

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP

Tuesday, 29th March 2022, at 7.30pm

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Present

Cllrs Rob Green (Chair), Liz Child, Sue Fenton and Megan Sheer

Absent

Cllr Steven Naumann

In attendance

Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk, from Item 8), Kate Montgomery (Deputy Clerk), Chris Woolner (Green Spaces Manager)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Graham (work) and Seffar (personal)

2. Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

None

3. Questions from members of the public

None

4. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the council meeting on 25th January 2022 were **approved** by the members present and will be signed as a correct record by the Chair at the next opportunity.

5. Green Spaces Manager's report

The Green Spaces Manager presented the report and highlighted that equipment and bike repairs would be prioritised as soon as the Sub Rooms project was underway.

Councillors asked about the play equipment refresh programme, CW to circulate this document to members.

It was also noted that there would be a tour of the Council's green spaces once the weather improves. CW will be in touch to arrange.

The Chair enquired about the closed footpath at the site by the closed cemetery on Bisley Old Road, it was confirmed that this is being looked after by the Town Council's project management team at Bailey's. The Green Spaces Manager was asked to provide an update at the next meeting.

Actions: Green Spaces Manager

6. Budget Monitoring

The report was received by the working group.

7. Events and Activities Strategy

The committee were supportive in principle regarding the strategic approach to planned activities and engagement. Members were supportive of the exploration of what the Council can potentially do in its parks and green spaces with a potential expansion and broadening of scope for users, particularly for children and young people in the town.

However, the committee noted that the activities highlighted were overly ambitious and felt that the plan could benefit from being scaled back. The Chair noted that more activities could potentially be delivered if they were delivered in partnership with other organisations or agencies. The committee noted that the 'fewer, bigger, better' approach would leave less capacity for the smaller and therefore less cost-effective activities which can prove excellent ways to interact with smaller community groups.

The Chair noted that exercise classes and open-air cinema didn't seem to be in line with the Council's strategy and were not something the Council had considered delivering before. The committee highlighted concerns around the Green Spaces Manager's time to deliver the bigger activities alongside an already busy workload.

The Working Group **approved** the approach in principle, but noted that any activity or event which requires additional budget would need to be considered in greater detail.

Action: Green Spaces Manager

8. Continuation of suspension of charges for fitness classes

The Working Group **approved** the continuation of the suspension of charges. The Deputy Clerk will bring this back for consideration should any issues arise in future.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(The Town Clerk arrived during this item)

9. Review list of actions

The outstanding actions list was updated as per [Appendix 1](#)

Action: Deputy Clerk

10. Stroud Town CAN

The Town Clerk presented the report to members. The Working Group discussed the mechanisms for how projects could be delivered in partnership with other organisations and how community engagement could be implemented across all environmental projects which are delivered in the town.

Members discussed how best to facilitate others both as organisations and the wider public.

The Working Group approved the proposals in the report and await further feedback from the STCAN partner organisations.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Chair

Date

Appendix 1

| Meeting | Civic year | Date | Action | Who? | Status | Notes |
|--------------|------------|------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Green Spaces | 2016/17 | 07/06/2016 | Investigate use of self-cleaning, woodcrete boxes. | GSM | In progress | Investigated. Will purchase when time allows. REMOVE |
| Green Spaces | 2016/17 | 13/09/2016 | draft a policy on public donations of, for example benches and trees. | Clerk | Not started | Not top priority but needs to be done. KEEP |
| Green Spaces | 2017/18 | 13/06/2017 | investigate the possibility of building a new depot as well as continue to explore any rental opportunities as they arise. | Clerk | In progress | rental secured. BACKBURNER PROJECT |
| Green Spaces | 2018/19 | 12/06/2018 | Look into renaming St Ismier Corner | Deputy Clerk | Not started | Sign removed. CANCEL |
| Green Spaces | 2018/19 | 10/07/2018 | draw up a programme of representation from local organisations to better inform the committee of wider green spaces activity, and to explore opportunities for improving collaborative or partnership working. | Deputy Clerk, Green Spaces Manager | Not started | Covered through different activity REMOVE |
| Green Spaces | 2018/19 | 10/07/2018 | include regular updates on best practice at future meetings, including inviting speakers from other councils, providers of similar services and national bodies, and possibly organising an annual visit to see other approaches first hand. As part of this to extend invitations to other local parishes and partners, as appropriate, as a form of outreach. | Deputy Clerk, Green Spaces Manager | Not started | Councillors are encouraged to attend webinars and info-training. Updates put into bulletin. REMOVE |
| Green Spaces | 2018/19 | 10/07/2018 | develop a list of interesting ideas to explore (with staff, councillors, other partners and the community) and criteria against which they can be prioritised, including: potential for community engagement, biodiversity value, cost and potential funding opportunities. | Deputy Clerk, Green Spaces Manager | Not started | Covered in other areas. REMOVE |
| Green Spaces | 2018/19 | 02/10/2018 | People's manifesto for wildlife to be considered at a future meeting | Clerk | Not started | REMOVE |

