

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Recreation and Finance Committee**

Monday 26th July 2010 at 7.30pm

**Present: Cllr Cockcroft (Chair), Cllrs Hurrell, Poulton
Read, Marjoram**

In attendance: Cllr Sutton, Susan Creswick (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Green and C. Townley.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 14th June 2010

The minutes, having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr Cockcroft.

4. Clerk's Report

This was noted. The Lansdown Hall working group is progressing the purchase and essential works. The loan from PWLB had been drawn down and the solicitor put in funds for the purchase.

5. Report from the Green Spaces Manager

This was noted. Recent damage to the flower beds in Park Gardens was reported along with more damage in Daisy Bank, all of which has been reported to the police. It was agreed that a request would be made to maintain the grass at St. Ismier corner in addition to the raised bed currently looked after, if the Stroud in Bloom committee could find a volunteer to maintain the shrub beds. The committee accepted the recommendation that the agency worker should be taken on full time employment for a year and that the search for an apprentice would be postponed.

Action

Clerk

6. Boundary fencing at Summer Street allotments

The committee considered the report and agreed that it would not contribute to boundary fencing as it would set a precedent for the many sites managed where the boundary fencing was not the responsibility of the council. Clerk to advise the property owner.

Action

Clerk

7. Bonfires at Summer Crescent Wildlife Area

The decision of the SSACA not to organise public bonfires was noted and it was therefore agreed to send residents a letter advising that bonfires in this area are banned.

Clerk

8. Summer Crescent Play Equipment

It was noted that the District Council was willing to provide the £9000 funding lost through government budget cuts.

9. Summer Crescent information boards

The draft provided by Stroud Valleys Project was considered. The comments were that it would be improved if the amount of general text were reduced and that illustrations of the species of flower and butterflies found on site were included. Clerk to advise.

Clerk

10. Trinity Pocket Park Residents' consultation

Cllr Marjoram was thanked for arranging this consultation, which had resulted in a number of volunteers coming forward to help with developing a management plan and on going maintenance. It was noted that Cllr Moriarty had volunteered to co-ordinate this group and work with Stroud Valleys Project.

11. Green Spaces – Health and Safety

The report was noted. It was agreed that gradient mapping should be undertaken for Park Gardens, Daisy Bank, the Leazes field and the cemetery at a cost of £3400 and that the District Council should be asked to contribute to the cost of this essential information.

Clerk

12. Purchase of noticeboards and computers

The purchase of two replacement noticeboards at a cost of £580 each and the upgrading of the office computers at a cost of £1020 was approved.

Clerk

13. History Walks brochure

An additional £300 was granted for the production of the walks leaflet which had expanded into a brochure. Clerk to advise.

Action

Clerk

14. Grant for Maypole Hall improvements

Cllr Sutton explained the requirement of a third party contribution in order to obtain an award from Biffa via landfill tax.

It was agreed to provide £5122.95 in the financial year beginning April 2011. a letter of confirmation will be sent by the Clerk.

Clerk

15. Budget Monitoring to end June 2010

This was noted.

16. Payments for June 2010

These were noted.

17. Proposed closure of magistrates' court in Stroud Town

This was an additional item notified by email after issuance of the agenda.

Cllr Marjoram sought Council's support for opposing the closure. The key reasons were a) it is important that justice should be seen to be done locally; b) that there would be transport problems for those having to go to Gloucester instead; c) there were fears of overcrowding in Gloucester, and d) press coverage may be severely reduced. The Committee agreed to support the closure in whatever way and whatever time was thought to be most appropriate.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Chair

Date