

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL

31st July 2006

Present: Cllr Cranston (Chair), Cllrs Szaboova-Baxendale, Belcher Booth, Burling, Marjoram, Michael, Sutton, Townley C. Townley L., Wickens

In attendance: Susan Creswick (Clerk), Rachel Managhan (Deputy Clerk)

Mr. C. Dressel, Mr. G. Lloyd-Jones, Mr. A. Treacher, Mrs. J. Wythe
(candidates for co-option)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Green, Hume, Lawton, Read, and Williams.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

3. Mayor's Remarks

Cllr Cranston reported on a recent visit to the Painswick Inn Project where he presented certificates of achievement and was impressed with the work being done there. He had also attended a similar event at Stroud College. He and the Deputy Mayor had visited a 'Mayors for Peace' gathering in Reading and met the Mayor of Hiroshima.

4. Public Questions

There were none.

5. Minutes of the meeting of 19th June 2006

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

Action

6. Clerk's Report

This was noted. In following up a report from a recent conference attended by the Clerk, it was agreed that Council should review its position on whether to seek Quality Council status.

7. Co-option for Candidates in Uplands and Central Wards

Each candidate was given the opportunity to address the meeting and to respond to questions from members.

Uplands Ward

By a unanimous vote, Mr. Cliff Dressel was co-opted.

Central Ward

By a majority vote Mr. David Crockcroft was co-opted in the first round of voting.

The candidates were thanked for their interest and attendance at the meeting and all left except Mr. Dressel.

Cllr Burling left the meeting at this point.

8. Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Mr. Dressel signed his declaration, witnessed by the Clerk. Mr. Cockcroft is to be invited to sign his declaration on his return from holiday.

9. Committee Membership

It was noted that Cllr Lawton no longer wishes to serve on the Finance and Policy Committee and will remain on the Recreation Committee.

Cllr Dressel indicated his wish to serve on the Recreation Committee and will advise the Clerk shortly which of Grant Applications or Consultations he prefers. Mr. Cockcroft will be invited to join Finance and Policy committee and one other of his choice.

10. Annual Return and Independent Auditor's Report for 2005/6

The Annual Return and the Independent Auditor's Report for 2005/6 were approved prior to forwarding to the external auditor. The comment of the Independent Auditor regarding fidelity insurance was noted.

Action

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

11. Footpath Study Recommendations

Action

The proposal for further action, comprising 26 recommendations, was approved, with two amendments:

Recommendation 5 – that the blockages firstly be formally reported to GCC with a request for them to take steps to have them cleared.

Recommendation 14 – that the Finance and Policy Committee be asked to reconsider whether the formation of a new sub-committee is the best way forward to undertake the functions proposed.

F and P

Cllr C. Townley left the meeting at this point.

12. Disposition of the 2005/6 Surplus

A discussion took place on the appropriateness of the Pregnancy Care Centre to take forward the parent/toddler facility. Concerns were expressed about its Christian and anti-abortion ethos. Councillors were advised of the consultation process that had led up to this group becoming willing to progress the replacement for the Winston's Wish facility. The view was expressed that the need for such a facility overcame reservations about the organisation.

On a vote of five in favour and four against, as below, it was agreed to award a grant of £1750 to the Pregnancy Care Centre to employ a professional writer for a lottery bid.

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Belcher	Szaboova-Baxendale
Booth	Marjoram
Cranston	Michael
Sutton	Wickens
Townley L.	

With this vote, all three recommendations of the Finance and Policy Committee were approved. The Clerk is to advise the PCC.

Clerk

Cllr Michael left the meeting at this point.

13. Stroud Fringe 2006 Grant Application

A grant of £5000, as provided for in the budget, was approved. The Clerk is to advise the Fringe.

Clerk

Cllr Szaboova-Baxendale left the meeting at this point.

14. Acceptance of Committee Reports

Action

Consultations 12th June and 3rd July 2006. Members were reminded of the walk along the canal on Monday 7th August. Details are to be recirculated. Cllr Marjoram updated members on progress on the campaign to save health services in the parish. A public meeting has been scheduled for 21st August at 7.30pm in the St. Laurence Hall.

Recreation 26th June 2006. There were no comments.

Finance and Policy 17th July 2006. There were no comments.

The committee reports were accepted.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Chair

Date