

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020, at 7.30pm**

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

**Present**

Cllrs Rob Green (Chair), John Marjoram, Steven Naumann, Margaret Poulton and Haydn Sutton.

**In attendance**

Sheral Gardner (Assistant Clerk) and Mike Dando (Green Spaces Manager)

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Schoemaker.

**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 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020 were **approved** by the members present and will be signed as a correct record by the Chair at the next possible opportunity.

**5. Works at Summer Street Allotment**

It was **agreed** in principle to approve the installation of drainage works at Summer Street Allotment, subject to agreement from Mike Dando, Green Spaces Manager and the allotment association and that all legal arrangements are satisfactory and at the applicant's expense.

**Action: Deputy Clerk/GSM**

**6. Budget Monitoring**

The report was received by the committee.

**7. Green Spaces Manager Report**

The report was introduced by Mike Dando, Green Spaces Manager. The Green Spaces team are working their normal hours and are doing well catching up with work.

The shoring chest has now been installed in the cemetery to allow grave diggers to access and return equipment safely.

The Chair congratulated the GSM on carrying on during these trying times.

**8. Allotment Association lease**

The Committee were recommended to approve, in principle, 25-year leases to Allotment Association for Town Council sites.

Members questioned the value of this request and were concerned terms could not be changed during this time if required. The Committee asked that the Deputy Clerk look into this further and to understand better why the request is felt to be important..

The Committee **objected** to the recommendation and **proposed** 10 years as a more reasonable agreement period, but would be guided by officer advice.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

**9. Bisley Old Road Allotment Association**

A request for a contribution of £100 towards the Bisley Old Road Allotment water bill was considered.

A one-off payment of £100 was **agreed**. Members recommended that all allotments are advised to carry out monthly checks for leaks.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

**10. Re-opening of play equipment**

The play equipment was re-opened on 4<sup>th</sup> July. The GSM gave an update on measures taken to ensure the Council’s parks and green spaces were safe during the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, including carrying out risk assessments, checking insurance, putting up safety recommendation signs on fences and removal of one swing where there were doubles.

**11. Stroud Town CAN**

The Chair gave a verbal update on Stroud Town Climate Action Network (CAN).

CAN have been meeting throughout the year and have got as far as producing a draft specification for work supporting looking at wider strategic positioning and action to take. A draft action plan will be shared with the Committee at the earliest opportunity.

**Action: RG**

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chair .....

Date .....