

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of
THE GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE
4th June 2019 at 7.30pm

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

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

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Dechan, Lunnon, Marjoram and Townley

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 5th March 2019

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

5. To receive the budget monitoring report

The report was noted.

6. Green Spaces Manager's report

The Green Spaces Manager's reported on the works completed by the team. Cllrs commented that the blue campaign has proven very popular with people and asked that the Green Spaces Manager investigates a more permanent solution as some of the laminated signs have been vandalised.

7. To consider a request from Stroud In Bloom regarding adoption of planters at Wallbridge

The Deputy Clerk reported that the area has been identified for development through the Future High Streets fund and as such further work should be postponed until the funding is confirmed or refused.

The Committee noted that as they currently belong to Gloucestershire County Council, it is up to them to ensure that they are safe. The Deputy Clerk was asked to refer the matter back to the Committee once the outcome of the funding application was known. In the meantime, the Deputy Clerk was asked to confirm what GCC Highways will do with them.

Deputy Clerk

8. To discuss further options for fencing at Bank Gardens

The Green Spaces Manager reported that there are significant issues regarding the placement of estate railings due to the position of the Holm Oak and its roots.

GSM

The committee asked that the Green Spaces Manager investigates this further by testing the ground on site and report back. The Committee were not supportive of installing 'heras' type fencing at the site.

9. To approve the installation of a ramp from Summer Crescent into Sladebank Woods

The committee **approved** the ramp in principle, pending further design and implementation consultation with the Clerk. The committee asked that any licence include the provision that if Sladebank Woods are sold in the future, the licence would cease and the land be returned back to its original state.

The annual checks of the ramp should be undertaken by members of the Green Spaces team as they have the competency and skills to do so. Any faults will be communicated to Sladebank Woods CIC who will be responsible for any and all maintenance on the ramp. As such the Committee does not expect that the Council will incur any additional expenditure.

Deputy Clerk

The committee asked that the Deputy Clerk draw up a licence for further consideration.

10. To discuss enforcement of keeping dogs on leads in Stroud Cemetery

The committee **agreed** that new signs be erected at all entrances to the Cemetery and that people are informed that the children's section is still in use despite being in the older part of the cemetery.

The Deputy Clerk reported that officers are undertaking a piece of work to contact all plot holders as well as those who live within the Trinity Ward with an update about the Chapel and SDC's plans for it. Any communication should also outline the rules of the Cemetery which includes keeping dogs on leads.

Deputy Clerk

11. To approve the commissioning of a tree Stroud canopy survey

The Green Spaces Manager outlined the scope of the survey as well as some of the reasons to undertake it. The baseline data this survey gives will enable the Council to make informed decisions regarding future planting of trees, gaps in wildlife corridors and to observe any major reductions or issues over time.

Before agreeing to this proposal, the committee suggested that it would be helpful to explore what other accessible baseline/GIS data sets exist for trees and woodland cover and for other habitats. It was further suggested that this might be work that could be contracted out if staff capacity was an issue.

GSM

12. To approve a proposal regarding improvements to cemetery compost bays

The proposal was **approved**.

GSM

13. To approve a proposal to replace the failing tree avenue at Stroud Cemetery

The Green Spaces manager outlined the report. The committee **agreed** that the tree avenues be replaced as per the Green Spaces manager's recommendation. but recommended that smaller, less expensive trees were considered due to both cost and viability. Care should also be taken to ensure that the changes are publicised in advance.

GSM

14. To resolve in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting

The committee **resolved** to exclude the public and press for the remaining items.

15. To approve further consultation regarding the Long Ground bridges

The committee **approved** the Clerk's recommended course of action.

Clerk

16. To receive an update regarding The Leazes

The committee asked for a further question be put to SDC regarding an area of land ownership. The committee **approved** the Clerk's recommendation to progress the new management agreement.

Clerk

The meeting ended at 9.35pm.

Chair.....

Date.....