

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the

Finance, Community and Policy Committee

28th January 2019

Present: Councillors Kevin Cranston, Rob Green, John Marjoram, Margaret Poulton, Alan Sage (Chair) and Lucas Schoemaker

In attendance: Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Andrews, Arundel, Bloxsom and Hale (all personal).

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Poulton declared an interest in item 12 regarding the Folk Weekend.

Cllr Green declared an interest in item 12 as a relative of the Archway Anarchist applicant.

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 19th November 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 November and December 2018.

7. Budget Monitoring

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

8. Reports from grant recipients

Reports from grant recipients were noted.

9. Grants Funds available

The funds available were noted. It was noted that the amounts applied for significantly exceeded the budgets available.

ACTION

The agenda items were reordered as follows:

11. Applications to the Arts and Culture fund

It was **resolved** to approve payment of the following grant using the General Power of Competence.

Clerk

Periscope – £675. It was noted that the Council may be able to lend a projector for the event.

12. Applications to the Small Grants fund

It was **resolved** to approve payment of the following grants using the General Power of Competence.

Clerk

Folk Weekend – £300. The Clerk was asked to investigate issues raised relating to street collections.

Clerk

Cllr Green left the room.

Archway Anarchist – £500. It was **agreed** that the applicant should be requested to seek funding from other councils within the school's catchment area, email a copy of the publication to councillors and consider electronic, rather than paper, distribution.

Clerk

Cllr Green rejoined the meeting.

Stroud Valleys Project – £450. The grant requested was reduced by £50 to reflect the potential to reduce the cost of rail travel by purchasing a ticket in advance.

Ignition – application refused. It was noted that the application had been received after the deadline.

10. Applications to the Community Support Fund

It was **resolved** to approve payment of the following grants using the General Power of Competence.

Clerk

Stroud Valleys Credit Union – it was felt that furniture could be obtained more cost effectively by buying second-hand. The Committee were also advised of an opportunity to obtain both computers and furniture second-hand from a local charity. The Clerk was asked to put the applicants in touch with the charity and it was **agreed** to provisionally offer a grant of £600 for computers if the second-hand opportunity does not work out, with approval delegated to the Clerk.

Clerk

Stroud Country Show – £1,500. It was noted that the show had already received a grant in the 2018–19 financial year, but it was **agreed** to make an exception in this instance as some budget was still available, but funding would not be available from the 2019–20 budget. The

applicants would also be requested to seek funding from the other councils in the areas that visitors to the show come from.

Clerk

Stroud Nature CIC – £1,518

It was further **agreed** that if some or all of the provisional grant to Stroud Valleys Credit Union is not required, the balance of the budget should be shared between Stroud Country Show and Stroud Nature CIC, (delegated to the Clerk).

Clerk

13. License for Christmas lights

A license to install and maintain fixings and equipment relating to Christmas lights in King Street on property belonging to Stroud Regeneration Limited was **approved**.

Clerk

14. Subscription Rooms

The Clerk provided a verbal update on the transfer for the Subscription Rooms. It was noted that the contracts for transfer of the building to the Town Council, and the business and staff to the Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust, had been approved by Stroud District Council. Contracts were due to be exchanged in February and completed on 28th March 2019.

The Clerk reported that a bookings system had been procured and set up work had commenced; a website is being developed and fundraising is progressing well. A handover group is managing practical issues, including installation of new IT infrastructure and data transfer.

The Trust had reported that TUPE consultations had commenced and meetings with staff have been very positive.

An application had been made for the Trust to be admitted to the Gloucestershire Local Government Pension Scheme to enable existing members to remain in the scheme, with Stroud District Council acting as guarantor and paying for the difference in pension contributions.

Opening up works had been completed, which would inform structural and services design – no significant issues had been raised. It was noted that some of the timber on the porte-cochere is rotten and would need to be replaced. The design team were due to meet on 30th January and it was expected that listed Building and Planning applications would be submitted soon afterwards.

15. NDP Working Group projects

A progress report was received. It was reported that GWR have agreed to make a room at the station available and donated £1,700 to the Station Adoption Group. GWR were also supportive of proposals for public realm improvements.

The Committee requested that a public report be produced presenting the significant progress on projects since the adoption of the NDP.

Clerk

The Clerk reported that discussions had commenced on the possibility of working with Stroud District Council and key stakeholders to make an application for funding from the Future High Streets Fund.

16. Minutes

The minutes of the following meetings were received:

Sub Rooms Working Group	30th November 2018
Health and Safety Working Group	14th January 2019
Concordat	9th November 2018
Concordat Extraordinary	10th December 2018

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Chair

Date