

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of COUNCIL
9th May 2022 at 7.30pm
St Laurence Church Hall, The Shambles, Stroud

Present

Cllrs Geoffrey Andrews, Kevin Cranston (Chair), Kate Crews (until Item 16), Tony Davey, Susan Fenton, Mark Graham, Rob Green, Camilla Hale, Stella Parkes, Lucas Schoemaker, Naomi Seffar, Rachel Smith

In attendance

Kate Montgomery (Deputy Clerk), Marianne Sweet (STC Communications)

Absent

Liz Child, Laurie Davies, Mick Fealty, Megan Sheer

1. Election of Mayor for the year 2022/23

Cllr Stella Parkes was elected.

2. Mayor's declaration of acceptance of office

Cllr Parkes gave her declaration. The declarations book will be signed as soon as practicably possible.

3. Election of Deputy Mayor for the year 2022/23

Cllr Camilla Hale was elected.

4. Deputy Mayor's declaration of acceptance of office

Cllr Hale gave her declaration. The declarations book will be signed as soon as practicably possible.

The meeting was briefly suspended while Council dispersed for a photograph depicting the newly elected Mayor and Deputy.

5. To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Adrian Oldman (personal).

6. To receive declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

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

7. Minutes of the meeting of 25th April 2022

The minutes of the Council meeting on 25th April 2022 were **approved** by the members present and will be signed by the Chair at the next opportunity.

8. Mayor's remarks

The Mayor welcomed all councillors and thanked Councillor Cranston for his outstanding contribution to Stroud and the Council. She thanked Councillors for her new position and stated that she hoped the spirit of cooperation and consensus continues for the foreseeable

future. Cllr Parkes noted that she was looking forward to continuing to work alongside the dedicated group of councillors who have community best interests at heart.

9. Questions from members of the public

No questions were received.

The agenda was reordered

24. To consider a report on Gloucester County Council's parking review for residential areas

Cllr Parkes introduced the item and referred to the floor for discussion. Cllrs questioned why the residential parking review had been commissioned as there did not appear to be a significant demand from residents. Cllr Fenton reported on a meeting with Atkins, the parking review consultants who confirmed that some assumptions had been made in the recording of positive resident opinions and this may have placed some bias on the positive outcomes. Cllr Schoemaker agreed with Cllr Fenton and outlined his objections to the potential scheme, including the disparity of the potential scheme which unfairly puts the burden of payment on those in smaller houses and flats without driveways or parking spaces. Cllr Davey echoed this sentiment and asked which problem is being solved by introducing residential parking permits. Cllrs agreed that enforcement and re-lining specific problem areas would be a better option for residents.

Cllrs recommended that Stroud District Council (SDC) and Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) should work closely with the Town Council to ensure a robust and well researched review could be undertaken which takes into account the on-street parking as well as car parks.

The Mayor invited GCC Cllr David Drew to give a view. Cllr Drew acknowledged the frustrations of some residents and that parts of the scheme were flawed. It was noted that a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) was a lengthy legal process and welcomed the Town Council's opinions regarding the review.

Cllrs **approved** the option given by Cllrs Fenton and Schoemaker to ask GCC to stop the residential permit scheme entirely, but Cllrs were keen to ensure that this did not jeopardise the potential schemes in the Town Centre as part of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF). The Clerk was requested to write to officers at GCC to communicate this.

The Town Council is commissioning their own parking review, taking into account the on and off-street parking options within the town, which is being led by the Regeneration Committee.

10. Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted. Cllr Hale reminded all councillors that the Annual Town Meeting is on 18th May at the Subscription Rooms and that they should all try to attend.

11. Review of delegation arrangements

It was noted that although Covid restrictions had ended, the Stroud area continues to suffer surges in virus cases. Councillors did not feel confident reverting back to meeting face to face in the office. Councillors approved a continuation of emergency delegations while the risks of Covid-19 transmission remain high.

Councillors asked the Deputy Clerk if they could continue with the current arrangements. It was confirmed that they could, but this was not recommended.

Cllr Hale highlighted the difficulties of operating the Consultations and Highways Committee remotely and requested that this Committee meet in person at Thanet House.

The Council **agreed** to continue with the current arrangements with the exception of the Consultations and Highways Committee, which would meet in person at the Town Council offices at Thanet House.

12. Appointment of members to Committees and election of Chairs and Deputy Chairs

The follow members, Chairs and Deputy Chairs were **elected**.

