Committee reports**

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

Consultations: 3rd December

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Chair .....

Date .....