

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the

MEETING OF COUNCIL

Monday, 21st October 2019, at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs **Geoffrey Andrews** (from item 5), **Simon Arundel**, **Alice Campbell**, **Kevin Cranston (Chair)**, **Rob Green**, **Camilla Hale**, **John Marjoram** (from item 12), **Steven Naumann**, **Margaret Poulton**, **Vanessa Price**, and **Lucas Schoemaker**.

Absent: Cllrs Bloxsom, Davies, Dechan and Lunnon

In attendance: Gloucestershire County Councillor Eva Ward, Marianne Sweet (STC Communications), Kate Montgomery (Deputy Clerk), and 3 members of the public.

Action

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sage, Sutton and Townley.

2. Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

None

3. Gifts and hospitality

None

4. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the council meeting on 2nd September were **approved** by the members present and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

5. Mayor's remarks

Cllr Andrews arrived during this item

Events attended by the Mayor included: A Celebration of Success at Marling School, staff away day at Slimbridge Wetland Centre, the youth climate strike, opened the Jojo Maman Béb  store at the Five Valley's shopping centre, unveiled the new eye-testing equipment at Specsavers in Stroud, a re-opening ceremony for the Salvation Army building, attended the 'We Are One' awards which champion those who have stood up to prejudice and hatred and the Shindig at the Sub Rooms. The Mayor also reported on his recent trip to Putten to mark the 75th anniversary of the WW II atrocity which saw 650 men taken from the town but only 50 survived the concentration camps. The event was very moving and gave inspiration for the theme of forgiveness and reconciliation for next year's 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

Finally, the Mayor was approached by a member of the public while meeting with Stroud District Council about the public toilets in Bedford Street. The member of the public has an invisible illness which means they may need to access a toilet quickly and have begun a 'Can't Wait' campaign with South Gloucestershire Council. The Clerk was asked to investigate the scheme and report back.

Clerk

6. Questions from members of the public

A member of the public asked if the 20mph zone on Slad Road could be made more visible through better signage. Cllr Ward was able to answer this and reported that along with resurfacing works residents were holding community speedwatch training and events. The resident was invited to the next Road Safety meeting and his contact information was passed on to the Project Officer to action this.

Project
Officer

7. District and County Councillors' reports

County Councillor Ward reported that she had met with the County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Flooding, Cllr Vernon Smith to highlight concerns over road safety.

The A417 consultation is underway and Cllr Ward asked that all members of the town council respond to it and highlight the shared vision of fewer cars on the road. The Deputy Clerk was asked to provide Councillors with the link and promote the consultation on social media.

Deputy
Clerk

No District Councillors were present.

8. Clerk's report

The Clerk's report was noted.

9. Divestment from fossil fuels in the Local Government Pension Scheme

The Council discussed the report and recommendations. Cllr Ward clarified that she could not put a motion to the AGM on the 6th December, but she could ask a question. Upon discussion, it was **resolved** to re-word the recommended motion from;

"GCC should encourage the Brunel Pension Partnership (valued at around £30billion, of which the Gloucestershire LGPS is part) and the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (with combined assets over £200billion) to effect change in the behaviour of its investee businesses with regard to divestment from fossil fuels, through a process of active engagement with those businesses via the LAPFF, rather than surrendering all influence with the companies' managements"

to;

"There is now plenty of evidence that investments through environmental, social and governance led principles out-perform the

conventional non-ESG returns. If not through divestment, then through what strategy do the investment managers propose to protect their members from the potential capital losses that are inevitable given that 80% or more of fossil fuel reserves, which make up the value of those companies, must become stranded assets – if we are to meet our climate commitments?”

Cllr Ward also offered to put this question through Cllr Rachel Smith who is a member of the Gloucestershire County Council Pensions Committee. It was **resolved** to write to the Brunel Partnership, to ask the same question as a follow up from the letter sent in 2017. The Deputy Clerk was asked to investigate how many other parishes in the County were considering similar motions. This will be raised with GAPTC.

Clerk

Deputy Clerk

Councillors **resolved** to delegate to the Clerk conduct the necessary consultation with staff and unions prior to any further action. Pending the outcome of the consultation, the Council **approved** the amended recommendations.

Clerk

10. Committee reports

Reports of the following meetings, having been previously been circulated were received:

Consultations:	9 th September, 7 th October
Finance, Community & Policy:	18 th March, 14 th October
Green Spaces:	24 th September

All other reports and minutes were received as per the list.

11. Exclusion of members of the public

In view of the confidential nature of the remaining business, it was **resolved** to exclude members of the public for item 12.

12. Valuation report on Thanet House

Cllr Marjoram arrived during this item

The Council discussed the valuation report and considered the options available regarding office accommodation. The Council **resolved** to ask the Clerk to create a specification for what is required and then investigate costs for remodelling Thanet House. The Council also requested a general update on the research into other options.

Clerk

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chair

Date