

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL  
**Minutes of the meeting of COUNCIL**  
**19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.30pm**  
**St Laurence Church Hall, The Shambles, Stroud**

**Present**

Cllrs Geoffrey Andrews, Kevin Cranston (Chair), Liz Child, Tony Davey (from item 3) Laurie Davies, Mick Fealty, Mark Graham, Rob Green, Camilla Hale, Stella Parkes, Lucas Schoemaker, Naomi Seffar, Gill Tavner

**In attendance**

Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk), Kate Montgomery (Deputy Clerk), Marianne Sweet (STC Communications); Stroud District Councillor Paula Baker, Gloucestershire County Councillor David Drew and three candidates for co-option

**Absent**

Cllr Naumann

**1. To receive apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Kate Crews (work), Haydn Sutton (personal) and Susan Fenton (personal).

**2. To receive declarations of interest or requests for dispensations**

No interests were declared. There were no requests for dispensations.

**3. Co-option of a councillor for Uplands ward**

Three candidates were given five minutes each to present their applications for co-option and answered questions from members. Following a ballot Tony Davey was co-opted by a clear majority to represent Uplands ward.

The candidates were thanked for their interest in joining the Council and congratulated on their presentations.

**4. To receive additional declarations of interest or requests for dispensations**

None received.

**5. Committee Appointments**

There were no nominations for spaces on the Finance and Policy, and Community Committees.

Cllrs Parkes and Andrews were **elected** to join the Consultations and Highways Committee.

Cllr Davey was **elected** to join the Regeneration Committee.

**6. Minutes of the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The minutes of the council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were **approved** by the members present and will be signed by the Chair.

## **7. Mayor's remarks**

The Mayor reported that on a recent visit to Gloucester Hospital for treatment to an injury, he found that the waiting time in A&E was 13 hours. He had also recently visited Archway School which he felt was well run, tidy and doing good environmental work.

## **8. Questions from members of the public**

No questions were received.

## **9. Reports from District and County Councillors**

Cllrs Davies reported that she had recently participated in the Radio 4 Listening Project. She had also been busy with case work largely concerning housing matters.

Cllr Baker had been busy with training and reported that the Council were working on the Corporate Delivery Plan. She noted that concerns had been raised by the Audit Committee about communications with parish and town councils.

Cllr Schoemaker reported that he was also dealing with a lot of case work and raised a concern about the impact of austerity on parish and town councils who are dealing with the effect of service reductions from other authorities and residents who are falling through the gaps.

Cllr Drew reported on activities relating to speeding, road resurfacing and issues with loading restrictions in the town centre. He reported that refurbishment work will be carried out in the Minor Injuries Unit and Jubilee ward at Stroud Hospital in September. It was reported that the dispute between the County Council and Community R4C was still continuing and there were calls for a report on the incinerator contract by Grant Thornton to be published. Cllr Drew noted there were continuing performance issues with Children's Services and an audit was due soon. He was asked about unaccompanied EU children being cared for by the County Council.

## **10. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk's report was noted.

## **11. Covid-19 risk assessment for Council and Committee meetings**

It was **agreed** not to make any immediate changes to the arrangements for meetings.

**Action:** Clerk to review Covid-19 risk assessment for meetings again before September.

## **12. Contract for new play equipment at the Leazes**

The Clerk answered questions regarding accessibility and inclusivity. A contract valued at £30,000 with Sutcliffe Play South West was **approved**.

## **13. Transfer of Land at Fennels View**

The Clerk was **authorised** to seal a deed for the transfer of the freehold of a small area of land at Fennels View, which was witnessed by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

## **14. Review of expenditure during 2020-21 using the General Power of Competence**

(Postponed from Annual Council meeting in May 2021.) A report on expenditure was noted.

**15. Review of insurance arrangements**

(Postponed from Annual Council meeting in May 2021.) A report from the Finance and Policy Committee was noted.

**16. Approval of payments**

Payments from April 2021 as shown in Appendix 1 were **approved** as recommended by the Finance and Policy Working Group.

**17. Consultation on Stroud District Council’s Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan**

It was **agreed** to object to the allocation of a rugby pitch at Marling School for development on the grounds that it contradicts the District Council’s own evidence on the demand for pitches and is therefore unsound. A concern was also raised about the risk of flooding on the site.

**18. Working Group reports**

The following reports, previously circulated, were received.

- Consultations & Highways: 11th May 2021, 14th June
- Environment: 25th May 2021
- Regeneration: 27th May 2021
- Finance and Policy: 7th June 2021

Councillors had not been able to access the report of the meeting of the Community Working Group on 26th June 2021, so this item was postponed until the next meeting.

