

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the

Finance, Community and Policy Committee

16th July 2018

Present: Councillors Simon Arundel, Rob Green, Camilla Hale, Margaret Poulton, Alan Sage (Chair)

In attendance: Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cranston (personal), Bloxsom (work), Dechan (personal), Marjoram (personal) and Schoemaker (work).

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Green declared a personal interest in item 7.

Cllr Hale declared an interest in item 8 as a member of Stroud Preservation Trust.

3. Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

4. Questions from the public

No questions were received.

5. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 18th June 2018 were **approved** by those present and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

6. Authorisation of payments

It was **resolved** to authorise payments from June 2018.

7. Review of grant to Stroud Fringe

It was **agreed** to withdraw a grant offer to Stroud Fringe as there will be no festival in 2018. The Clerk was asked to advise the organisers to reapply for 2019, including potentially an advance payment from the 2018-19 budget for preparatory work.

8. Grant to Lido project

It was **agreed** that an underspend from a grant for feasibility work could be rolled over the next phase of the project and the balance should continue to be held by Stroud Preservation Trust until 31/3/2019 after which a further review would be required.

ACTION

Clerk

Clerk

9. Councillor emails and ICO registration

It was **agreed** to provide councillors with webmail email addresses to be used for council business, plus training on how to use them and about the new General Data Protection Regulations.

Clerk
Clerk

The Clerk was requested to survey councillors to better understand how much personal data they have received over the last 12 months to inform data protection management.

Clerk

The Clerk advised that the Information Commissioner's Office requires all councillors who process personal data to register as data controllers and pay a £40 fee. The Committee felt that was an unnecessary requirement and a decision on registering councillors was **deferred**.

The Clerk was asked to register the Council's concern about the financial and administrative burden this requirement places on parish and town councils with the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council clerks.

Clerk

10. ICO Consultation on exemptions

It was **agreed** to respond to the consultation objecting to the requirement for councillors to register individually and pay registration fees.

Clerk

11. Report from Subscription Rooms working group

The Clerk reported that Stroud District Council's Strategy and Resources Committee had approved a transfer of the freehold which will take place on 31st March 2019. It was noted that there were still some minor issues to be resolved regarding the overage and grant terms and that these were being dealt with by the council's solicitor.

A budget for expenditure in the period up to handover was noted. It was reported that the Trust will be expected to manage ticketing and income from bookings for events from 1st April 2019 onwards as soon as possible. Income from advance ticket sales along with fundraising could be used to fund this expenditure, but it would also be necessary for the trust to draw down the grant to manage cash flow. There was also potentially a need to employ interim staff to manage the handover period, which it was suggested could potentially be funded from reserves. It was noted that funding pledges should be drawn down by the Council to fund capital projects and the Trust should start work on potential revenue funding, for example Friends schemes, as soon as possible.

To help limit costs the Committee asked the Clerk to project manage work with the architect and associated consultants, rather than using a contractor. It was noted that to avoid the risk of delaying roof repair work to be carried out by the District Council, an early listed building application for solar panels would not now be progressed.

