

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Tuesday, 26th May 2020, at 7.30pm
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Present

Cllrs Rob Green (Chair), John Marjoram, Steven Naumann, Margaret Poulton and Haydn Sutton.

Absent

Cllr Lucas Schoemaker

In attendance

Kate Montgomery (Deputy Clerk), Mike Dando (Green Spaces Manager) and one member of the public.

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

None

3. Questions from members of the public

None

4. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the council meeting on 3rd March 2020 were **approved** by the members present and will be signed as a correct record by the Chair at the next possible opportunity.

5. Budget Monitoring

The report was received by the committee.

6. Green Spaces Manager Report

The report was introduced by Mike Dando, Green Spaces Manager, which included the measures taken to ensure the Council's parks and green spaces were safe during the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The committee asked where we had obtained the advice currently being implemented. MD confirmed that Health and Safety advice used has been issued by Ellis Whittam and central government along with risk assessments conducted by the team.

7. Tree planting at The Leazes and Uplands sites

The committee discussed the prospective plans for both sites. It was noted that the Council does not currently have a target for tree canopy cover in the parish. The Chair asked that this be brought to another meeting for discussion.

The committee discussed potential protection for young trees but was advised that any significant protection may be expensive and draw unnecessary attention.

The GSM relayed information regarding potential suppliers and types of drought resistant trees. It was decided that irregular planting was preferred at both sites.

The committee discussed the possibility of using future tree or woodland planting as an opportunity for memorial planting dedications.

The GSM informed the committee that a £500 grant had been awarded from CPRE for each site (total £1000).

The committee **approved** the plans as outlined in the reports, pending public consultation and permission from SDC at The Leazes.

Action: MD

8. Further tree planting (discussion)

Cllr Green reported on a discussion he has had with a private land owner regarding tree planting in the parish.

It was noted by the committee that if the Council has a tree canopy target utilising private land may help to achieve this.

The committee questioned how much involvement the Council should have in tree planting on private land, however agreed that using ranger expertise and advice would be beneficial to all. Further discussion focussed on other areas of land which could be used such as school playing fields.

The committee were supportive of the Green Spaces Manager offering time and expertise to assist.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chair

Date