

2nd March 2020



NOTICE OF MEETING

Full Council

Monday, 9th March

7.30pm, Thanet House, 58 London Road, Stroud

**** Members of the public are welcome to attend ****

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies
2. To receive declarations of interest or requests for dispensations
3. To register any gifts or hospitality received by members
4. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 13th January
5. To receive a verbal report from the Mayor
6. To receive questions from members of the public
7. To receive any verbal reports from District and County Councillors
8. To receive the Clerk's report
9. To approve the meeting dates for the 2020-21 civic year
10. To receive a progress report on Earth Protector Towns
11. To approve expenditure from the carbon reduction fund
12. To receive Committee reports, previously circulated, as follows:

Community:	27 th January 2020
Environment:	20 th January 2020 & 3 rd March 2020
Consultations & Highways:	3 rd February 2020 & 2 nd March 2020
Regeneration:	13 th February 2020

13. To resolve in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting
14. To receive a report on the Stroud Subscription Rooms

Clerk's Report to Meeting of Council 9th March 2020

Project officer recruitment

Applications for the project officer vacancy closed on 21st February. There were 16 applications and 5 candidates were shortlisted, one of whom subsequently withdrew. Interviews are taking place between 2/3/2020 and 9/3/2020 with a view to the successful candidate starting on 1/4/2020 or as soon as possible after that.

Wallbridge project

Design work is continuing in partnership with Stroud District Council, following a site meeting on 27/2/2020. Preliminary designs and costings will be presented to the Regeneration Committee on 2/4/2020.

New website

A beta version of the new site is now available and should be live in the next few days. Continuing issues with the old site have made this a high priority.

Health and safety

The majority of the Council staff attended refresher training with the Council's H&S consultant, covering a wide range of topics and focusing on risk assessment.

Visit from Trowbridge Town Council

Cllr Green and I met with councillors from Trowbridge, who were keen to learn from our experiences since declaring a climate emergency. We discussed a wide range of issues including commissioning a carbon audit, biodiversity work and our wider project work.

Fringe

I facilitated a meeting for the Fringe to explore ideas for a collaborative event involving community venues and organisations. The future of the Fringe depends on greater community involvement in the huge task of organising such a major event. No decision has yet been made on how this might progress.

Councillor recruitment

Three drop-in events were held in February for potential candidates. Sadly only two people attended, but we have had other people drop in to the office for more information. Nomination forms are available at the office if anyone needs them.

Priorities for March and April

- New website
- Subscription Rooms
- Year end finances

Helen Bojaniwska, 2nd March 2020

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2020-21

Meeting	Day	Date	Meeting	Day	Date
2020			2021		
ANNUAL MEETING	Tue	12 May	Consultations & Highways	Mon	4 Jan
Consultations & Highways	Mon	18 May	COUNCIL	Mon	11 Jan
Regeneration (Daytime)	tbc		Finance & Policy	Mon	18 Jan
TOWN MEETING	Wed	20 May	Free	Mon	25 Jan
Bank Holiday	Mon	25 May	Environment	Tue	26 Jan
Environment	Tue	26 May	Free	Mon	1 Feb
Finance & Policy	Mon	1 Jun	Regeneration (Daytime)	tbc	
Free	Mon	8 Jun	Consultations & Highways	Mon	8 Feb
Regeneration (Daytime)	tbc		School Holidays	Mon	15 Feb
Consultations & Highways	Mon	15 Jun	Free	Mon	22 Feb
Community	Mon	22 Jun	COUNCIL	Mon	1 Mar
Free	Mon	29 Jun	Free	Tue	2 Mar
Free	Mon	6 Jul	Consultations & Highways	Mon	8 Mar
Consultations & Highways	Mon	13 Jul	Community	Mon	15 Mar
Environment	Tue	14 Jul	Finance & Policy	Mon	22 Mar
COUNCIL	Mon	20 Jul	Free	Mon	29 Mar
School Holidays	Mon	27 Jul	Environment	Tue	30 Mar
School Holidays	Mon	3 Aug	Bank Holiday	Mon	5 Apr
Consultations & Highways	Mon	10 Aug	Consultations & Highways	Mon	12 Apr
School Holidays	Mon	17 Aug	Regeneration (Daytime)	tbc	
School Holidays	Mon	24 Aug	COUNCIL	Mon	19 Apr
Bank Holiday	Mon	31 Aug	Free	Mon	26 Apr
COUNCIL	Mon	7 Sep	Free	Mon	3 May
Regeneration (Daytime)	tbc				
Consultations & Highways	Mon	14 Sep	2021-22		
Environment	Tue	15 Sep	ANNUAL MEETING	Mon	10 May
Community	Mon	21 Sep	Consultations & Highways	Mon	17 May
Finance & Policy	Mon	28 Sep	TOWN MEETING	Wed	19 May
Free	Mon	5 Oct			
Consultations & Highways	Mon	12 Oct			
Free	Mon	19 Oct			
School Holidays	Mon	26 Oct			
COUNCIL	Mon	2 Nov			
Consultations & Highways	Mon	9 Nov			
Free	Mon	16 Nov			
Environment	Tue	17 Nov			
Free	Mon	23 Nov			
Regeneration (Daytime)	tbc				
Free	Mon	30 Nov			
Consultations & Highways	Mon	7 Dec			
Community	Mon	14 Dec			
School Holidays	Mon	21 Dec			
Bank Holiday	Mon	28 Dec			

