

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of
THE GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE
8th January 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Green (Chair), Naumann, Poulton, Sutton and Townley (from Item 6)

In attendance: Kate Montgomery (Deputy Town Clerk), Mike Dando (Green Spaces Manager)

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Lunnon and Marjoram

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 2nd October 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. Cllr Townley arrived during this item.

7. Stroud In Bloom

The Committee received the report from the Stroud In Bloom committee regarding the notification of the cease of activities. The Chair offered thanks to the committee for their service to the town over the years.

The committee discussed ways to promote the benefits of the outdoors and how to inspire everyone in the community to take pride in their own gardens. The Deputy Clerk informed the committee that there would be a report at the March meeting regarding a new initiative called 'Garden Guardians' which was being led by Stroud Nature CIC.

Deputy
Clerk

8. To approve the purchase of an electric vehicle

The committee discussed the merits of an electric vehicle and agreed in principle with the proposal. However, the committee raised concerns about funding the purchase through the precept. It was decided that the purchase should be a priority when setting the budget for 2019/2020. The Green Spaces manager reduced the estimate of the overall cost to £8,000 which would be funded through use of reserves (£3,000) and the precept (£5,000).

GSM

9. To review and approve the Green Spaces budget for 2019/2020

The Committee considered the budget for 2019/2020. There was a discussion around the merits and concerns about contracting out works. The Green Spaces

Manager explained the difficulties he had faced securing a suitably qualified grave digging contractor and local grass cutting contractor.

The committee discussed the proposed greens spaces projects for 2019/2020. A reduction of £17,500 was **approved** across Green Spaces projects. The following items were reduced;

- Electric Vehicle - £9,500 reduced to £8,000
- Park Gardens - £11,662 reduced to £8,662
- Bank Gardens Railings - £15,000 reduced to £2,000

There was a further discussion about the project to reinstall railings at Bank Gardens. Although the Committee noted that this project should go ahead, the £2,000 allocated through the budget should be used to fund design work for the new permanent railings which could be installed in the next financial year (2020/2021). The Clerk was asked to check with the Council's Health and Safety consultants to address any concerns regarding the delay of the project and if deemed necessary, the Green Spaces Manager should obtain quotes to install a temporary fence.

10. To review and approve a report regarding The Leazes

The Committee **approved** the recommendation made by the Clerk to recommend to Full Council that a management agreement is put in place in the interim period until wall repairs are completed and responsibilities are resolved after which the negotiation of the transfer of the freehold of The Leazes could be delegated to the Clerk.

11. To receive a new Green Spaces Tree Policy

The committee received the new policy. The Chair noted some minor changes to the Green Spaces Manager. The committee **approved** the adoption of the policy.

12. To approve a composting toilet for the lower cemetery

The Committee discussed the proposal and noted that the purchase could be met using the Green Spaces site materials budget. The Committee **approved** the purchase of a non-DDA compliant composting toilet.

13. To receive a verbal update on the Park Gardens and Long Ground consultations

The Deputy Clerk reported that the consultations had gone very well and provided some interesting insight into the way the green spaces are used by the public. A full report on each consultation will be available for the 21st January Green Spaces meeting.

14. To approve a location for the Bank Gardens water fountain

The committee approved the recommended model of water fountain and the location. The committee asked for confirmation that the model selected has adequate frost protection.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm.

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

Town Clerk

GSM

Town Clerk

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