| Meeting | Civic year | Date | Action | Who? | Status | Notes |
|--------------|------------|------------|---|--------------|-------------|---|
| Green Spaces | 2018/19 | 02/10/2018 | The Clerk was requested to invite a play equipment advisor to give a presentation to a future meeting. | Clerk | Not started | KEEP FOR FUTURE AGENDA |
| Green Spaces | 2018/19 | 02/10/2018 | arrange site visits to play equipment by accessibility groups to research potential improvements. | Clerk | Not started | DUE TO START SOON |
| Green Spaces | 2018/19 | 05/03/2019 | Officers to provide estate style fencing bank Gardens. If not possible officers to refer back to Comm | GSM | In progress | KEEP |
| Green Spaces | 2019/20 | 04/06/2019 | Installation and annual checks for ramp Summer Crescent to Sladebank Woods | GSM | Complete | COMPLETE |
| Green Spaces | 2019/20 | 04/06/2019 | Replacement of failing tree avenue at Cemetery: use smaller less expensive trees and publicise changes in advance | GSM | In progress | KEEP |
| Green Spaces | 2019/20 | 16/07/2019 | Water-bottle filling station: include sign as part of the town signage project | Deputy clerk | Not started | To be picked up in Phase II of signage project – Refer into AR |
| Environment | 2019/20 | 03/03/2020 | investigate the cost for installing a stone hardstanding opposite the cenotaph for wheelchair users and to provide a location for visiting dignitaries to stand during the annual Remembrance ceremony. | GSM | Not started | REMOVE (potential to provide geo-webbing or similar) |
| Environment | 2019/20 | 03/03/2020 | The committee discussed the option to support local stone masons with their registration to BRAMM or NAMM by allowing a twelve-month period to enable them to undertake this | GSM | Not started | Update regular stonemasons to ensure they are working to relevant standards |
| Environment | 2020/21 | 15/09/2020 | Habitat for reptiles | GSM/Rangers | Not started | REMOVE |
| Environment | 2021/22 | 13/07/2021 | Subs Forecourt proposal which is being managed through the Regeneration Committee. In view of overlap between the two committee remits Cttee asked that there be continued close collaboration. Members asked to be kept informed of progress and Cllr Graham asked to be added as a consultee. | GSM | In progress | KEEP |
| Environment | 2021/22 | 13/07/2021 | Public consultation on a contemplative seating area in a quiet part of the Long Ground | GSM | Not started | Still on list to be done |

| Meeting | Civic year | Date | Action | Who? | Status | Notes |
|-------------|------------|------------|--|--------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Environment | 2021/22 | 13/07/2021 | Ash die-back - Clerk to work with the Green Spaces Rangers to identify if there are any areas in the parish which may benefit from re-planting. | Clerk | Not started | Complete |
| Environment | 2021/22 | 13/07/2021 | Ash die-back - Stroud Valley Projects be approached to identify if there is a problem in the parish | GSM | Not started | Complete |
| Environment | 2021/22 | 21/09/2021 | Happy to chat bench location - Green Spaces Manager to consult with other groups prior to the final location being decided upon. The final decision for the location for the bench was delegated to the Clerk. | GSM/Clerk | Not started | With GSM |
| Environment | 2021/22 | 30/11/2021 | Interpretation and Signage Project to be delivered | GSM | In progress | Included in draft 2022-23 budget |
| Environment | 2021/22 | 30/11/2021 | Carbon Reduction Measures – replacement of Tools and Vehicles. GSM to discuss cargo bikes with Bike Drop. | GSM | In progress | KEEP |
| Environment | 2021/22 | 30/11/2021 | Seek further legal advice on trespass at LG | Deputy Clerk | In progress | KEEP |
| Environment | 2021/22 | 25/01/2022 | Transition Stroud grant approved. Panel asked to report to the deputy clerk on a quarterly basis. | Deputy Clerk | In progress | KEEP |