

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

5th March 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Green (Chair), Lunnon (from Item 8), Marjoram, Naumann and Poulton

In attendance: Kate Montgomery (Deputy Town Clerk), Mike Dando (Green Spaces Manager), Hana Gill (Chair, Friends of Daisy Bank), Steve Roberts (Stroud Nature Festival)

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 21st January 2019

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

The agenda was re-ordered as follows

Item 7 was moved up the agenda

7. To receive a request from the Chair of the Friends of Daisy Bank regarding the installation of a Table-Tennis table

The Chair of the Friends of Daisy Bank (FoDB) presented information regarding the purchase and installation of a Table-Tennis table at Daisy Bank. The FoDB committee have the funds required to purchase the table as well as paddles and balls. The FoDB committee would like to request some ranger time and expertise to install the table once it is delivered. The Green Spaces Manager presented some options to the committee regarding anchoring, levelling of the area and the installation of rubber matting beneath the table to allow for proper use.

The committee were supportive of the installation of the table. It was felt that this kind of provision for older children is missing from many parks. The committee **resolved** that the Green Spaces Manager and rangers could assist the FoDB with the installation.

The Chair of FoDB left the meeting.

The agenda was re-ordered as follows

Item 8 was moved up the agenda

8. To receive information from Stroud Nature Festival regarding the Garden Guardians initiative

The committee received information from Steve Roberts from Stroud Nature Festival about the implementation of the Garden Guardians scheme which will begin at the 2019 Stroud Nature Festival. Initially the project will encourage people

GSM

to appreciate the wildlife which can be found on their own doorstep and show them simple ways to encourage wildlife into their gardens.

Stroud Nature Festival would like to utilise parish networks and newsletters to spread the message about the project. There will also be a printed resource available at the Festival of Nature and there is potential for mapping those areas which sign up creating a database of wildlife corridors. The Festival of Nature has funding in place for the design and printing of leaflets and maps. They had hoped to be able to provide a pollinating plant for every visitor, but unfortunately the funding for this element has not been found.

The Deputy Clerk was asked to report back to members regarding how much is available in the wards specific project budget.

Deputy Clerk

The plan for the project will move into subsequent years, allowing people to build up a picture of the kinds of wildlife they are attracting.

The committee discussed the projects merits in bringing people together and increasing the knowledge base of parishioners. Further education is required around the appropriate types of food to give to birds and the project will aim to target those who wouldn't necessarily consider gardening for wildlife. The committee discussed potential ways for the project to link with the work of the community development officer.

The Chair thanked Steve Roberts for attending to talk about the project **resolved** to partner the initiative and asked that the Green Spaces Manager and Deputy Town Clerk to assist Stroud Festival of Nature with the promotion of the event. The committee also **confirmed** that there would be representation from the Council at the Festival of Nature along with a stall run by the Green Spaces Team.

Deputy Clerk/
GSM

5. Budget monitoring report

The report was noted.

6. Green Spaces Manager's report

The Green Spaces Manager's reported on the works completed by the team since 10th January.

Items 7 and 8 previously discussed

9. To refer the approval of the grass cutting contract at the cemetery to the Finance, Community and Policy Committee

The committee **referred the approval** to the Finance, Community and Policy Committee.

10. To receive a further update regarding the railings at Bank Gardens

The Deputy Clerk reported that due to further advice given by the Council's Health and Safety Consultant from Ellis Whittam, the recommendation in the circulated report was now invalid. A new recommendation was put to the committee;

Deputy
Clerk/
GSM

To install a fence as soon as practically possible, to ensure risk is minimised to park users and members of the public.

The committee discussed various options for fencing and possible planting along the inside of the wall. The committee decided that estate style fencing is preferable

as it is in keeping with the aesthetic of the park and surrounding area. It was **resolved** to delegate officers to try to accommodate estate style fencing in the park within the budget provided. Should this prove impossible, officers were asked to refer back to the committee at the next meeting.

GSM

11. To approve a hire of Green Spaces Policy

The Deputy Clerk presented the draft policy to the committee. The committee discussed the scope of the policy and advised that the Subscription Rooms Forecourt should fall under its own separate policy. The policy and associated documents were **approved**.

Deputy Clerk

12. To discuss Wallbridge and the future of the site

The Chair outlined recent Extinction Rebellion activity at the site which is owned by SDC and has been managed by STC on an informal basis. The Green Spaces team has worked hard to cultivate the area as an important town centre green space which supports the nationally rare, red book registered Downland Villa Bee-Fly. Members highlighted concerns around the preservation of the biodiversity at the site if it was made the focus of future activity.

The recently planted green willow structure was discussed. Unfortunately, if this is left to grow, it will jeopardise the rest of the wildflower habitat in the area. The trees which have been planted will also threaten the viability of the wildflower if allowed to mature.

It was pointed out during the course of the discussion that the activity on the site has been symbolic and that the site itself has become a focal point for the Extinction Rebellion movement.

The Committee asked that the Clerk and Green Spaces Manager write to the members of Extinction Rebellion to outline the concerns and offer to provide more support around the appropriate siting of trees and other items to ensure minimal impact on the biodiversity initiatives already in place. The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee offered to deliver the letter and talk through the concerns face to face at an Extinction Rebellion meeting.

GSM/
Clerk

The meeting ended at 9.40pm.

Chair.....

Date.....