



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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COUNCIL MEETING

17 October 2019

7.00 pm – 8.07 pm

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Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

Minutes

Membership:

Martin Baxendale	P	Nick Hurst	P	Nigel Prenter	P
Dorcas Binns	P	George James	P	Skeena Rathor	A
Catherine Braun	P	Julie Job	P	Sue Reed	P
Chris Brine	P	Haydn Jones	P	Mark Reeves	P
Miranda Clifton	P	John Jones	P	Steve Robinson*	P
Nigel Cooper	P	Norman Kay	P	Mattie Ross	P
Doina Cornell	P	Darren Loftus	A	Tom Skinner	P
Gordon Craig	P	Stephen Lydon	P	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy	P
Rachel Curley	P	John Marjoram	A	Haydn Sutton	A
Stephen Davies	P	Phil McAsey	A	Brian Tipper	P
Paul Denney	P	Karen McKeown	P	Chas Townley	P
Jim Dewey	P	Jenny Miles	P	Jessica Tomblin	P
Jonathan Edmunds	P	Dave Mossman	A	Ken Tucker	P
Chas Fellows	P	Gill Oxley	P	Martin Whiteside	P
Colin Fryer	P	Keith Pearson	A	Tim Williams	A
Lindsey Green	P	Simon Pickering	P	Tom Williams	P
Trevor Hall	P	Gary Powell**	P	Debbie Young	P

**Chair *Vice-Chair P = Present A = Absent

Officers Present:

Chief Executive

Strategic Director of Resources

Democratic Services & Elections Officer

Interim Head of Legal Services and
Monitoring Officer

CL.024 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Loftus, Marjoram, McAsey, Mossman, Pearson, Rathor, Sutton and Tim Williams.

Members sent their best wishes to Councillor Mossman.

CL.025 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer declared an interest in Agenda Item 7, Extension to Designation of Monitoring Officer and left the Council Chamber before this item was discussed.

CL.026 MINUTES

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Council's meeting held on 18 July 2019 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

CL.027 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair

The Chair reminded Members of procedures regarding the length of speeches and order during debate at the Council meetings.

This week is National Democracy Week and the Council were co-ordinating several events:-

- 'Become a Councillor' event for prospective Parish and District Councillors.
- Year 10 pupils from Maidenhill School submitted poems and short stories on 'What they liked about their community', these were displayed at the back of the room.
- Pupils from Stroud High School would be debating the topic 'Should it be a legal requirement to vote?'.

Stonehouse, Nailsworth and Dursley had recently received a Gold in this years Britain in Bloom.

The Leader

This week is National Hate Crime Awareness Week.

Chief Executive

Following interviews Andrew Cummings had been appointed to the post of Strategic Director of Resources and Brendan Cleere had been appointed to the post of Strategic Director of Place. Interviews will be taking place next week for the posts of Strategic Director of Communities and Strategic Director of Change and Transformation.

CL.028 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were none.

CL.029 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED To note the appointment of Councillor Clifton to Audit and Standards Committee replacing Councillor Hall and Councillor Hurst to Environment Committee replacing Councillor Mossman.

The Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer left the Council Chamber.

CL.030 EXTENSION TO DESIGNATION OF MONITORING OFFICER

In presenting the above report the Chief Executive referred to the decision taken at the last Strategy and Resources Committee to explore the opportunity of a partnership between our Legal Service and One Legal, which is based in Tewkesbury. The Council needs a Monitoring Officer appointed by Council to carry out that work and extend the contract for Patrick Arran. The report asked Council to sanction this extension to enable

him to continue with this work. We should have a clearer picture by the end of March 2020.

When put to the vote, the Motion was carried.

RESOLVED To designate Patrick Arran as Monitoring Officer until 31 March 2020.

The Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer returned to the Council Chamber.

CL.031 CIVIC TIMETABLE 2020/21

Councillor Doina Cornell, the Leader of Council confirmed that as far as possible school holidays had been avoided in the Civic Timetable.

When put to the vote, the Motion was carried.

RESOLVED To note the Civic Timetable for 2020/21.

CL.032 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 3 OCTOBER 2019

Local Council Tax Support Scheme

Councillor Cornell, outlined the above report, highlighting key points. Nationally there were just 21 councils that continue to provide this level of support. At Strategy and Resources Committee the original decision box was amended to include a full review. Any new scheme would be mindful of protecting the most vulnerable of residents.

When put to the vote, the Motion was carried.

RESOLVED 1. To adopt the current default scheme for 2020/21, keeping the scheme unchanged.
2. That during 2020/21 a full review and remodelling will be carried out.

Budget Strategy 2020/21 – 2023/24

Councillor Cornell, presented the above report which set out the current estimated financial position for the next 4 years. This would provide the framework against which the work of the detailed budget setting process would take place and was structured to give an overview of the major issues.

Councillor Lydon stated that Stroud are the best Council in the South West for recycling and are being penalised for their success through changes to the County Council food waste incentive scheme and asked Members to approach County Councillors to revisit this.

Councillor Pickering, Chair of Environment Committee confirmed that the County Council had cut their overall budget for paying incentives for food waste from £1m to £600k. The County Council originally considered capping all Local Authorities at the same level however, as a result of feedback received they reconsidered this position and the calculation was now back to an incentive based process which was better for Stroud and would help limit the waste sent to landfill. Councillors and Officers who had

attended these meetings had argued strongly that figures should be based on climate change implications and reducing waste to landfill.

When put to the vote, the Motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED To approve the Budget Strategy 2020/21 to 2023/24 as set out in this report.

Vision 2050 Severn Vale Delivery Board

Councillor Cornell, presented the above report which recommended that the Council participates in the work of the Severn Vale Board and endorse the Terms of Reference. This was one of three boards set up by Leadership Gloucestershire to deliver the Vision 2050 for the county and the eight ambitions that underpin it. The focus is infrastructure and connectivity of the Severn Vale, other key partners would be the Environment Agency and Natural England.

Councillor Whiteside referred to the recent presentation given to Strategy and Resources Committee by GFirstLEP on the Local Industrial Strategy. This talked about consultation with young people who have difficulty getting around on public transport which does not currently meet their needs. It was stated that it is important we focus on protecting the environment, carbon neutral 2030, renewable energy and improving transport connections, particularly public transport.

Councillor Braun requested that we have a stronger focus on walking, cycling and buses.

The Leader confirmed that she would mention this at the next meeting. There will be a need for resources funded by the Economic Growth Committee.

Councillor Davies confirmed that the Council needed to have their say and it was important that we were part of this board. A major concern was that we are congesting our motorway corridor.

Councillor Robinson confirmed a new surface had been laid to part of the cycle track from Nailsworth to Stroud but was not yet ready for use.

On being put to the vote the Motion was carried.

**RESOLVED 1. The Terms of Reference for the Severn Vale Board set out in Appendix 1 are agreed, and.
2. Stroud District Council participates in the activities of the Board.**

CL.034 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.07pm.

Chair