

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the

MEETING OF COUNCIL

Monday, 3rd September 2018, at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Simon Arundel, John Bloxsom, Alice Campbell, Steve Dechan, Rob Green, Camilla Hale, Sarah Lunnon, John Marjoram, Steven Naumann, Margaret Poulton (Chair), Vanessa Price, Alan Sage, Lucas Schoemaker and Haydn Sutton

In attendance: Marianne Sweet (STC Communications), Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk), Kate Montgomery (Deputy Clerk), Stroud District Cllr Skeena Rathor and two members of the press.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Andrews, Cranston, Davies and Townley (all personal).

Apologies were also received from Cllrs Pickering (Stroud District Council) and Ward (Gloucestershire County Council).

2. Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

None.

3. Gifts and hospitality

None.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 2nd July were **approved** by the members present and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

5. Green Spaces Committee vacancy

There were no nominations, so the vacancy was left unfilled.

6. Subscription Rooms working group vacancy

Cllr Dechan withdrew his resignation from the group, so no further action was required.

7. Deputy Mayor's remarks

The Deputy Mayor reported on recent attendance at the Britain in Bloom judging day – it was noted that the results were due the following week; the Book Festival launch and the Credit Union's 30th Anniversary celebrations. She had also visited Trinity Pocket Park to view the recent improvement works, which include new paths, a bench, raised beds and a safer, more accessible entrance.

Action

8. Questions from members of the public

There were no questions.

9. District and County Councillors' reports

District Cllr Sutton reported on the appointment of a new Chief Executive, plans to redesign food waste bins and the withdrawal of plans to charge for parking at Stratford Park.

10. Clerk's report

The report was noted.

11. Anti-social behaviour

Following lengthy discussion on a report about anti-social behaviour in the town centre it was **resolved** to implement the following actions.

- Council officers to attend Community Safety Partnership meetings.
- Councillors to attend Joint Cluster meetings.
- Implement a communications plan (prepared by the Council's communications contractor and tabled at the meeting).
- Work with Stroud District Council to ensure the continued availability of public toilets in the town centre.
- Discuss funding for CCTV when setting 2019–20 budget.
- Work with the police to establish a town centre neighbourhood watch group.
- Support the establishment of a Community Alcohol Partnership.
- Support and promote the work of charities providing support related to relevant issues, e.g. homelessness, alcohol and drugs.
- Green Spaces committee to consider opportunities to "design out" crime in planning for redesign of Park Gardens (following public consultation).
- Work with neighbouring parishes to share information and develop joint projects, particularly relating to activities for young people.
- Using the budget for youth activities organise a participatory budgeting event for projects aimed at young people (Finance Community and Policy Committee to discuss in more detail at their next meeting on 15th October.)

The Clerk was asked to provide a progress report at the next Full Council meeting, at which there would be further discussion about committee responsibility and monitoring.

12. Community Development role

It was **resolved** to create a new Community Development role and to submit a grant application to Gloucestershire County Council as recommended by the Personnel Committee, subject to some minor changes to the job description and application form.

Clerk
Cllr Sutton
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13. Pensions discretions policy

It was **resolved** to renew the existing policy as recommended by the Personnel Committee.

Clerk

14. Committee reports

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

- Consultations: 9th July, 13th August
- Green Spaces: 10th July
- Finance, Community & Policy: 18th July
- Personnel: 17th August

15. Exclusion of press and public

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed it was **resolved** to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting.

16. Subscription Rooms

The Clerk report on progress with the transfer of the Subscription Rooms from Stroud District Council and preparation of an agreement to lease the building to the Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust. A concern was raised about some the contract terms being proposed by Stroud District Council, including their requirements regarding staff transfers. It was **agreed** to request at meeting with the Stroud District Council Chief Executive to try to resolve these concerns.

Clerk

A report from the Council's accountant regarding VAT was received and the Clerk was asked to investigate further the implications for the lease.

Clerk

It was **resolved** to authorise the accountants DCK Beavers Limited as the Council's agents to deal with any matters relating to VAT with HMRC.

Clerk

The Clerk reported on progress with design work for the building and was requested to circulate the latest drawings to all members.

Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Chair

Date