

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 17th November 2020, at 7.30pm

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Present

Cllrs Rob Green (Chair), Jess McQuail, Steven Naumann, Margaret Poulton, Lucas Schoemaker and Haydn Sutton.

Absent

Cllr John Marjoram

In attendance

Kate Montgomery (Deputy Clerk), Mike Dando (Green Spaces Manager) and Tricia Watson (Nature Recovery and Climate Action Officer).

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 15th September 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.

Councillor Schoemaker asked if the format of the budget monitoring report could be changed to give a variance and further comment from officers. The Chair noted that as financial reporting needs to be consistent across all committees, any changes must go through the Finance and Policy committee. The Deputy Clerk was asked to bring this to the Clerk for consideration.

Action: KM

6. Green Spaces Manager Report

The report was introduced by Mike Dando, Green Spaces Manager, which included the installation of cycle hoops at Wallbridge, the installation of a kissing gate at Swifts Hill Triangle and taking down the hanging baskets and planters for the winter season. The Committee commented that the baskets and planters have been

fantastic this year. MD also reported that the three-yearly tree checks have now been completed.

The committee were supportive of the plan to manage the new woodland areas in The Leazes and Uplands through coppicing. The neighbouring houses have also been supportive of this plan.

7. SDC Carbon Neutral 2030 Strategy

The committee received a verbal update from Cllr Green, TW and KM. The council's response to the public consultation will go through the Consultations Committee on 7th December. Committee members were reminded that they can comment on the strategy using the links on the District Council website. Cllr Green will distribute his comments to the committee through the Deputy Clerk.

Cllr McQuail asked that the STCAN group would be invited to respond as a group. This will be on the agenda for their meeting on 1st December.

Cllr McQuail asked if the Community Development Officer (EO) could distribute the consultation through her networks and if the Clerk and Deputy Clerk could do the same.

The consultation expires on 16th December 2020.

Action: KM

8. Environment Committee Budget for 2021/22

Cllr Green asked if the Clerk could add a line for the Nature Recovery and Climate Change budget separately from the general Green Spaces budget.

The committee **approved** the draft budget for 2021/22.

Action: KM

9. Stroud Town CAN Memorandum of Understanding

Cllr Green introduced the Memorandum of Understanding for the STCAN group. Cllr McQuail asked about clarity regarding division of officer time. It was the intention that the STCAN group can allocate aspects of the work done by the new officer role but that STC are responsible for the allocation of their time.

The Deputy Clerk was asked to redraft the MoU to include this clarity and send by email to the committee for final sign off.

Action: KM

10. Suspension of Charges for the use of Council Land for Fitness Purposes

The temporary suspension of charges was **approved** by the committee.

Action: KM

11. Notes of Previous CAN Meetings

The notes of the previous meetings were **received** by the committee.

12. Exclusion of press and public

In light of the legal aspects in the following reports to be discussed, the committee **resolved** to exclude the press and public for the remainder of the meeting.

13. TPO Breach at Long Ground

MD presented the report.

The committee **approved** the recommendations in the confidential report.

Action: KM

14. Access to Council Land at the Long Ground

The committee **approved** the recommendations outlined in the report and asked the Deputy Clerk to report back with further options.

Action: KM

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Chair

Date