

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL
15th April 2002

**Present: Cllr Marjoram (Chair), Cllrs Szaboova-Baxendale, Belcher, Brown
Cranston, Green, Guinness, Kambites, Lewis, Sutherland, Read**

In attendance: Susan Creswick (Clerk), Cllr Bob Eccles (GCC), Alison Brown

1. Apologies Action

Apologies were received from Cllrs Booth, Hume and Nichols.

2. Receipt of Petition for The Leazes playing field

Cllr Marjoram explained that the Council had nearly concluded its negotiations for taking over the management of the playing field from the District Council.

Cllr Marjoram declared his delight at the great achievement of the children from The Leazes neighbourhood in successfully preparing their petition of nearly 1000 signatures. Ashley Walker (10), together with Lauren Jubb (8), Carly Lines (13) and Remi Gagliardi (11) handed over the signatures with a drawing showing the play facilities they wanted to have. Cllr Marjoram explained that the Council would work with the young people to provide new facilities.

The children were warmly thanked for their efforts.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 4th March 2002

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

4. Matters Arising

Stroud Buses. It was noted with relief that the 8 and 8A services had been 'saved' with the exception of the Paganhill loop. Cllr Marjoram commented on the work done by Cllr Booth to encourage protest letters and a petition.

5. Mayor's Remarks

Cllr Marjoram commented that it was the last meeting of this civic year and thanked all the councillors who had given up so much time and worked hard on various projects during the year.

Recycling. Cllr Marjoram commented on the confusion and delay in the start-up of the service provided by the new operator. It was noted that there had been a lot more recycling material to collect than normally and this

had caused problems for the operators. Commercial waste was more evident in the town centre due to Monday and Friday collections.

Action

Fair Trade. Cllr Marjoram welcomed the news that the Chamber of Trade were very supportive of the move to achieve Fair Trade Town status. A steering group would be set up with representatives of the Town Council and Chamber together with the Town Centre Manager.

The Phone Co-op. The phone co-op were very pleased that the Council was using their service and a draft press release prepared by them was approved.

Age Concern. Cllr Marjoram advised members that Age Concern were seeking committee members and volunteers.

6. Public Questions

Elizabeth Sargent expressed her pleasure at the good news about the bus services and went on to ask what the Council's position is on the use of the London Road car park as an alternative interim bus station to the one proposed on Merrywalks. Cllr Kambites confirmed that the Council preferred London Road as a site, but not necessarily for a permanent bus station. Cllr Read advised that in view of the high cost on Merrywalks, partly due to the need for a culvert, he had asked SDC to reconsider the use of London Road. He had been told that it had already been looked at and would not be considered further. Cllr Eccles offered the opinion that no final decision had been made.

7. Correspondence

Applications for Charity stalls in the High Street. Applications from the Meningitis Trust and Friends of the Earth were approved. A discussion about the loss of charity stalls from the forecourt ensued, resulting in the decision to write to SDC urging them to take active steps to encourage charities back to the forecourt. The £12 table fee was thought to be a disincentive.

Clerk

Road Closure 7th September. Due to a clash of dates for the fFringe Festival and the Farmers Markets for the use of the Cornhill market, closure of London Road from Union Street to Sims Clock was approved to provide space for the Farmers' Market.

Access Licence - Slad View. SDC had responded negatively to a request to cancel the £85 contribution to their legal costs. It was agreed to suggest to them that a long-term lease be prepared with six-months notice of cancellation of access, as this would reduce the need for the preparation of an annual licence and we would be prepared to make a contribution on this basis.

Clerk

8. Code of Conduct and Register of Interests

The Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) (England) Order 2001 was adopted as the code of conduct to be applied to Stroud Town Council.

An updated Register of Member's Interests form was circulated to replace that sent with the Agenda. Some discussion on interpretation followed. The Clerk agreed to refer any particularly difficult issues to the

Cllrs

John

Monitoring Officer for clarification. The signed forms are to be in the hands of the Monitoring Officer by 2nd June 2002.

Action
Cllrs

The Clerk advised that new Declarations of Acceptance of Office are required.

9. Fiveways Traffic Scheme

Cllr Szaboova-Baxendale reported advice from John Lindsay (GCC) that there are only two legal schemes possible. One is to have one way traffic up Hollow Lane, the other is to install a mini-roundabout and ancillary improvements (build-outs, signs, lighting etc.). Cost is estimated at £14,000. Proposals were made that £10,000 be offered towards the scheme, or two-thirds or £10,000 whichever is less. Finally, it was agreed that GCC should be asked what is the minimum contribution they require to bring this scheme forward. It was reported it may be possible to have this and Bisley Road traffic calming undertaken simultaneously.

