

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of
THE REGENERATION COMMITTEE
2nd JULY 2020 at 10.00AM
Online meeting via Zoom**

Present

Cllrs Chas Townley (Chair), John Bloxsom, Kevin Cranston, Camilla Hale, Lucas Schoemaker (until item 10)

In attendance

Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk), Alison Rood (Project Officer); Gloucestershire County Council: Councillor: Eva Ward, Dan Tiffney (Local Highways Manager); Stroud District Council: Brendan Cleere (Strategic Director of Place), Mike Towson (Community Services Manager); Stroud Chamber: Tony Davey and Andrew Watton; Stroud Civic Society and Stroud Preservation Trust: Hugh Barton; and Stroud Tourism Forum: Hannah McDonnell

1. Apologies

Cllr Steve Dechan (Stroud Town Council), Cllr Simon Pickering (Stroud District Council) and Sandy Moller (Stroud Pedallers)

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Requests for dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

4. Questions from members of the public

None received.

5. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 13th February 2020 were approved by the members present and will be signed as a correct record by the Chair at the next possible opportunity.

6. Budget Report to May 2020

The Clerk reported that due to the Covid-19 pandemic some projects will be delivered later than anticipated. The report was noted.

7. Update on Reopening High Streets Safely funding

The Clerk and Dan Tiffney, Highways Manager, provided an update on a plan to support social distancing in the town centre and provide space for walking and cycling. It was noted that a temporary closure of London Road and suspension of on-street parking would commence during the week commencing 5/7/20. The Committee discussed the impact on local traders and businesses and the need for additional signage at key gateways into the town encouraging car drivers to use the car parks.

Concerns over deliveries, waste disposal and access were raised. The Committee agreed to liaise with Highways regarding the timing for simultaneous installation of barriers for both road and parking bay closures. The Committee agreed to undertake urgent communication of changes to those affected and the public.

Action: Clerk to deliver letters to affected businesses and residents in London Road. Clerk and AR to develop signage.

8. Report from Stroud District Council on Covid19 recovery planning

The Committee received a verbal update from Brendan Cleere. The District Council had identified four pillars of recovery (economic, community resilience and wellbeing, affordable housing and, environment and climate change), which will be considered during immediate recovery planning through to longer term renewal. It was highlighted that communication with all stakeholders will be key to success.

9. Update on Stroud District Council provision of free parking

Mike Towson informed the Committee that free parking would cease on 21st July 2020. The Committee expressed concern that charges were being re-introduced too early. As the discussion touched on item 10, it was agreed to move to the next item for further discussion.

10. Response from Stroud District Council regarding Committee proposals on car parking

Mike Towson provided a response to each of the requests submitted by the Council. All had been approved by Stroud District Council, except where indicated. Items marked with an asterisk would require changes to the parking orders, which would involve some delay for statutory processes to be completed.

Brunel Mall

- Re-align all levels to be one price and all long stay. *
- Group London Road surface car park and Brunel Mall Multi Storey Car Park area for one parking tariff (to include free after 3pm across area as a whole). This would allow for better signage and communication of charges to public. *
- Open until 9pm.
- Open door to service yard to enable people to retrieve vehicles after the main mall area is closed and locked. Not agreed, due to concerns about anti-social behaviour.
- Publicise MSCP as secure and potential for long-term residential parking permits (e.g. to keep cars secure while on holiday) - weekly and fortnightly permits would be introduced
- To open on some Sundays for special events or festivals.
- Introduce a weekend-long stay for £5 - still under consideration*

Church Street

- Introduce a 3-hour stay at Church Street car park for £4.*

General

- Remove 'convenience fee' of 10p per transaction for use of MiPermit app
- What are your views on the potential for the introduction of real-time signage? It was noted that local signage on Brunel Mall may be feasible
- Add information to the back of all paper tickets to highlight free after 3pm parking in Brunel Mall (and potentially London Road as above).

The Committee welcomed the changes, but questioned the timing for the reintroduction of charging.

It was **resolved** to welcome the package of changes, but request that Stroud District Council delay the reintroduction of charging to coincide with the wider changes to enable people to adjust to the removal of on street car parking and for the Covid19 alert level to be further reduced.

MT requested that this resolution be communicated formally to Stroud District quickly, before the car park changes are made public.

Action: Clerk to submit request to Stroud District Council
Cllr Schoemaker left the meeting.

11. Update on cargo bike project

Hannah McDonnell explained that the project was working with local businesses in order to move forward. The medium-term aim was to develop into a social enterprise aimed at younger people. A longer-term aim is to use the project for recycling and waste collection from local businesses in addition to a delivery service. A business plan is being developed to reflect these aims. Linkages with the Stroud Tourism Forum Accommodation Group are also being established.

12. Approve Implementation Plan for Phase 1 of signage project

It was noted that the meeting was no longer quorate, so this item was deferred. It was **agreed** to arrange another Committee meeting before the next Full Committee meeting on 20/7/20 to discuss the signage project.

Action: Clerk - arrange date for next Regeneration Committee before 20/7/20. Councillors to email the Clerk with any questions relating to the signage report.

The meeting ended at 12:17pm.

Chair..... Date.....