

**STROUD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting of**  
**THE GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs Green (Chair), Lunnon, Marjoram, Naumann and Poulton

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

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Sutton 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 10th July 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 Green Spaces Manager answered questions about anti-social behaviour in parks. It was noted that new planters have been installed at the entrance to Park Gardens, 2 vandalised trees at The Leazes need to be felled and consultation on the Long Ground is progressing well.

It was suggested that the People's Manifesto for Wildlife could be considered at a future meeting.

**7. Walls project**

Tenders for a project for wall and stonework repairs at: Bank Gardens, Daisy Bank play area, Spider Lane Allotments, Bisley Old Road Allotments and Sims Clock were scrutinised. It was **resolved** to approve a contract with Stone BCI at a total cost of £157,527 for wall and stonework repairs as recommended by CBRE following a tender in accordance with Financial Regulations, subject to an amendment of the specification to note that the hedge at Bisley Old Road allotments would be coppiced and not removed. It was also **agreed** to complete all of the work as soon as practicable, rather than spreading it over 2 or more years.

It was **resolved** to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for a Public Works Loan of £140,000 for a period of 10 years for the purpose of the above contract and to conduct a public consultation on the loan, which would result in an increase in the annual precept of 1.76% or £10,918.20 (equivalent to an increase of £2.54 per bank D household), subject to confirmation of the loan rate applicable.

Town  
Clerk

**8. Stroud In Bloom**

Cllr Poulton reported that Stroud In Bloom had received a Gold award and that she had attended their AGM. The Clerk had met with the Stroud In Bloom Chair and discussed the committee’s priorities regarding: biodiversity, sustainable planting and community engagement.

**9. Consultation on Park Gardens**

The Committee considered a draft visual representation to be used for consultation purposes in November. It was noted that any agreed works could potentially be completed to coincide with the anniversary of the Gardens in 2020. Discussion focused on opening up the main entrance to make it more welcoming and improve visibility, deterring anti-social behaviour, improving the play equipment and including more hedges.

The Clerk was requested to commission a map layout and to make some changes to the text accompanying the visualisation. There was a further request to consider what steps could be taken to prevent people parking on the pavement in front of the main entrance.

Town Clerk

The Clerk reminded the Committee of the need to budget for the potential works. It was noted that the work could be phased and that there were some ideas which could be implemented quickly and cheaply.

Cllrs Green, Lunnon and Poulton volunteered to assist with the consultation events.

**10. Play equipment**

The Committee considered a report on phased replacement of play equipment across all sites. A programme for planned replacements was **approved**. It was **agreed** to review a draft long-term budget at the next meeting when the whole Committee budget would be considered.

Town Clerk

There was a further discussion about the need to improve accessibility at the sites. The Clerk was asked to arrange site visits by accessibility groups to research potential improvements.

Town Clerk

There was a further discussion about policy on play equipment provision and the need for community consultation. The Clerk was requested to invite a play equipment advisor to give a presentation to a future meeting.

Town Clerk

**11. Cultivation license for entrance to Clare Court**

The Committee considered a proposal from the Road Safety Working Group to apply to Gloucestershire Highways for a cultivation license to create a planted area to deter parking on a verge at the entrance to Clare Court off Bisley Old Road. It was noted that the Highways Manager had agreed to waive the normal £85 fee. There was some discussion about the potential design and it was **agreed** to consult the neighbours of the site, then review the design in consultation with the Highways Manager and submit an application. Cllr Green and County Councillor Eva Ward would lead on the consultation with the neighbours.

Cllr Green

The meeting ended at 9.30pm.

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