Clerk

10. Pocket Parks

Summer Crescent and Parliament Street. The Clerk was authorised to accept the proposed terms for transfer of ownership.

Salmon Springs. Cllr Read outlined the history of the discussions which had been held in camera at SDC. No suitable reasons had come forward for not transferring the land as the proposals put to SDC for its transfer met nearly all of the District's own criteria in their asset management plan and leisure strategy. It was agreed that a letter would be written to SDC expressing the Council's disappointment over the secrecy of the discussions, the lack of partnership working and the proposed 'status quo' use of the land.

Clerk

Clerk

11. Acceptance of Committee Reports

Youth and Community 6th March 2002

The Crime and Disorder strategy is now available. The launch of the new play facilities at Mason Road has been delayed. An application for a grant of £1000 towards Energy 21's Green Fair 2002, referred to this meeting of Council, was approved, to be funded from the underspend in the committee's grants budget (or the general underspend).

Estates There had been no committee meeting in this cycle.

Planning 25th March 2002

Cheapside Planning Event. Alison Brown, who facilitated the event, reported on the participants and programme for the consultation. Her resulting written report is in two parts - a summary of the discussion and a strategy for the future. It was agreed that her first draft should be commented on by councillors, a draft for submission to key agencies would then be prepared by the original working group (Cllrs Sutherland, Hume,

DS/SH/JM
AR/CK

JDW

Marjoram, Read and Kambites) with Alison, and a final report produced having received their comments. This would provide a strategy which could be incorporated in any future planning decisions. Alison suggested that some of the 'quick win' projects should be identified and progressed. Cllr Marjoram thanked Alison and the councillors who had worked hard to organise the planning event. Special mention was made of Cllr Hume who had contributed so much to the success of the day. Comments from councillors are required by 26th April.

Action

Cllrs

Local Plan Inquiry. Alison Brown reported on the slow progress the inquiry was making. All STC's comments were based around the concept of sustainability. Cllrs Read and Hume had already represented the Council. She mentioned the difficulty of speaking against inclusion of an omission site, as there is only provision for an objector to speak. In the case of omission sites, the objector is the person wanting it to be included. After consulting the Inspector, it had been agreed our views should be made known to SDC, who would take them on board on our behalf at the inquiry.

Vision 21 - Shared Car Ownership Feasibility Study. It had been suggested that the group apply for a grant under the Town and Parish Transport grant scheme. However this is only available to parish/town councils. It was therefore agreed that Cllrs Kambites and Hume would hold a discussion with Vision 21.

CK/SH

Fiveways Junction. Cllr Szaboova-Baxendale felt the wording did not accurately reflect her report to the committee of the meeting with John Lindsay.

The record was therefore amended to read "..... a grant towards this scheme, it would move forward. If the Fiveways scheme could be brought forward enough, both schemes could be done together".

Tetra Masts. Cllr Marjoram reported that consent had been given to Airwave MMO2 for the mast in Butterow, Rodborough. Cllr Marjoram said the Council owed it to the people of the area to present a defence against the proposed mast on the police station. He will appear on the Council's behalf at the inquiry on 23rd April.

JM

Finance and Policy 2nd April 2002

Clerk

The Leazes Playing Field. In view of the petition received earlier, it was agreed that the agreement for managing the field should be progressed as quickly as possible so that it could be announced when the children petition the District Council at a meeting on 25th April.

Budget Monitoring. It was agreed that the £1500 for benches in the 2001/2 budget should be carried forward, making a total of £3000 for spending in the current year on benches. Replacements are needed at the junction of Horns Road, at Folly Lane scout hut, in Bowbridge Lane near the old post office and It was also agreed to fund a further 100 museum trail packs, to be given away free at the Jubilee Party in the Park on 3rd June.

Black Boy Clock. It was agreed that any plaque showing its history and the council's support for its restoration should be at a level easily read by pedestrians.

VAW
With the amendments above, the committee reports were accepted.

**Action
Clerk**

12. Declaration of Vacancy

The absence from meetings due to family commitments of Cllr Andy Thurkettle for more than six months was noted and a vacancy will be declared in Farmhill ward.

Clerk

13. Items for a future agenda

A report is required on progress in completing the minor repairs, a scheme for replacing the flat roof, and internal layout and decorative improvements.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **ANNUAL COUNCIL** on **Tuesday 7th May**. It will consist of two parts: elections, followed by business.

The meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

Chair
Date
7th May '05