

COUNCIL MEETING**16 July 2015****7.00 pm – 9.10 pm****Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud****5****Minutes****Membership:**

Liz Ashton	P	Colin Fryer	A	Mark Rees	P
Martin Baxendale	P	Chas Fellows	P	Lesley Reeves	A
Dorcas Binns	P	Paul Hemming	P	Steve Robinson	P
Tim Boxall	P	Nick Hurst	A	Mattie Ross	P
Rowland Blackwell	P	Julie Job	P	Emma Sims	P
Chris Brine	P	Haydn Jones	P	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy	P
Miranda Clifton	P	John Jones	A	Haydn Sutton	P
Nigel Cooper	P	Stephen Lydon	P	Brian Tipper	P
June Cordwell	A	John Marjoram	P	Chas Townley	P
Doina Cornell	A	Russell Miles	P	Ken Tucker	P
Gordon Craig	P	Stephen Moore	P	Geoff Wheeler	P
Kevin Cranston	A	Dave Mossman	P	Martin Whiteside	A
Karon Cross	A	Keith Pearson	P	Rhiannon Wigzell	P
Stephen Davies	P	Elizabeth Peters	P	Tim Williams	P
Paul Denney	P	Simon Pickering	P	Tom Williams	P
Julie Douglass	P	Gary Powell	P	Penny Wride	A
Jonathan Edmunds	P	Nigel Prenter	P	Debbie Young	P

** = Chair of Council * = Vice Chair of Council P = Present A = Absent

Officers Present

Chief Executive	Planning Strategy Manager
Strategic Head (Finance and Business Services)	Principal Procurement Officer
Strategic Head (Development Services)	Solicitor
	Democratic Services Officer

CL.010 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors June Cordwell, Doina Cornell, Karon Cross, Colin Fryer, John Jones, Lesley Reeves, Martin Whiteside and Penny Wride.

CL.011 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Chas Fellows declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Motion 02/2015 because he is an honorary fellow of South Gloucestershire and Stroud College and would take no part in the debate or voting on this item.

CL.012 MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 May 2015 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

CL.013 ANNOUNCEMENTSThe Chair of Council

The Chair announced that his three nominated charities for this civic year would be Winston's Wish, the Food Bank and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

The Leader

- a. Devolution – the Leaders of the 7 local authorities would be working together with the Police, Clinical Commissioning Group and the Local Enterprise Partnership to make a bid to Government.
- b. Stroud Life Business Awards are being held tonight and the Council has sponsored two awards.

The Chief Executive

- a. Councillor June Cordwell has stood down as Vice-Chair of Council to give her time to recuperate after an operation. An item will be included on the next Council Agenda for nominations.
- b. An application has been received from Randwick Parish Council to change its name to Randwick and Westrip Parish Council. Unless any Member made an objection within the next 24 hours, a public notice would be published for the name change.
- c. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England had published their final proposals. There is no further consultation.
- d. Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service has begun consultation today running until 8 October, on the planned closure of courts across the country. Stroud, Yate and Gloucester Magistrates Courts are proposed to close with cases being held at Cheltenham Court. A report would be presented to a future meeting of Council or Strategy and Resources Committee.

CL.014 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None received.

CL.015 CONTRACT PROCUREMENT AND PROCEDURE RULES

The Leader informed Members of the changes to the above rules and proposed the following amendments to Appendix A, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, and was seconded by Councillor Simon Pickering:-

- “1. In the second bullet point on page 14, insert ‘and council policy’ after European law. This will ensure that not only all legislative requirements are adhered to but also that Council Policies around sustainable procurement are also taken into account.
2. A new paragraph under the responsibilities of Strategic Heads on page 14 that will ensure some member oversight for all high value contracts:
6. For all planned procurement where the total estimated value of the contract exceeds £250,000, the Strategic Head of Service or Head of Service who signs the Procurement Plan Form described in CPPR 9 below shall, in consultation with the relevant Committee Chair and the Strategic Head (Finance and Business Services), agree whether a formal decision of the relevant Committee is required prior to the commencement of a particular procurement.”

Councillor John Marjoram enquired about the implications on procurement contracts in relation to Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). The Leader confirmed this would be considered, if it became law.

