

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of  
the COMMUNITY COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP  
28th June 2021 at 7.30pm  
Online meeting via Zoom**

**Present**

Cllrs Andrews (from Item 5), Crews, Davies (Chair), Fenton, Green and Seffar

**In attendance**

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

**Absent**

None

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Graham (personal).

**2. Declarations of Interest or Requests for dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March 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. Update from Community Development Officer**

The Community Development Officer (CDO) gave a verbal update about the work in Paganhill and Slade wards building community resilience and providing support to the community groups which have undertaken food provisions. The Long Table is supporting groups who wish to develop their food offering by training them in cookery, nutrition and hygiene practices.

There is a planned survey this summer in the Slade and Paganhill and Farmhill wards which will see volunteers survey as many residents as possible to gather opinions on public realm and community assets.

There is continuing support for residents in Farmhill and Paganhill ward through the Transform Community Group which brings together residents and statutory agencies to discuss challenges and issues. There are plans to explore a similar group in Slade ward.

Further support has been given to families effected by the Severn View Academy closure and interviews passed onto Siobhan Baillie MP to be sent to the Secretary of State and the Regional Schools team. The school is now empty and all staff have been redeployed.

The Freezer of Love at the top of town hub in the Cadet Hut had significant issues with the base. This has now been moved to the Children's Centre on the Severn View site. The Town Council has a short term lease agreement with Gloucestershire County Council in place and residents are beginning to explore what might come next in that space. The committee working group discussed the community provision at the Cadet Hut. Cllr Andrews and the CDO will discuss further regarding the lease arrangements.

The Top of Town Toddler group continue to grow and develop as we come out of the pandemic crisis. They plan to open one day per week over the summer and now have a bank account.

The Play Rangers are continuing their 'Stepping Out' play walks around Slade ward. The CDO will check the progress at the Paganhill and Farmhill ward.

The Committee thanked the officer for the report.

Actions: CDO – To check Play Rangers plans at Farmhill and Paganhill  
CDO – To liaise with Cllr Andrews regarding the Cadet Hut as a community asset

#### **6. Note the grants awarded via Covid-19 fund**

The grants awarded under delegated authority to the Clerk were noted.

#### **7. Funds available in Grant Funds**

The funds were noted for the 2021-22 period

#### **8. Grant applications**

The following applications were considered:

##### **Community Support Fund**

Yard Trail 2021 – The committee working group discussed the carbon benefits of the event and their support of this type of scheme. It was noted that the event takes place across multiple parishes however Stroud Town Council was the only parish which has been approached for funding. The committee working group **agreed** to recommend to the Clerk to award £1,500 from the Community Support Fund, with the added condition that the organisers approach other parishes for funding in the future.

##### **Arts and Culture fund**

Filskit Theatre – The committee working group discussed the project at length. Concerns were raised regarding the use of a smartphone device to take part in the event and the use of WhatsApp as a platform to communicate with young people and children while they participate.

The grant application was supported in principle if the applicant can provide reassurance that all community members can access the project (including those without a smart phone or data allowance) and can satisfy the Clerk with the safety measures in place around the use of WhatsApp.

The committee working group **agreed** to recommend to the Clerk to award £1,000 from the Arts and Culture Fund once the concerns listed had been addressed.

Stroud Book Festival – The committee working group **agreed** to recommend to the Clerk that the grant application be approved.

The committee working group asked the Clerk to invite representatives from the Book Festival to attend the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to report on this year’s festival and give organisers the opportunity to communicate their long-term plans for the funding of the event.

**Small Grants**

No applications were received under this fund

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

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