

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of COUNCIL
11th May 2021 at 7.30pm
St Laurence Church Hall, The Shambles, Stroud

Present

Cllrs Geoffrey Andrews, Kevin Cranston (Chair), Liz Child, Laurie Davies, Mick Fealty, Susan Fenton, Rob Green, Camilla Hale, Steven Naumann, Stella Parkes, Lucas Schoemaker, Haydn Sutton, Gill Tavner and Sally-Anne Wherry

In attendance

Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk), Kate Montgomery (Deputy Clerk), Marianne Sweet (STC Communications)

Absent

None

1. Election of Mayor for the year 2021/22

Cllr Kevin Cranston was elected.

2. Mayor's declaration of acceptance of office

Cllr Cranston signed his declaration.

3. Election of Deputy Mayor for the year 2021/22

Cllr Camilla Hale was elected.

4. Deputy Mayor's declaration of acceptance of office

Cllr Hale signed her declaration.

5. Outstanding declarations of acceptance of office

It was **agreed** to set a time limit of one month for any outstanding declarations to be made.

6. To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Kate Crews (work), Mark Graham (personal) and Naomi Seffar (personal).

7. To receive declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

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

8. Minutes of the meeting of 26th April 2021

The minutes of the council meeting on 26th April 2021 were **approved** by the members present and were signed by the Chair.

9. Mayor's remarks

The Mayor welcomed all councillors to the start of a new 3-year term and thanked members for re-electing him as Mayor. He encouraged everyone to work together collaboratively for the benefit of the town.

10. Questions from members of the public

No questions were received.

11. Welcome newly elected District and County Councillors

Cllrs Davies, Schoemaker and Sutton were congratulated on their election to Stroud District Council.

12. Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted. The Clerk provided an update on work to investigate crumbling masonry at Lansdown Hall and the Subscription Rooms.

It was further reported that a number of stone memorials at Stroud Cemetery had been vandalised. The police were investigating and a local stonemason had volunteered to help with repairs.

13. Update on the High Court case relating to holding Council meetings virtually and review the risk assessment for holding face to face meetings

It was noted that the High Court case had not been successful so it was **agreed** to continue the temporary changes agreed at the Council meeting on 19th April and in particular that Full Council will meet physically, but only to deal with business which cannot legally be delegated to the Clerk.

14. 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

Mick Fealty, Camilla Hale (Chair), Steven Naumann (Deputy Chair), Haydn Sutton, Gill Tavner, Sally-Anne Wherry (3 vacancies)

Environment Committee

Liz Child, Mark Graham (Deputy Chair), Sue Fenton, Rob Green (Chair), Steven Naumann, Naomi Seffar, Haydn Sutton, Gill Tavner

Regeneration Committee

Geoffrey Andrews, Liz Child, Kevin Cranston (Deputy Chair), Mick Fealty, Camilla Hale, Stella Parkes (Chair), (one vacancy)

Community Committee

Geoffrey Andrews, Kate Crews, Laurie Davies (Chair), Sue Fenton (Deputy Chair), Mark Graham, Rob Green, Naomi Seffar, Sally-Anne Wherry

Personnel Committee

Kevin Cranston, Rob Green (Chair), Liz Child

Appeals

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

Finance and Policy

Kevin Cranston (Deputy Chair), Laurie Davies, Rob Green, Camilla Hale, Stella Parkes, Lucas Schoemaker (Chair), (one vacancy)

15. Appointment of members to working groups:

The follow members were **elected**.

Lansdown Hall

Liz Child, Camilla Hale, Steve Hurrell (Co-Opted), Lucas Schoemaker, Naomi Seffar

Subscription Rooms

Kevin Cranston, Sue Fenton, Camilla Hale, Lucas Schoemaker, Haydn Sutton

Road Safety

Mick Fealty, Steven Naumann, Gill Tavner, Sally-Anne Wherry

Governance

Kevin Cranston and others to be appointed as required.