REPORT TITLE	Update on Earth Protector Town declaration
AUTHOR	Kate Montgomery – Deputy Clerk
CONSULTEES	Cllr Rob Green Helen Bojaniwska – Clerk Mike Dando – Green Spaces Manager
FOR MEETING	Council
DATE	9 th March 2020
RECOMMENDATION	To reconfirm the Council's support of the Earth Protector declaration and make a commitment to active participation in the newly formed Stroud Town CAN (Climate Action Network)
REPORT	
<p>In September 2019 the Council approved a draft Earth Protector Town declaration and use of the Deputy Clerk's time to assist with the production of a framework to enable other towns to become 'Earth Protector Towns'.</p> <p>The Deputy Clerk has provided considerable support the group during its early development. Development of the framework has become a lower priority while the group has focussed on the creation of a toolkit to help communities feel empowered to enact change.</p> <p>Since September 2019 the Council has undertaken the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved biodiversity and ecological environment across all sites • Reduced use of fossil fuels through the use of the electric van and requesting less frequent mowing • Introduced air pollution monitoring across the town to establish which, if any, any areas which require targeted action and provide evidence for future carbon reduction projects, particularly relating to highways, public transport and active travel. • Developed a carbon reduction plan and budget for council properties, vehicle and equipment • Allocated £5,000 to carbon reduction initiatives in the office space for 2020-21 • Worked with community organisations to create the Stroud CAN (Climate Action Network) group • Supported the Stroud District Action on Plastic Group • Supported the Stroud District Climate Action Network group • Hosted three free workshops for members of the community to learn how to create wildlife friendly gardens and utilise materials which would otherwise be thrown away • Lobbied the Brunel Partnership and Gloucestershire Pension Fund to divest from fossil fuels and invest in renewable technology • Publicised events by the Stop Ecocide group • Supported the Local Electricity Bill <p>Further planned actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing a requirement for all suppliers and contractors to respond to an annual environmental survey 	

- Implementation of carbon reduction plan

The Stroud Town CAN group is formed of several environmental groups in the town; Stroud Nature CIC, Stroud Valleys Project, Transition Stroud, Earth Protectors, Landwise and the Town Council. The group has met twice and will hopefully inform, support and report on the numerous environmental and biodiversity enhancement and protection initiatives in the town.

The framework which was due to inform the Earth Protector work will possibly emerge from the work of the newly formed Stroud CAN group which includes participants from a number of environmental organisations and will focus equally on prioritising biodiversity improvements and carbon reduction initiatives. It is therefore recommended that the Council continues to support and participate in the Stroud CAN group and allows the Earth Protector group to continue with the strategic direction of its aims and goals with input from the Stroud CAN group.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	The town council operates under the General Power of Competence which means it can do anything a person can legally do.
FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS	<p>Officer time for;</p> <p>Attending Stroud CAN group Attending Stroud District CAN group Attending Stroud District Action on Plastic Creating and implementing carbon reduction plan Creation of environmental survey and distribution to all suppliers</p> <p>The budget for the activities of the Stroud Town CAN group and the planned actions for the year 2020/2021 can be met through the existing carbon reduction budget.</p>
EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS	The Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (age, race, sexual orientation, faith, marital status and disability)
CO2 IMPLICATIONS	The activities planned will have a positive impact on carbon in the town.
DECISION	

REPORT TITLE	Carbon Reduction Fund
AUTHOR	Kate Montgomery
CONSULTEES	Helen Bojaniwska - Clerk Rob Green – Chair of Environment Committee
FOR MEETING	Council
DATE	9 th March 2020
RECOMMENDATION	To delegate the remaining budget from the Carbon Reduction Fund to the Clerk for authority to spend before the end of the financial year. If funds are not spent by the end of the 2020-21 financial year, the funds are to be put back into earmarked reserves under the Carbon Reduction Fund.
REPORT	
<p>The Carbon Reduction Support Fund has not been spent for the year 2019/20 and has £5,000 remaining. There has been one application to the fund which the Environment Committee rejected as it did not meet the application criteria.</p> <p>This fund could be used to allocate support for the work of the emerging Stroud Town CAN (Climate Action Network) Group. This is a group made up of members of town focussed environmental organisations who are working on various initiatives to combat climate change and reduce carbon. The funds could be used to employ a consultant to identify areas and activities which may give the highest impact of carbon reduction in the town.</p> <p>If the Stroud Town CAN group do not undertake this work before 31st March, the remaining funds will be transferred into earmarked reserves under the Carbon Reduction Fund for the stated use in the 2020/21 financial year.</p> <p>Unless it is spent or earmarked, the remaining £5,000 in the fund will go back into general reserves on 31st March 2020.</p>	
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	The Council operates under the General Power of Competence which means it can do anything that an individual can legally do. Which includes spending money on carbon reduction initiatives and activities.
FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS	Officer time to support the Stroud Town CAN group £5,000 delegated to the Clerk to spend from the Carbon Reduction Fund
EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS	The Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (age, race, sexual orientation, faith, marital status and disability)
CO2 IMPLICATIONS	The fund is being utilised to identify the best carbon reduction activities for the Stroud Town CAN group
DECISION	