

COUNCIL MEETING**6 November 2014****7.00 pm – 9.15 pm****Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud****3****Minutes****Membership:**

Liz Ashton	P	Paul Hemming	P	Lesley Reeves	A
Martin Baxendale	P	Nick Hurst	P	Steve Robinson	P
Dorcas Binns	P	Julie Job	P	Mattie Ross	P
Tim Boxall	P	Haydn Jones	P	Roger Sanders	P
Chris Brine	P	John Jones	P	Emma Sims	P
Miranda Clifton	P	Stephen Lydon	P	Paul Smith	P
Nigel Cooper	P	John Marjoram	P	Ken Stephens	P
June Cordwell	P	Russell Miles	P	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy	P
Doina Cornell	A	Caroline Molloy	A	Brian Tipper	P
Gordon Craig	P	Stephen Moore	P	Geoff Wheeler	P
Karon Cross	P	Dave Mossman	A	Martin Whiteside	A
Paul Denney	P	Keith Pearson	P	Rhiannon Wigzell	P
David Drew	P	Elizabeth Peters	P	Tim Williams	A
Julie Douglass	P	Simon Pickering	P	Tom Williams	P
Jonathan Edmunds	P	Gary Powell	P	Penny Wride	P
Colin Fryer	P	Nigel Prenter	P	Debbie Young	P
Chas Fellows	A	Mark Rees	P	1 vacancy	

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

Officers Present

Chief Executive	Strategic Head (Finance & Business Services)
Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer	Interim Multi Service Contract Review Manager Strategic Head (Corporate Services)
Strategic Head (Customer Services)	Democratic Services Officers

CL.021 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Diona Cornell, Chas Fellows, Caroline Molloy, Dave Mossman, Lesley Reeves, Martin Whiteside and Tim Williams.

CL.022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Haydn Jones, Liz Peters, Emma Sims and Julie Job all disclosed prejudicial interests in Agenda Item 7(d) because they were landlords and would leave the chamber prior to discussion of the item, take no part in the discussion and voting.

Councillors Liz Peters and Nigel Cooper disclosed other/personal interests in Agenda Item 9 because they were both school governors. The Members of the Development Control Committee abstained from voting (in line with the Planning Code of Conduct).

CL.023 MINUTES

A typographical error was corrected to replace “repairing “ to “riparian“ on the third line of the reply to the second supplementary question on page 3.

RESOLVED Subject to the above amendment, that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 July 2014 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

CL.024 ANNOUNCEMENTS**Chair of Council**

- a. With great sadness, he announced that Councillor Paul Carter had died earlier in the day. Members of the Council joined the Chair in paying tribute to the tireless hard work, dedication, commitment and tenaciousness that Councillor Carter had shown whilst representing the people in his ward and of the District. He would be sadly missed. The Council stood for a minute’s silence in his memory.
- b. Councillor Martin Baxendale was welcomed to his first Council meeting following a by-election in August.

Leader of Council

- a. The Boundary Review had been sent to the Boundary Commission.
- b. The Canal Project had recently won two awards for the new stretch of canal at Capels Mill, from the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and the Canal and River Trust. Congratulations were conveyed to all of those people who had been involved.
- c. The RSPCA had recently awarded the animal welfare team a Community Animal Welfare Footprint (CAWF) for their excellent work in improving animal welfare within the District.
- d. The Dairy Crest plant at Stonehouse had been taken over by the Muller and Wiseman Group.
- e. Details were given of the Ambitions Event on 12 November 2014 at Stratford Park Leisure Centre aimed at 13-14 year olds to enhance their knowledge of the opportunities that may be available to them when seeking future employment.

CL.025 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were none.

CL.026 BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Leader updated Members on the boundary review following meetings of a cross party working group. The submitted proposal to the Boundary Commission recommended 28 wards with 13 single member wards, 7 two member wards and 8 three member wards.

RESOLVED The update was noted.

CL.027 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**Environment Committee****(a) Multi Service Contract Review**

The Chair of Environment Committee presented the above report that had been considered at its meeting on 4 September 2014, which sought approval of the changes proposed on the design and delivery of the services included in the multi service contract to operate from July 2016. Seventeen meetings of the Task and Finish Group (T&FG) had been held, together with a site visit to UBICO. The group had employed a specialist company to carry out consultation with a representative sample of residents and had spoken to various stakeholders including the existing contractor. The report had been unanimously accepted at Committee. During debate Members congratulated the T&FG for their hard work.

