

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of
the COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
23rd November 2020 at 7.30pm
Online meeting via Zoom**

Present

Cllrs Cranston, Fenton, Green, Hale and Sage (Chair)

In attendance

Kate Montgomery (Deputy Town Clerk), Emily Osler (Community Development Officer)

Absent

Cllr Price

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Andrews (work).

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 21st September 2020 were **approved** by the members present and will be signed as a correct record by the Chair at the next possible opportunity.

4. Questions from members of the public

None received.

5. Deputy Clerk's Report

The report was noted.

6. Budget monitoring report

Noted. It was noted that there is likely to be a significant underspend across all funds this year.

7. Final report regarding The Door's outdoor youth work

A final report was noted. The committee were keen to see more specific numbers regarding participants who have not previously engaged in future reports for work undertaken. It was requested that in any future work, specific targets were used to be reported against regarding numbers of participants and newly engaged young people.

Action: Deputy Clerk to feed back to The Door regarding future targets and specific numbers.

8. Verbal update regarding the town council's community development work

The Community Development Officer fed back on the initiatives she's been working on.

Befriending

Research is ongoing regarding the development of a telephone based befriending scheme, however such schemes are already in operation through local and national organisations. Officers are keen that the scheme is not a duplication of existing support and the final project may focus on signposting, referrals and visibility for existing schemes. Cllr Green offered further advice around this in terms of mental health support for volunteers as his partner has had experience of this. Further thought is required to communicate with those who are not able to access online services.

Community Noticeboards

An idea for community notice boards has been brought to the attention of officers by Paganhill Community Group, who are hoping to install their own locally managed boards, highlighting services and support to those who may not be able to access the internet. If successful, this idea could be implemented across other wards in the parish. The boards will have a local ambassador who will be responsible for the content on the boards and ensuring it is kept up to date with reputable information. It was noted that the Town Council's current notice boards are under-utilised and that this could be an important way to connect members of the community to each other, the council as well as to wider services and support.

Community work

The Paganhill Community group have recently partnered with the Long Table to install a community freezer at the former Baptist Church. EO is supporting the group in practical terms with risk assessments and health and safety support in relation to their activities. The group are continuing to research the possibilities for the Baptist church and are in the process of applying for funding from Barnwood Trust. Christian Drewitt is undertaking accessibility assessments for the site and they are also taking advice to ensure the building is dementia friendly.

The 'Transform' group which includes SDC tenant services, PCSOs and residents is continuing to meet regularly. EO is chairing this group and will continue to provide support.

Work is ongoing to support and advocate for residents in both Slade ward and at Nouncells Cross with the district council.

Middle of the Hill community group have not had any access to their community room throughout the pandemic, this has now been resolved and EO has offered support with food projects to be delivered in the new year.

TOTTs

The TOTTs group has been able to remain open with Covid measures in place during lockdown due to the support group exemption. The Halloween trail around the children's centre, which happened before the second lockdown, was a success. The group is running twice per week with 15 people. EO has supported the group with risk assessments, policies and purchasing equipment. New parents with babies born during the pandemic who haven't socialised with anyone since the birth are accessing the group. The group are offering

important support to these parents. The group have also partnered with the Long Table to host a community freezer over the Christmas break.

CSCIC Community Hubs project

Creative Sustainability CIC have been allocated funding from Gloucestershire Funders to continue their research into community hubs across the district. The work is now being taken forward by Stroud District Council and CSCIC. It is proposed that a support network will deliver training and advice to any neighbourhood group to help them grow. It is also envisaged that there will be a physical location in each ward to support the groups. Stroud District Council are hoping to recruit a new member of staff to coordinate this work, subject to funding.

Action: EO to send CSCIC report to committee members

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

The report was received.

10. Note the funds available in the Grants Funds for 2020-2021

The remaining funds were noted.

11. Confirm the grant awarded to Stroud Book Festival

The committee confirmed the grant awarded which had been circulated electronically.

12. Consider the draft 2021-22 Community Committee budget

The committee discussed the budget for the upcoming financial year. The committee asked that the Clerk transfers the remaining funds from the unspent grants be transferred into the 21/22 budget. The committee asked that the Clerk consider that a portion of this is earmarked as a budget for the Community Development Officer,

The meeting ended at 9.10pm.

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