



Minutes of the meeting of
the COMMUNITY COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
3rd October 2022 at 7.30pm
Online meeting via Zoom

Present: Cllrs Andrews (from item 5), Davies (Chair), Fenton, Oldman, Seffar and Sheer

Absent: Cllr Crews

In attendance

Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk), Laura Beattie (Community Development Officer)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Graham and Green (personal) and Deputy Clerk Kate Montgomery.

2. Declarations of Interest or Requests for dispensations

Cllr Oldman declared a non-pecuniary interest in a grant application from Transition Stroud.
Cllr Davies declared a non-pecuniary interest in a grant application from Ignition.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Community Committee Working Group meeting on 27th June 2022 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 receive a report from the Community Development Officer

The Community Development Officer (CDO) reported that the hubs, now collectively known as NOSH, received their full grant from Gloucestershire County Council, which will pay for a Food Co-ordinator and provide money for an emergency fund. The CDO was supporting the hubs with establishing their presence and promoting them with a display in the office window and printed information cards.

A recent data protection breach had led to robust discussions with Stroud District Council about the need to work with the hubs and secure their consent before committing them to providing support services. Compensation for the breach was under discussion.

Cllr Andrews arrived.

The CDO highlighted the need for core funding for the hubs, which could be supported by employing a fundraiser. Communications planning was also underway. It was felt that higher level organisations need to give the hubs a place in discussion about service delivery. The risk of volunteer burnout was highlighted and a concern that the cost of living

crisis could drive people with more complex and serious issue into the hubs. It was felt that volunteers would need support to cope with this pressure.

Recently the CDO's work had expended into the Chapel Street area, where high levels of disrepair and issues with rubbish storage had been highlighted. Stroud District Council officers and the police had met on site recently to talk about anti-social behaviour, but Town Council officers had not been about to attend due a prior commitment. More work was planned to address both the environmental and anti-social behaviour issues, including the establishment of a new multi-agency "Transform" group, which had been highly successful in other parts of town. It was noted that the Salvation Army were open to creating a community café at their nearby premises.

The Top of Town Group were reported to have grown in confidence and had recently supported the raft race on the canal with refreshments. The Town Council continues to lease the former Children's Centre building from Gloucestershire County Council for community use. They now have permission to prepare food on the premises and are working with the Long Table to develop this. More volunteer recruitment was planned.

Paganhill Community Group continue to face the potential loss of their current premises. A town council grant had been diverted to cover the cost of professional property advice. Other options were under exploration.

Work on the provision of warm spaces was ongoing and it was anticipated that Stroud District Council would confirm their funding offer on 4th October.

The Chair thanked the CDO for the support she has been providing to the community and confirmed that Stroud District Council were considering offering pastoral support to volunteers.

It was observed that with many bus services being cancelled locating warm spaces near to bus stop could have potential.

The CDO left the meeting.

6. Use of the Covid Community Resilience Fund for the Warm Spaces initiative

The Working Group confirmed financial support for the provision of warm spaces in the town, by repurposing £4,439 from the Covid 19 Community Resilience Fund as previously discussed by Council on 24th September. The funds would enable up to 12 locations, including 5 community hubs, plus church rooms and other community spaces across the town to open their doors as warm spaces, should they be able to find suitable volunteers to open and man them. The funding would assist tea/coffee provision and the purchase of some generic phone charging facilities, plus budget for the marketing of the spaces, social media advertising and printing of leaflets to be distributed within Stroud parish as well as Rodborough and Cainscross. A contribution towards marketing costs had been requested from these parishes.

7. To receive reports from grants awarded 2019-2021

The reports were received by members.

8. To receive annual reports from SLA providers

The reports were received by members.

9. To note the remaining funds available for the 2022-23 financial year

The remaining funds were noted.

10. Grant applications

The following applications were considered:

Arts and Culture Fund

Goodwill – **approved** £3,000

Ignition – **declined**. The Working Group felt that it would be difficult to make this event fully inclusive for people of no faith or none, and were concerned that the proposed budget for advertising was too small to reach the wider community.

Standish Consort – **declined**. The Working Group were concerned that no other sources of funding were being sought for the event. Applicants for the Arts and Culture Fund are expected to demonstrate that at least 50% of the costs of the project can be met by funding from other sources including support in kind. The Working Group would have preferred to see a request to fund some free or subsidized tickets for Stroud residents, who would not normally be able to afford to attend an event like this.

Stroud Arts Festival – **approved** £1,450

Action: KM

Community Support Fund

Christmas Tree Festival **approved** £500. The applicants were asked to consider the sustainable sourcing of trees.

Craftology – **declined**. The Working Group felt that the structure of the organisation did not meet the requirement that community organisations should not have a closed or restricted membership. Notwithstanding this requirement, the Working Group would have preferred to see an application to fund free or subsidized access to workshops for Stroud residents, who would not normally be able to afford to attend, rather than equipment.

Nurture Wild CIC – **declined**. The Working Group felt that the structure of the organisation did not meet the requirement that community organisations should not have a closed or restricted membership. It was suggested that a new application could be made by the other community partners involved in the project.

Stroud ADHD Steering Group – it was **agreed** to offer a grant in principle subject to further discussion about how the grant would be spent and the training/qualifications of facilitators.

Transition Stroud – Cllr Oldman reported on behalf of the applicants that more funds than anticipated had been raised from public donations, so a lower grant would be acceptable.

Cllr Oldman left the meeting.

A grant of £1,000 was **agreed** with a suggestion that the funding could be used to purchase microwave ovens which might suit some families more than slow cookers, which were currently difficult to source due to high demand.

Action: KM

Cllr Oldman rejoined the meeting.

Small Grants

Maypole Youth Group – declined. The Working Group felt that the structure of the organisation was not robust enough to support the activities proposed.

Action: KM

The meeting ended at 9.25pm.

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