Consultations and Highways Committee

Geoffrey Andrews, Tony Davey (Deputy Chair), Mick Fealty, Camilla Hale (Chair), Adrian Oldman, Stella Parkes, Rachel Smith

(2 vacancies)

Environment Committee

Liz Child, Sue Fenton, Mark Graham (Deputy Chair), Rob Green (Chair), Naomi Seffar, Megan Sheer

(1 vacancy)

Regeneration Committee

Geoffrey Andrews, Kevin Cranston (Chair), Tony Davey, Mick Fealty, Camilla Hale, Adrian Oldman, Stella Parkes (Deputy Chair)

Community Committee

Geoffrey Andrews (Deputy Chair), Kate Crews, Laurie Davies, Sue Fenton (Chair), Mark Graham, Rob Green, Adrian Oldman, Naomi Seffar, Megan Sheer

Personnel Committee

Liz Child, Kevin Cranston (Chair), Sue Fenton

Appeals

It was **agreed** to appoint members if the Committee was required to meet.

Finance and Policy

Kevin Cranston, Sue Fenton, Rob Green, Camilla Hale (Deputy Chair), Stella Parkes, Lucas Schoemaker (Chair)

(1 vacancy)

13. Appointment of members to working groups:

The follow members were **elected**.

Lansdown Hall

Camilla Hale, Stella Parkes, Lucas Schoemaker

Subscription Rooms

Geoffrey Andrews, Sue Fenton, Camilla Hale, Adrian Oldman, Megan Sheer

Road Safety

Mick Fealty, Lucas Schoemaker, Megan Sheer, Rachel Smith

Communications Strategy

Kevin Cranston, Adrian Oldman, Stella Parkes, Megan Sheer

Office

Tony Davey, Adrian Oldman, Stella Parkes, Lucas Schoemaker

Governance

It was **agreed** that this working group be disbanded for the time being and is re-established when the need arises.

Devolution

It was **agreed** that this working group be disbanded for the time being and is re-established when the need arises.

14. Review and Adopt updated Standing Orders

Cllrs **approved** the updated Standing Orders.

15. Appointment of members as representatives on external bodies

The following representatives were **appointed**.

Canals Consultative Group: Kevin Cranston

Cycling groups: Rachel Smith

GAPTC: None

Hospital League of Friends: Camilla Hale, Naomi Seffar

Gloucestershire Chartered Parishes: None

Stroud Youth Forum: Laurie Davies

Stroud in Bloom: Sue Fenton

Stratford Park Management Group: Mark Graham

Community Safety: Tony Davey

Action: Clerk to nominate each external body to a committee who will receive regular reports from the allocated councillor.

Cllr Kate Crews left the meeting

16. Allocation of specialist interests to individual councillors

The following specialist interests were appointed.

Allotments: Sue Fenton

Business and economy: Tony Davey

Children, play, young people and families: None

Equality and diversity: Rachel Smith

Health and wellbeing: Lucas Schoemaker

Heritage: Camilla Hale, Naomi Seffar

17. General Power of Competence

It was **resolved** that the Council meets the eligibility conditions required for it to use the General Power of Competence.

Cllr Parkes expressed concern that further resignations from the Council might impact on future eligibility to exercise the General Power of Competence.

18. To review the Council's inventory of land and other assets

The report was noted.

Cllr Hale requested that the locations of some of the assets to be included on the list.

Action: Clerk to include locations on future asset reports

19. Review the council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies

The current subscriptions were **approved**.

20. Review the council's expenditure under the General Power of Competence

The expenditure was noted.

21. Appoint four councillors to undertake quarterly reviews of internal controls

Cllrs Andrews, Hale, Schoemaker, and Smith were **appointed**.

22. Review the bank mandate and list of card holders

The bank mandate and card holders were noted. Cllr Green requested to be removed from all accounts.

Action: Remove Cllr Green as full signatory from Lloyds, Nationwide and the Public Sector Deposit Fund

23. Review of annual tasks not already covered on the agenda

It was noted that some tasks had recently been completed and the Clerk's recommendations regarding completion of the remaining items, as set out in Appendix 1 were **approved**.

24. Committee reports

The following reports, previously circulated, were received.

Regeneration: 28th April 2022

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....

Appendix 1

TASK	RECOMMENDATION
Review of the terms of reference for committees;	No changes recommended. (Last reviewed in 2020)
Appointment of any new committees in accordance with standing order 4;	No new committees recommended
Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders and financial regulations;	<i>Standing orders – see item 14</i> Financial Regulations – no changes recommended. (Last reviewed: November 2020)
Review of arrangements (including legal agreements) with other local authorities, not-for-profit bodies and businesses.	Not applicable
Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks;	Completed at Finance and Policy WG meeting 7/6/2021. To be reviewed again before renewal of main policy in June 2022.
Review of the Council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies;	<i>Covered under Item 19</i>
Review of the Council's complaints procedure;	No changes recommended. (Last reviewed: February 2022)
Review of the Council's policies, procedures and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation (<i>see also standing orders 11, 20 and 21</i>);	Outstanding - F&P Committee to review and report back to Council
Review of the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media;	Outstanding - F&P Committee to review and report back to Council
Review of the Council's employment policies and procedures;	No changes recommended. Personnel Handbook reviewed and approved by Council on 07/03/22
Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.	Approved at Council meeting 7/3/22