

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL
**Minutes of the meeting of
the COMMUNITY COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
28th February 2022 at 7.30pm
Online meeting via Zoom**

Present

Cllrs Fenton (Chair), Graham, Green (from Item 6), Oldman, Parkes and Seffar

In attendance

Kate Montgomery (Deputy Town Clerk), Laura Beattie (Community Development Officer), Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk), Hugh Phillimore (Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust), Joe Thornewill (Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust), Dela Foster (School Food Matters), Ruth Quinlan (School Food Matters).

Absent

Cllr Crews

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Andrews and Davies (both personal).

2. Declarations of Interest or Requests for dispensations

None.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Community Committee Working Group meeting on 6th December 2021 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. To welcome the new Community Development Officer

The Chair and members welcomed Laura Beattie to the post and passed on their thanks to the previous post-holder for their thorough handover.

6. To receive further information from School Food Matters

Representatives from School Food Matters presented their proposal and answered questions about the project. The Committee Working Group thanked the representatives for their time and delegated the decision on the funding to Item 15 at the end of the agenda.

7. To receive a report form the Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust

The Committee received a report from Hugh Phillimore who informed them of plans for new and ongoing community outreach work. The Trust have been working hard throughout the pandemic to deliver events and activities to a broad range of people. They are also keen to ensure the Subs are a key part of people's lives throughout all their life-stages. The Committee Working Group thanked the Trustees for their update. The Clerk passed on her congratulations to the Trust for their diligent hard work to keep the doors open at the Sub Rooms over the Covid-19 pandemic.

8. To review the funding arrangements for Subscription Rooms Trust

The Clerk outlined the current arrangements and talked members through the proposal to allow the Subscription Rooms Trust to hire the fundraiser directly rather than through the Council. The Committee Working Group **approved** the new funding arrangements for the fundraiser and confirmed their approval of the funds for the Volunteer Coordinator post.

Members asked that the Trust put a plan in place for the long-term funding of the posts.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that she was in regular contact with the Volunteer Coordinator through their administration of the Festivals Forum. The Committee Working Group will receive the notes of these meetings going forward.

Action: Deputy Clerk to include the notes from Festival Forum meetings at future meetings of the Community Committee.

9. To advise the Clerk on delegated grant decisions

The Clerk updated members on a recent meeting with Paganhill Community Group and the Council's Community Development Officer. To ensure the group are able to explore their options fully, the Clerk advised that the previous grant, awarded on 6th December 2021 be repurposed for legal fees. Members **approved** the change in use and commented favourably on the proposed plan to speak directly to the West of England Baptist Association Trustees who own the building.

Action: Clerk to report back to members how the grant is spent and repurposed

The Clerk updated members regarding the project SVA have been working on for the last three years. Members noted that the original grant, received by the Council from GWR for the Station Masterplan be used to prepare the project for the Levelling Up Fund bid. The Committee Working Group **approved** the recommendation and noted the tight timescales for a successful bid to be pulled together.

Action: Clerk to arrange payment of £2,000 and refer back to Regeneration Committee if additional funds are required.

10. To review the criteria for the Down to Earth SLA

The Deputy Clerk introduced the report. Members noted the additional advertising and leaflet and asked the Deputy Clerk to relay the information to the District Council Neighbourhood Warden. Members noted that the organisers of the scheme could amend payment to gardeners at its discretion but **deferred** any decision about amending the scheme's eligibility criteria. Members asked that a representative from Down To Earth be invited to the next meeting to discuss how to move the scheme forward.

Action: Invite Down to Earth to next Community Committee meeting

11. To review a list of actions from previous meetings

The Committee Working Group reviewed a list of actions and **recommended** either cancellation or continuation. It was noted that some had been superseded by later decisions. A full list is included in [Appendix 1](#).

12. To receive reports from grants awarded 2019-2022

The reports received were noted by members.

13. To note the grants awarded from the Covid-19 fund

The funds awarded were noted by members.

14. Funds available in Grant Funds

The funds for the 2021-22 period were noted.

15. Grant applications

The following applications were considered:

Arts and Culture Fund

Stroud Against Racism

The Committee Working Group discussed the application and noted their support of the project. The Committee Working Group **rejected** the grant application in its current format, but noted that they would be happy to consider it in the future if a local artist could be found and a different location. Members expressed their wish to keep the current mural on the Bank Gardens shed, which was painted in a previous project with Stroud Against Racism.

Community Support Fund

School Food Matters Project

Cllrs Graham and Parkes declared a non-pecuniary interest and did not take part in this discussion or vote.

The Committee Working Group discussed the application at length. The grant application was **rejected** due to other local organisations being involved in a similar scheme.

