

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of an
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Monday, 20th November 2019, at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Simon Arundel, John Bloxsom, Alice Campbell, Kevin Cranston (Chair), Rob Green, Margaret Poulton, Lucas Schoemaker, Haydn Sutton and Chas Townley.

Absent: Cllrs Davies, Lunnon and Naumann

In attendance: Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk), Kate Montgomery (Deputy Clerk)

Action

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Andrews, Hale, Marjoram, Price, Sage (all personal), and Dechan (work)

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 21st October were **approved** by the members present and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

5. Exclusion of the press and public

In view of the confidential nature of the business, it was **resolved** to exclude members of the press and public for item 6.

6. Office relocation

A report, including a risk assessment, had been circulated on the potential purchase of a property in Stroud to provide improved office and meeting space for the council. The Clerk provided a verbal update on consultation with the office staff about the potential relocation and advice received from NALC on VAT.

The Council discussed the condition of the building and potential works required to improve its carbon footprint and accessibility.

The Clerk provided advice on the need for confidentiality and the guidance on publicity during the pre-election period.

It was noted that the property would have good potential for community use and space for the provision on a visitor information service, but this would require further consideration and costing. Options for use of any surplus space, including potential for income generation, were considered.

A draft budget for the purchase and works to the property had been prepared, including options for borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board. It was noted that a consultation on public support for a loan would be required, which could start immediately after the general election if an offer were accepted. In order to confirm the amount of borrowing required the Clerk was asked to refine the budget for refurbishment, to include a higher contingency sum, and seek advice from the Council's accountant.

It was **resolved** unanimously to delegate to the Clerk negotiation of a potential purchase of a property in Stroud, up to an agreed maximum purchase price, in consultation with the Mayor and Chair of the Finance, Community and Policy Committee, subject to survey and due diligence and to refer back to full Council with a detailed financial plan for final approval.

Clerk

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Chair

Date