Devolution

Geoffrey Andrews, Liz Child, Kevin Cranston, Mark Graham, Sally-Anne Wherry

16. Appointment of members as representatives on external bodies

The following representatives were **appointed**.

Canals Consultative Group: Kevin Cranston

Cycling groups: Camilla Hale, Steven Naumann, Naomi Seffar

GAPTC: Liz Child

Hospital League of Friends: Camilla Hale, Naomi Seffar

Gloucestershire Chartered Parishes: None

Stroud Youth Forum: Laurie Davies

Stroud in Bloom: Mark Graham

Stratford Park Management Group: Liz Child

Stroud CAN – Core Group: Rob Green

Stroud CAN – Communications: Mick Fealty

Stroud CAN – Food: Liz Child, Laurie Davies

Stroud CAN – Nature: Liz Child, Mark Graham, Naomi Seffar

Stroud CAN – Recycling and waste: None

Stroud CAN – Transport and energy: Lucas Schoemaker

Action: Clerk – review the list of representatives.

17. Allocation of specialist interests to individual councillors

The following specialist interests were appointed.

Allotments: Liz Child, Steven Naumann, Haydn Sutton

Business and economy: Geoffrey Andrews

Children, play, young people and families: Sally-Anne Wherry

Equality and diversity: Mark Graham, Sally-Anne Wherry

Health and wellbeing: Lucas Schoemaker, Naomi Seffar

Heritage: Sue Fenton, Camilla Hale, Naomi Seffar

Action: Clerk – review the list of specialist interests.

18. General Power of Competence

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

19. Time and place of ordinary meetings of the full council

The calendar for meeting dates for 2021-22 was **approved**.

20. Quarterly review of internal controls as required by Financial Regulations

The following councillors were **appointed** to undertake quarterly reviews of internal controls: Geoffrey Andrews, Lucas Schoemaker, Camilla Hale and Mick Fealty.

21. Review of the bank mandate for all council bank accounts

The bank mandate was reviewed, and apart from removing councillors who were not re-elected, no changes were required.

22. Review of the effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control

A report on review work was noted.

23. Year end earmarked reserves movements

Earmarked reserve movements were **approved**.

24. Approval of the Annual Governance Statement

It was **resolved** to approve the Annual Governance Statement which was signed by the Mayor and Town Clerk.

25. Approval of the accounts for 2021/22

Accounts for 2021/22 were **approved**, subject to the list of councillors being updated to take into account the results of the recent election.

26. Approval of the Accounting Statements and signing the end of year bank reconciliation

It was **resolved** to approve the Accounting Statements and bank reconciliation, which were signed by the Mayor and Town Clerk.

27. Dates for the period of exercise of public rights in 2021

The dates were noted.

28. Postponement of tasks normally completed at the annual meeting

It was **resolved** to postpone the following tasks to the next Full Council meeting with intermediate actions to be completed by Committees/Working Groups as set out below:

- confirmation of the appointment of an internal auditor
- review of expenditure incurred under the General Power of Competence
- review of delegation arrangements to committees, sub-committees, staff and other local authorities – Governance Working Group to review changes introduced in January 2020 and report back
- review of terms of reference for committees – Governance Working Group to review changes introduced in January 2020 and report back
- review and adoption of appropriate standing orders and financial regulations – Finance and Policy Committee to review and report back
- review of Council’s inventory of land and assets – Finance and Policy Committee to review and report back
- confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks – Finance and Policy Committee to review and report back
- review of the council’s and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies – Finance and Policy Committee to review and report back
- review of the council’s policies, procedures and practice in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation – Finance and Policy Committee to review and report back
- review of council’s policy for dealing with the press/media – Finance and Policy Committee to review and report back
- review of the Council’s employment policies and procedures – Personnel Committee to review and report back

29. Committee reports

The following reports, previously circulated, were received.

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| Consultations & Highways: | 12 th April 2021 |
| Regeneration: | 22 nd April 2021 |

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....