

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of
THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

20th January 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Green (Chair), Marjoram, Naumann and Poulton

In attendance: Kate Montgomery (Deputy Town Clerk), Mike Dando (Green Spaces Manager)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Schoemaker and Cllr Sutton (both personal)

2. Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

There were no declarations or requests.

3. Questions from the public

None received.

4. Minutes of the meeting of 26th November 2019

These were **approved** as a correct record and signed by Cllr Green.

5. To receive the budget monitoring report

The deputy clerk distributed an updated report to the committee which was noted. Cllr Green noted the underspend and discussed redistributing this towards the price of additional wildflower turf.

6. Green Spaces Manager's report

The committee received the Green Spaces Manager's report on the works completed by the team.

The Green Spaces Manager also noted the workshop undertaken by the rangers on 18th January under the Garden Guardians project. The free workshop taught members of the community how to create habitats such as bee hotels and bird feeders which can encourage wildlife into their gardens. The workshop on 18th January focussed on re-using materials which may otherwise end up in landfill such as offcuts of bamboo and plastic bottles.

7. To receive an update on the Stroud CAN, Garden Guardians and Earth Protector Town projects

Cllr Green updated the committee regarding the creation of the Stroud Town Climate Action Group (name TBC). The group brings together several environmental and carbon reducing organisations who work in and around the town with a view to coordinating activities and funding streams. The group is in its infancy but will be meeting for the second time on 31st January. The committee discussed how the group could monitor and access its activities. Cllr Marjoram asked if the group would be liaising with neighbouring parishes. Cllr Green will report back to the next meeting regarding progress.

The deputy clerk updated the committee regarding the Garden Guardians project. A meeting had been held between Stroud Nature, Stroud Valleys Project and

Stroud Town Council which outlined the scope of the funding application to the Landscape Heritage Lottery Fund. The creation of an ecological version of the Stroud CAN group was discussed however no decisions were reached on this.

The committee were updated on the work of the Earth Protector group. The declaration made by the council forms a central part of the strategy to manage carbon reduction and support the ecological infrastructure in the parish and beyond. The group are working on the framework which will inform and support other towns to undertake the same types of work. The deputy clerk is continuing to support the group.

8. To receive an update on the Leazes

The deputy clerk updated the committee on the possible transfer agreement. Further input is required from the District Council as to whether they can retain a section of the Leazes and therefore retain the associated liability. The committee commented favourably on the possible way forward and asked the deputy clerk will report back once an answer has been received.

Deputy Clerk

9. To receive an application to the Carbon Reduction Fund

The committee discussed the application at length. Although Cllrs were supportive of the initiative, they questioned the appropriateness of this particular fund to support such an organisation. The committee also felt that much of the work of the organisation fell beyond the boundary of the town parish and that the proposed ongoing costs of the organisation did not meet the fund criteria for innovation in the reduction of CO₂. The committee declined the funding application on this basis.

Deputy Clerk

10. To approve dates for the committee to visit council owned green spaces

The committee confirmed the following dates with the Green Spaces Manager;

- Thursday 12th March – 10am
- Thursday 18th June – 10am
- Thursday 10th September – 10am

The deputy clerk will circulate dates to committee members.

Deputy Clerk

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.

Chair.....

Date.....