

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of
THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
22nd June 2020 at 7.30pm**

Online meeting via Zoom

Present

Cllrs Sage (Chair), Andrews, Campbell, Cranston, Green and Hale

In attendance

Cllr Schoemaker, Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk) Kate Montgomery (Deputy Town Clerk), Emily Osler (Community Development Officer), Victoria Robson (CEO, The Door), Hugh Phillimore (Trustee, Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust)

Absent

Cllr Price

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Declarations of Interest or Requests for dispensations

No interests were declared. There were no requests for dispensations.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 20th January 2020 were approved by the members present and will be signed as a correct record by the Chair at the next possible opportunity.

4. Questions from members of the public

None received.

The Agenda was reordered as follows:

6. Proposal from The Door Youth Project

A request for funding for a series of outdoor activity sessions in the town, to help young people aged 11-17 to re-engage after the Covid-19 pandemic was considered.

It was recognised that this was important work in the current climate, but felt that the proposal lacked the detail required for scrutiny by the Committee. The Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Community Development Officer were asked to work with The Door to ensure that a robust and open programme could be delivered within the parish.

The Committee **resolved** that the authority to fund such work, upon development of a more thorough proposal, was delegated to The Clerk. The Committee asked that the final draft be circulated to allow for comment.

Action: Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Community Development Officer

9. Report from the Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust

The Committee received a verbal update regarding the Subscription Rooms. The venue is currently closed, which provides a good opportunity to undertake building work inside. The reinstatement of the piano bridge and the reconfiguration of the Kendrick Room bar are the two biggest priorities.

These two projects will enable audience members to access the bar on a one-way system and ensure that social distancing can be maintained in the future. Funds for this work have been secured through grants.

The Trust were hoping to re-open the Sub Rooms by October, should central government deem it safe to do so. The Trust recently conducted a survey in which 50% of respondents suggested that they would feel comfortable to return to the Subs on the condition that PPE could be supplied and social distancing measures were in place. The other 50% of respondents stated that they would not feel safe to return to the venue until a vaccine is available.

The Trust have planned outdoor activities on the forecourt during August, for which funding has been secured through the Arts Council.

The Committee asked about the status of the volunteer coordinator role, which was funded by the council. It was reported that the volunteer coordinator would hopefully start in September, ready for potential reopening in October.

The Committee asked that the Clerk share the end of year accounts as soon as they are available.

Action: Clerk

5. Report on the Council's Covid-19 response

The Community Development Officer presented a report and answered questions from the Committee.

The Committee asked that a press release be prepared to document the work undertaken by the Council during the pandemic.

Action: Clerk

The Community Development Officer reported that Creative Sustainability CIC have been undertaking a piece of research to ascertain ways to capture the hyper-local community effort and keep the momentum going. The research has suggested that town and parish councils are best placed to coordinate community 'hubs' which could support the hyper-local groups. Further information about the research will be reported back to the Committee once it is finalised.

The Committee asked if a documentary type piece of work could be undertaken to record the stories of members of the community affected by the Covid-19 crisis, both positive and negative. It was suggested that a group with these skills could apply for a grant from the Council to undertake this type of project. Councillors were interested in how the community response to the pandemic could be built upon in the future.

7. Reports from grants previously awarded

The Committee received a report from Wild Stroud.

8. Funds available for grants in the 2020-21 financial year

The funds were noted.

The meeting ended at 9.25pm.

Chair.....

Date.....