**19. Consultation on Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries**

It was **agreed** to suggest that Chalford be brought in to the Stroud Constituency as recommended by the Consultations and Highways Working Group. It was felt that this could be accommodated within the tolerance levels for voter numbers and would provide geographical consistency.

**20. Exclusion of press and public**

It was **resolved** in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

**21. To consider a report on stonework at the Subscription Rooms**

The Clerk explained an engineer’s report on stonework defects at the Subscription Rooms and responsibility for repairs. It was **agreed** to seek legal advice and discuss with Stroud District Council.

**Action:** The Clerk was requested to liaise with the Sub Rooms Working Group on this matter and report progress to the next Council meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....

## Appendix 1 Payments April 2021

### Stroud Town Council Payments April 2021

Date	Payee Name	Reference	Total Amnt	Transaction Detail
07/04/2021	The Information Commissioner	Z21103459	£55.00	ICO renewal
07/04/2021	SGW Payroll Ltd.	STR002	£61.32	Payroll Processing
07/04/2021	ALL Star Business Solutions	64667	£141.22	Fuel
07/04/2021	Water Plus Ltd.	11632	£53.59	Water Supply
07/04/2021	Alan Price	AP	£2,010.00	Grave Digging
07/04/2021	CBRE Limited	1391	£906.00	Project Service Fees Jan / Mar
14/04/2021	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	165938	£1,134.00	Cemetery grass cutting
14/04/2021	Edwards Engineering Ltd	7764	£1,487.70	Tower Standpipe
14/04/2021	Ellis Whittam Limited	2528	£360.00	Occupational Health Assessment
14/04/2021	Gloucester County Council	6240	£425.00	Temp Road closure
14/04/2021	Hailey Wood Sawmill Ltd	31002	£33.30	Larch Boards
14/04/2021	iHASCO	5705	£780.00	Licence 10 Training Courses
14/04/2021	Kaido Group Ltd	6330	£298.80	Kaido wellbeing challenge
14/04/2021	Nadja Gajadharsingh	108	£700.00	Fundraising Services for March
14/04/2021	NHBS Ltd	3027	£100.97	Nest Boxes
14/04/2021	NHBS Ltd	3047	£123.96	Nest and Bat box
14/04/2021	OMAR COTTLE	2915	£576.00	Repairs Stone Pill Bank Gardens
14/04/2021	Redland Tree Services	4724	£1,140.00	Bank Gardens Holm Oak tree works
14/04/2021	Royal Mail Group PLC	8672	£120.53	Postage
14/04/2021	SLCC Enterprises Ltd	8301	£108.00	Training
14/04/2021	SmartWater Technology Limited	4871	£450.00	Annual Renewal
14/04/2021	Smiths (Gloucester) Ltd	1052	£18.60	Container Rentals Glass / mixed
14/04/2021	Stroud Electrical Services (UK	5494	£1,319.04	Various electrical works
14/04/2021	Towergate Insurance Brokers	6120	£1,889.43	Vehicle Insurance
14/04/2021	Hughes&Salvidge Holdings Ltd	5086/5	£508.80	Muck away grab lorry
14/04/2021	Glos LG	DDR	£6,444.16	Pension Contribution April 2020
14/04/2021	SDC	DD	£1,066.60	Rates/ Cemetery and depot
15/04/2021	PAYROLL	BACS	£18,227.19	April 2021 Payroll
15/04/2021	RCI Omega	DD	£30.00	Accounts software
19/04/2021	Transition Stroud	BACS	£1,305.00	Grant for STCAN website
19/04/2021	Water Plus Ltd.	867	£26.89	Water Supply
20/04/2021	Patrick Lorenzen	8118	£229.50	Hedge cutting
20/04/2021	Sunbelt Rentals Ltd	6815	£1,609.87	Traffic management
20/04/2021	Sunbelt Rentals Ltd	5436	£1,851.35	Traffic management
20/04/2021	Transition Stroud	TRANSFER	£1,305.00	Trans Stroud ST Can Grant
22/04/2021	SDC	DD	£621.00	SDC Rates
26/04/2021	Ecotricity	2716	£52.03	Electricity/gas
26/04/2021	Lister Unified Communications	ST8117	£57.83	Mobile phones
26/04/2021	SGW Payroll Ltd.	str002	£65.28	Payroll Processing
26/04/2021	Ecotricity	3686	£71.24	Electricity/gas
26/04/2021	EE Ltd	3096	£73.82	Mobile phone contracts
26/04/2021	Ecotricity	9391	£119.68	Electricity/gas
30/04/2021	Konica Minolta Business Soluti	30160	£89.14	Printer hire