

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of
the COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
21st September 2020 at 7.30pm
Online meeting via Zoom**

Present

Cllrs Cranston, Green, Hale (Chair) and Price

In attendance

Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk), Emily Osler (Community Development Officer)

Absent

Cllr Andrews

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Sage (personal).

2. Declarations of Interest or Requests for dispensations

No interests were declared. There were no requests for dispensations.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 22nd June 2020 were **approved** by the members present and will be signed as a correct record by the Chair at the next possible opportunity.

Action: Clerk to circulate report on community hubs.

4. Questions from members of the public

None received.

5. Budget report

Noted. It was noted that there had been very few grant applications.

Action: Clerk to email all councillors asking them to promote grant funds with local organisations.

6. Update on The Door's outdoor youth work

A progress report was noted.

Action: Clerk to find out how many of the young people participating have not previously engaged with The Door.

7. Report on Top Of Town Tots and Parliament Children's Centre

The Committee considered a report on the potential for the former children's centre on Parliament Street to be transferred from Gloucestershire County Council for community use. The Community Development Officer described the buildings and the groups that might potentially be able to use the site. It was noted that Gloucestershire County Council intend to use the larger of the two buildings to accommodate social work staff and that a

question had been raised about how this met their government funding commitments, which require the property to be used for purposes consistent with the Sure Start programme.

Several options for how the Council could support community use of the building were considered, but it was felt that further information was required before a firm decision could be made. It was suggested that funding could be made available through a service level agreement to a community group. The Committee recognised the need for a space for pre-school groups to meet in the area and it was felt that the Council could potentially support a lease of the property, but more research was needed in order to develop a feasibility study.

Action: Clerk and Community Development Officer to research: facilities required for pre-school activities, what arrangements would be put in place for accessing adult toilets in the larger building, the condition of the buildings and the proposed lease terms.

8. Update from the Cotswold Canals Trust

The council had previously offered a grant of £5,000 towards the purchase of a mud hopper, subject to the balance of the total cost of £7,000 being raised. A progress report from the Stroud Valleys Canal Company was received confirming that a hopper had been reserved and funding applications were in progress to cover the balance of the cost.

9. Annual report from Lilian Faithful Care (formerly Uplands Care Service)

A written report was noted.

Action: Clerk to clarify the amount of the service level agreement with Lilian Faithful Care.

10. Citizens Advice Bureau Service Level Agreement for the term 2019 – 2022

The Committee **approved** the renewal of the Service Level Agreement, which had previously been overlooked.

11. Grant reports

Reports from Play Gloucestershire and Stroud Folk Festival were noted.

12. Report on the grants awarded from the Covid-19 fund

It was noted that £9,173.68 remained available from the £11,710 in the budget.

Action: Clerk to promote the fund, particularly with organisations supporting people facing unemployment and poverty.

13. Grants Funds for 2020-2021

The funds available in the budgets for grants were noted.

14. Community Support Fund grant applications

It was **resolved** to approve payment of the following grants using the General Power of Competence.

Goodwill – the Committee considered the application under the terms of the Arts and Culture Fund which was felt to be more appropriate. It was **agreed** to offer in principle a grant of £2,000 subject to receipt of an appropriate risk assessment, consultation with Stroud District Council on public safety and regular reviews of event plans taking into account government rules and guidance regarding Covid19.

Top Of Town Tots – a grant of £2,800 was **approved**. It was noted that the group had reviewed their minimum age limit for committee members and reduced it to 16 and would be doing further research on the implications of a further reduction to allow younger parents to get involved.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.

Chair..... Date.....