Cotswolds Cats and Dogs Home

The Committee Working Group discussed the merits of the project, however did not feel that it reached enough parishioners to warrant the amount requested. The grant was **rejected** on this basis.

Stroud Pride

The Committee Working Group discussed the application and commented on its clarity and thoroughness. The amount of £2,000 was **approved** for the organisation to support the annual Pride Picnic and proposed support groups for LGBTQ+ people and their families.

Top of Town Community Group

The Committee Working Group discussed the application and commented on how far this group has come over a short space of time. The grant of £2,934 was approved in full. The Community Development Officer was asked to alert the group to other funding opportunities such as the funds administered by Barnwood Trust. The Clerk was asked to check the group's safeguarding policy prior to the grant being paid.

Action: Clerk to receive safeguarding policy prior to grant paid.

Small Grants

Stroud Film Festival

The Committee Working Group were supportive of the application however delegated the decision of the award of £500 to the Clerk pending production of accounts for the organisation.

Action: Clerk to meet with Stroud Film Festival to go over their income and expenditure accounts

The meeting ended at 9.50pm.

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

Appendix 1

Meeting	Civic year	Date	Action	Who?	Status	Notes
Community	2020/21	21/09/2020	circulate report on community hubs	Clerk	Not started	Project ongoing and no report available yet
Community	2020/21	21/09/2020	email all councillors asking them to promote grant funds with local organisations	Clerk	Complete	Councillors to promote
Community	2020/21	23/11/2020	Provide the committee with the CSCIC report regarding Community Hubs when it is complete	Deputy Clerk	CANCEL	Covered in action 1
COMMUNITY (ex FCP)	2020/21	14/12/2020	£500 grant to Film Festival. Clerk was asked to seek festival organisers views of open air cinema screenings at future festivals	Clerk	CANCEL	No longer relevant
Community	2020/21	15/03/2021	Amend Sub Rooms Trust Memorandum of Understanding to allow Fundraiser to work on revenue grants as well as capital	Clerk	CANCEL	Covered in meeting
Community	2020/21	15/03/2021	Support Down To Earth with wider promotion of gardening scheme	Deputy Clerk	In progress	Leaflet produced Feb 2022
Community	2021/22	28/06/2021	Check play rangers plans at Farmhill and Paganhill	CDO	Not started	LB to start
Community	2021/22	28/06/2021	Liaise with Cllr Andrews re Cadet Hut as a community asset	CDO	Not started	LB to start
Community	2021/22	28/06/2021	Invite book festival organisers to attend December meeting to report on this year's festival and communicate long-term plans for the funding for the event	Deputy Clerk	Not started	To be arranged
Community	2021/22	04/10/2021	to meet with Down To Earth and Stroud District Council who also offer a scheme for their tenants, and to review the delivery mechanism and report back to the next meeting.	Clerk	Not started	Down to Earth to be invited to next meeting June 2022
Community	2021/22	04/10/2021	Request further information from Open House and wait for the completion of a research project being conducted by the Deputy Clerk and then reconsider the proposal.	Deputy Clerk	In progress	Ongoing
Community	2021/22	04/10/2021	Paganhill Community Association grant application - explore questions relating to: security of tenure and protection of biodiversity. The Council's Rangers to be asked to visit and advise on clearance work.	Clerk	Complete	Covered in Item 9 28/2/22
Community	2021/22	04/10/2021	Committee requested a report from the Clerk on the potential to offer a longer-term Service Level Agreement to Paganhill Community Group, rather than repeated grant applications to give the organisation a regular income.	Clerk	In progress	Ongoing

Meeting	Civic year	Date	Action	Who?	Status	Notes
Community	2021/22	06/12/2021	Liaise with SDC regarding purchase of CCTV cameras for Bank Gardens and Park Gardens	Deputy Clerk	In progress	Ongoing
Community	2021/22	06/12/2021	Write to Buckingham Palace Jubilee Pageant master to convey concern about use of gas beacons	Deputy Clerk	CANCEL	No longer relevant
Community	2021/22	06/12/2021	Create log of road closure requests - up to £1700 allocated for community groups	Deputy Clerk	CANCEL	No longer relevant
Community	2021/22	06/12/2021	Request plan for community engagement and events from Sub Rooms Trust to inform terms of any SLA	Deputy Clerk	Complete	Covered under Item 7 28/02/2022
Community	2021/22	06/12/2021	Request latest accounts are submitted to Full Council	Deputy Clerk	In progress	Requested when available
Community	2021/22	06/12/2021	Invite School Food Matters to the February meeting to present their project and answer questions regarding the funding	Deputy Clerk	Complete	Covered under Item 6 28/02/2022