

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL
**Minutes of the meeting of
the COMMUNITY COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
6th December 2021 at 7.30pm
Online meeting via Zoom**

Present

Cllrs Andrews (from Item 5), Crews (until Item 9), Davies (Chair), Fenton, Graham, Green, Oldman, Parkes and Seffar

In attendance

Kate Montgomery (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Declarations of Interest or Requests for dispensations

None.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 4th October 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.

Cllr Andrews joined the meeting

5. Purchase of two CCTV Cameras

The members discussed the provision of CCTV in the town, their serious reservations regarding the amount of surveillance in the town and potential allocation of funds for other schemes to mitigate anti-social behaviour. The committee working group recognised that the cameras currently in use are at the end of life. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the replacements would be connected to the main Police Control Room in Waterwells.

The committee working group voted on the recommendation as follows;

5 in favour

2 opposed

2 abstained

The committee working group **approved** the purchase of the new cameras for use in Park Gardens and Bank Gardens.

6. Diamond Jubilee

The committee working group thanked the Jubilee Pageant master for his invitation to participate in the Beacons celebration but respectfully declined. The committee working

group asked the Deputy Clerk to convey their concern over the promotion of gas beacons to be used for the Beacon Jubilee celebration due to the environmental impact.

The committee working group approved the use of funds up to £1700 for road closure applications to be delegated to the Clerk for monitoring.

The committee declined the recommendation to promote small grants for celebratory activities and declined the promotion of town centre parks for people to use. However, it was noted that any community group could apply for funds or to use Council owned Green Spaces, in the usual way, with projects and activities with a low-carbon footprint or carbon reduction elements looked at favourably.

7. Fundraising for the Subscription Rooms

The Committee working group received the list of grants received by the Subscription Rooms since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

8. SLA for Subscription Rooms

Members noted the amount of £17,860 as a potential figure for the SLA, with recognition that this amount is currently being allocated to the Subscription Rooms. The committee working group noted some concern that the cost of the SLA is far higher than all others the Council gives, and noted that their preference to offer an SLA at a similar level to others given by the Council with additional funds approved on a case-by-case basis.

The committee requested that the Subscription Rooms Trust should communicate their plan for community engagement and community events and that implementation of this plan should form part of the terms of the SLA.

Members also requested that the latest accounts are submitted to members prior to any agreement by Full Council.

Cllr Crews left the meeting.

9. Note the grants awarded from the Covid-19 fund

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

10. Funds available in Grant Funds

The funds for the 2021-22 period were noted.

11. Grant applications

The following applications were considered:

Arts and Culture Fund

No applications received

Community Support Fund

School Food Matters Project

The committee working group discussed the application. It was noted that the grant application did not confirm which schools in the parish would benefit from the project and

members questioned the allocation of funds between either eight or three schools as both numbers are cited in the application.

It was noted that Gloucestershire County Council, as the provider of education for the County, should be approached for funding this type of project.

Members also questioned the relationship between the organisation and the Long Table.

Actions: The Clerk was asked to invite the organisation to attend the meeting of the Committee in February to present their project and answer questions from Members.

Small Grants

No applications received.

12. Draft Budget for 22-23

Members asked some questions regarding elements of the budget which the Deputy Clerk clarified.

The Committee working group approved the budget to go to the Finance and Policy Committee before it is brought before the Council in January 2022.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.

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