

# STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting of the

### Finance, Community and Policy Committee

19<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**Present:** Councillors Simon Arundel, Kevin Cranston (from item 14), Rob Green, Camilla Hale, John Marjoram and Alan Sage (Chair)

**In attendance:** Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk), Kate Montgomery (Deputy Clerk), Steve Hurrell (Lansdown Hall Working Group) and Cllr Steve Dechan

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Geoffrey Andrews (work), John Bloxsom (work) and Laurie Davies (personal).

#### 2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations.

#### 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 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 were **approved** by those present and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

The agenda was reordered as follows.

#### 14. Lansdown Hall

Steve Hurrell (co-opted member of Lansdown Hall Working Group) was invited to join the meeting. It was noted that the Council has invested in significant improvements to the fabric of the building, which have made a positive social impact. The Lansdown Hall and Gallery Trust have also invested in good equipment and lighting.

The working group had investigated potential designs for further improvements to the building including: improved toilets, new bar/kitchen, improved access and ventilation. The Clerk advised that feasibility studies had demonstrated that existing reserves and planned budgets, even with the potential for grant funding, were insufficient to cover all of the desired improvements. It was noted that providing

#### ACTION

ventilation in the hall is the most costly item. The Trust had been requested to develop a business plan to help justify the improvements and to provide evidence for grant applications, but this had not yet been received.

It was **agreed** to authorise the Clerk to complete smaller projects from the planned budget including: damp investigations, re-routing a toilet extraction vent and replacing more windows.

Clerk

It was **agreed** to request Council to appoint an additional member to the Working Group.

Clerk

Cllr Cranston arrived during this item.

### **11. Canal-side safety**

Cllr Dechan introduced a proposal for a new project, to work in conjunction with the Canal & River Trust to promote canal-side safety in local schools and colleges.

It was generally felt that the Council might not be the most appropriate organisation to lead on this project, but it was **agreed** to facilitate discussions with Stroud District Council and the Cotswold Canals Trust and help promote safety messages.

Clerk

### **6. Authorisation of payments**

**It was resolved** to authorise payments from January and February 2018.

### **7. Budget Monitoring**

The budget monitoring report to end of February 2018 was noted.

### **8. Risk Assessment**

An updated risk assessment was **approved**.

The Clerk was asked to modify the format of the assessment to demonstrate the level of risk both before and after mitigation steps.

Clerk

It was noted that two items concerning data protection will be combined once the General Data Protection Regulations come into force.

### **9. Subscription Rooms**

The committee received a verbal report on a meeting with Stroud District Council's Task and Finish Group, a presentation to Stroud District Council members and a public consultation. The Committee thanked the Clerk and Deputy Clerk for their hard work on this project.

### **10. Urilift in King Street**

A request from Stroud District Council to adopt the urilift in King Street was **declined**. The Committee were supportive of a proposal to replace it with a water fountain.

Clerk

**12. NESTA Rethinking Parks grant**

It was **agreed** to authorise the Clerk to progress an application to the NESTA prototyping fund provided that a clear benefit for the town could be demonstrated.

Clerk

**13. Draft Cultural Strategy**

Members considered a draft strategy. It was **agreed** to progress to a public consultation, but it was felt that a simpler, more accessible document with a more visual presentation would be needed to engage the general public. The consultation should be linked to an action plan and seek to identify priorities for action.

Clerk

The Committee expressed their thanks to the Council’s Project Officer for securing Arts Council funding for this project and progressing this good and substantial document.

**15. Minutes**

The minutes of the following meetings were received:

Sub Rooms Working Group	2, 16 and 23 February 2018
NDP Working Group	7 February 2018
Lansdown Hall Working Group	7 February 2018

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Chair .....  
Date .....