

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP

Tuesday, 13th July 2021, at 7.30pm

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Present

Cllrs Rob Green (Chair), Liz Child (from Item 5), Sue Fenton, Mark Graham, Steven Naumann, Naomi Seffar (from Item 5), Haydn Sutton (until Item 6) and Gill Tavner (from Item 5).

Absent

None

In attendance

Kate Montgomery (Deputy Clerk), Chris Woolner (Green Spaces Manager), Tricia Watson (Nature Recovery and Climate Action Officer), Jon McGinty (Minchinhampton Rangers Chairman) and Andy Marson (Minchinhampton Rangers Ex-Chairman) and Sally Thorpe (Nailsworth Climate Action Network).

1. Apologies

None 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 25th May 2021 were **approved** by the members present and will be signed as a correct record by the Chair at the next possible opportunity.

5. Green Spaces Manager's report

The Green Spaces Manager presented the report and answered questions relating to the contents.

The agenda was re-ordered.

8. Uplands Playing field request from Minchinhampton Rangers

RG gave some background regarding the creation of the pitch and it's under use. It was noted that the Stroud District Council report 'Green Infrastructure, Sport and Recreation Study' in 2019 highlighted the lack of quality pitches available for young people to play sports.

Representatives from Minchinhampton Rangers Youth FC presented their proposal to use the playing field for two teams on Saturday mornings from September to April.

The representatives confirmed that their organisation would cover line painting and mowing costs which had been confirmed by the Clerk.

Cllrs discussed the proposal and the potential for a negative impact on biodiversity at the site. Any potential impact will be monitored by the Green Spaces Team. Cllrs also highlighted the potential to encourage young people from the immediate area to get involved. Representatives confirmed that while the team is over-subscribed, they try not to turn anyone away.

Cllrs highlighted the potential for anti-social behaviour and queried the storage of the goal posts. The usual mechanism for storage of goals is to wheel them to a nearby railing and secure them to this using a padlock.

It was **recommended** that Minchinhampton Rangers YFC use the pitch from September 2021 and that Minchinhampton Rangers YFC works with the Town Council to promote the team to the local Uplands community. Any repair and maintenance of the pitch to be agreed with the Green Spaces Manager due to the floristic interest of the pitch.

The Chair thanked the Minchinhampton Rangers YFC representatives for their time.

Jon McGinty, Andy Marson and Cllr Haydn Sutton left the meeting.

Action: KM, CW

6. Budget Monitoring

The budget monitoring report was received.

7. Update from Climate Action and Nature Recovery Officer

The report was presented by the Climate Action and Nature Recovery Officer.

It was noted that there has been a slow and frustrating pace to the work required however some good networks have been created by member organisations. The launch date will be 11th September at Stroud Subscription Rooms. All councillors are encouraged to join this event. TW was asked to send a reminder closer to the time.

Action: TW

9. Sub Rooms Forecourt

The Green Spaces Manger gave a verbal update regarding the proposal which is being managed through the Regeneration Committee. Cllr Green noted the overlap between the two committee remits and asked that there be continued close collaboration. Members asked to be kept informed of progress and Cllr Graham asked to be added as a consultee.

Action: CW

10. Long Ground Proposal

The Green Spaces Manager reported on the proposal to install a contemplative seating area in a quiet part of the site. Cllrs were supportive of the proposal and **approved** the recommendation to the Clerk to undertake a positively worded consultation with neighbours and site users to gauge opinion on the matter. Cllrs noted that if a large log were to be used, this would need to be anchored effectively to ensure that it could not roll into the stream. Cllr Graham noted that logs can be prohibitively expensive to move between sites.

Action: KM, CW to undertake consultation and report back to committee

11. Ash die-back

Cllrs **agreed** to recommend to the Clerk to work with the Green Spaces Rangers to identify if there are any areas in the parish which may benefit from re-planting. Cllrs also recommended that Stroud Valley Projects be approached to identify if there is a problem in the parish. Cllrs noted that care needs to be taken over species rich verges or sites with the potential to become so.

Action: CW

12. Grant application to Carbon Reduction Fund

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that there is £10,000 in the Carbon Reduction Fund.

A grant application from Nailsworth Climate Action Network was discussed by members. It was **agreed** that the grant of £385 be approved with the condition that any future applications from this group show evidence of funding applications to other parishes.

Action: KM

13. Notes from ST CAN meeting 11th May 2021

The working group received the notes from the meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm

Chair

Date