The Officer answered Members’ questions and would email Members with details of:-

1. How many contracts were let per annum in excess of £250k?
2. How much is spent annually?
3. The Council’s Procurement Plan.

Councillor Rhiannon Wigzell requested that the word ‘appropriate’ was deleted from paragraph A2.7 (iii) and the words ‘full Council’ deleted from the box in paragraph A6 of the Financial Regulations (Appendix B). These amendments were agreed by the proposer and seconder.

Councillor Keith Pearson moved a further amendment for clarity that ‘and council policy’ should read ‘and this council’s policy’, which was agreed by the proposer and seconder.

During debate Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy suggested an amendment to the Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules (Appendix A), paragraph 8, fourth line, the word ‘will’ would be replaced with the word ‘must’. This further amendment was also agreed by the proposer and seconder.

- RESOLVED (a) To approve the revised Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules and the Financial Regulations set out in Appendix A and B, as amended above.**
- (b) That delegated authority be given to the Strategic Head (Finance & Business Services) to make amendments to these documents in future in line with changes to legislation and best practice.**

CL.016 STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN: FURTHER MODIFICATIONS RELATING TO PROPOSED HOUSING REQUIREMENT FIGURE

Following the publication of the Council's Agenda a Revised Agenda was published to enable Council to make a decision as soon as possible on the Local Plan following receipt of the Planning Inspector's recommendations on housing numbers.

In presenting the report Councillor Steve Lydon outlined the background and the work undertaken by Officers, Leaders and the Planning Review Panel in relation to the Council's Local Plan.

The Planning Strategy Manager answered Members' questions and explained that the Council would be expected to deliver an absolute minimum of 11,400 homes in the period 2006-31. In addition, the Inspector had recommended a further extension of 250 homes at Hunts Grove to provide additional flexibility. A separate piece of work had been undertaken on care homes and a figure of 950 bedspaces was in addition to this figure. The Local Plan was a living document and would be updated through an early review process. Approved neighbourhood plans would form part of the development plan and considered by the Development Control Committee when deciding planning applications. A report on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) would be presented to a future meeting of the Environment Committee. The decision on where CIL receipts are spent would be determined by Council in line with its priorities.

During debate Members unanimously supported the report.

- RESOLVED (a) To include the recommended housing provision figure of at least 11,400 dwellings (2006-2031) in the amended Local Plan.**
(b) To retain the existing allocation of 450 dwellings at North East Cam (Policy SA3).

CL.017 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The Human Rights Act – 01/2015

Proposed by Councillor John Marjoram and seconded by Councillor Steve Lydon.

“Stroud District Council expresses support for the Human Rights Act and the positive impact it has had on rights protection of individuals in our District. Stroud District Council welcomes the guidance the Human Rights Act provides for our authority and other public authorities in ensuring policies are developed in line with international human rights standards; and calls on the Government to retain the Human Rights Act, the protections within it, and the UK's international obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights.”

The proposer had circulated background information on the above prior to the meeting.

The Motion was debated and when put to the vote was CARRIED.

Cuts to Further Education Funding – 02/2015

Councillor Liz Ashton proposed an amendment to the above Motion by adding the words “and respond to Council with the results of his investigation” to her Motion which was supported and seconded by Councillor Jonathan Edmunds.

“This Council notes the recent announcement by South Gloucestershire and Stroud College of there being up to 70 redundancies at the college. This Council also notes that the primary cause of the job losses is a loss of £3 million of government funding. Further Education makes a huge contribution to local people and the local economy. The area of vocational education is key to the economic viability of the country. A levels and Higher Education should not be the only route open to our young people. Employers are experiencing skill shortages in areas such as technicians and related careers.

Therefore this Council agrees

- 1) To write to the newly elected Chair of the House of Commons Education Select Committee, our local MP, Neil Carmichael, asking him as a matter of urgency to
 - a) Investigate the effects these cuts in funding will have on local people and employers, and
 - b) Review the funding arrangements for Further Education so that they equate to those school sixth forms receive.
- 2) To ask the LEP to raise with Government and appropriate funding bodies the critical contribution Further Education makes to the local economy and to work with local colleges to explore other sources of funding and respond to Council with the results of his investigation.”

The Motion was debated and when put to the vote was CARRIED.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Chair of Council