

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of
THE GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE
10th July 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Green (Chair), Naumann, Poulton and Sutton

In attendance: Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk), Mike Dando (Green Spaces Manager)

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Lunnon, Marjoram and Townley

2. Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

There were no declarations or requests.

3. Questions from the public

None received.

4. Minutes of the meeting of 12th June 2018

These were **approved** as a correct record and signed by Cllr Green.

5. Budget monitoring report

The report was noted.

6. Green Spaces Manager's report

The committee received the Green Spaces Manager's report.

The Committee congratulated the Green Spaces team on the success of the recent BioBlitz at the cemetery. It was noted that future events could potentially be combined with the Daisy Day at Daisy Bank playground.

7. Stroud In Bloom

Cllr Poulton gave a verbal report regarding Stroud In Bloom judging which had taken place earlier in the day. It was noted that there had been a good response from volunteers involved in last minute tidying.

It was **agreed** that future involvement with the group should have a greater focus on the Committee's all year round priorities regarding: biodiversity, sustainable planting and community engagement. The Clerk was requested to discuss this with the Stroud In Bloom Committee.

8. Committee strategy

Cllr Green presented a discussion paper on the future role and function of the committee. The discussion focused on: potential community partnerships; the impact of austerity on local services; potential for future asset transfers; links to policies in the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the town centre; potential to employ an apprentice; and the need for appropriate resourcing. It was generally felt that the Committee's remit should expand beyond the Council's own sites to take in the environment in rest of the town and links to the wider landscape.

Town
Clerk

It was **agreed** to:

- undertake a review of the current practice of the committee in oversight of the Green Spaces team, looking at: decision-making and delegations, in order to be more efficient, create more capacity and become more strategic.
- draw up a programme of representation from local organisations to better inform the committee of wider green spaces activity, and to explore opportunities for improving collaborative or partnership working.
- organise a more proactive set of site visits to see the work of and engage with the Green Spaces team.
- include regular updates on best practice at future meetings, including inviting speakers from other councils, providers of similar services and national bodies, and possibly organising an annual visit to see other approaches first hand. As part of this to extend invitations to other local parishes and partners, as appropriate, as a form of outreach.
- develop a list of interesting ideas to explore (with staff, councillors, other partners and the community) and criteria against which they can be prioritised, including: potential for community engagement, biodiversity value, cost and potential funding opportunities.
- consider expanding the remit of the committee to cover broader environmental issues. The Clerk/Deputy Clerk, in consultation with the committee chair, to provide an analysis of the issues that could be brought under the committee's remit and the committee's capacity to effect change, for consideration at a future meeting. It was noted that any decision to change the terms of reference of the committee would require full Council approval.

Town Clerk,
Deputy Clerk,
Green Spaces
Manager

9. Consultations on Park Gardens and the Long Ground

The Committee considered a plan for consultations at Park Gardens and the Long Ground and draft surveys.

With regard to the Park Gardens consultation it was felt that more detail needed to be included to explain the proposed changes and a visual representation should be provided. The Clerk was asked to arrange for drawings to be produced.

Town
Clerk

The Long Ground consultation plan was **approved**, subject to more background information being provided in the survey document.

Town
Clerk

10. Use of Drones on Council land

It was **agreed** to publish a notice on the Council's website and site noticeboards, after 31/7/2018 when the law changes, drawing attention to the Civil Aviation Authority's DroneCode, which provides safety advice on the flying of drones for recreational purposes, and noting that the flying of drones weighing more than 20kg or used for commercial purposes requires CAA permission.

Town
Clerk

The meeting ended at 9.30pm.

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