Confirmation was given that the contract with UBICO would be reviewed annually and that from research undertaken there had been no evidence from other authorities that there had been an increase in fly tipping as a result of charging for the collection of bulky items. The T&FG had discussed at great length the proposed changes to the contract. In theory because of recycling the actual amount of residual waste collection should be minimal.

Consultation had taken place via the telephone to a sample of residents across the District and also to all Town and Parish Councils and all Members via email. A budget of £50,000, matched pound for pound by the County Council would be available for the first year for publicity.

On being put to the vote, the majority voted for the Motion with 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED 1. Refuse and Recycling

- a) The current system of collecting dry recyclables remains unchanged although if economical to do so plastic film and bags will be added to collections.**
- b) A review of the use and need for the recycling bring sites will be undertaken.**
- c) Collection rounds to be based on the most efficient collection routes, not as now which is based on Town and Parish boundaries.**
- d) Food waste to be collected weekly in caddies.**
- e) Residual waste to be collected fortnightly offsetting the cost of weekly food collection.**

f) Wheeled bins will be used at most properties but black bags will be provided to households whose property is difficult to access. The upfront cost of the bins will be offset by savings in the purchase of black bags.

g) An agreement is signed with the Joint Waste Committee whereby the Council will receive an incentive payment based on meeting targets to reduce waste sent to landfill. Based on current projections of reducing waste to landfill that payment would be at least £200,000.

2. Garden Waste

An opt-in chargeable garden waste collection service to be introduced at a cost of around £36 per annum per wheeled bin plus a one-off charge of £20 for the purchase of the bin. Bags to be used if property has access difficulties. The setting of charges to be delegated to the Strategic Head (Customer Services) in consultation with Chair of Environment Committee.

3. Bulky Waste

A £15 charge is introduced for the collection of three items and that after twelve months a review be carried out to ensure that costs are covered by income received. Changes to the charge to be delegated to the Strategic Head (Customer Services) in consultation with the Chair of the Environment Committee.

4. Street Cleansing

Future service delivery is based on the slightly amended schedule (Appendix A) to the report.

5. Grounds Maintenance

a) There are no significant changes to current service delivery schedules.

b) There is a £10,000 reduction in the budget for the use of fertilizers and herbicides.

6. Building Cleaning

The frequency of and the systems for cleaning of municipal buildings be re-examined.

7. Implementation

In order to phase implementation of service changes authority is delegated to the Strategic Head (Customer Services), in consultation with the Chair of the Environment Committee.

8. Preferred Supplier

With effect from 1 July 2016 the Council join the local authority company, Ubico Ltd, as a shareholder and enter into an agreement to deliver the contract.

9. Depot

The Council, subject to a full cost-benefit analysis being undertaken and presented to the Strategy and Resources Committee, acquire its own depot.

10. Sale of Recyclables

The Council become responsible for the sale of recyclable materials.

(b) Multi Services Contract: UBICO Services Delivery Option: Governance Issues

The Chair of Environment Committee outlined the above report that had been agreed at Committee on 23 October 2014. Members attending Board Meetings in the capacity of an observer was also discussed and would be considered by UBICO.

On being put to the vote, the majority voted for the Motion with 2 abstentions.

- RESOLVED (1) Subject to (2) below to recommend to the Council that it becomes a shareholder in UBICO Limited on the terms set out in paragraph 2 of this report.**
- (2) To approve the governance principles set out in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6, subject to the amendments in (3) of this report and to delegate to the Strategic Head (Customer services) in consultation with Legal Services Manager and the Chairman of the Committee authority to agree the new Shareholders Agreement and Articles of Association of UBICO Limited provided that those documents do not deviate in any material respect from those approved principles.**
- (3) The Council expresses its view to the Company that provision should be made in the new articles of association and shareholders agreement for a nominated member of each Local Authority Shareholder to be entitled to attend meetings of the Board of Directors for the purpose of observation only.**

At 8.35 pm the meeting adjourned and reconvened at 8.45 pm.

Strategy and Resources Committee**(c) Multi Services Contract – Depot Acquisition**

The Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee presented the above report that had been agreed at Committee on 30 October 2014. He proposed an amendment to the resolution which was seconded by Councillor Paul Denney, which he felt better reflected the views expressed by Members, but would allow time for a suitable site to be leased or bought as follows:-

“Authority to be delegated to the Head of Asset Management (in consultation with the Strategic Heads of Finance and Business Services and Customer Services and after consideration of specific options by the Waste Services Task and Finish Group and the Strategy and Resources Committee), to

acquire a depot site to support the multi-service contract on the most favourable terms available.”

Members debated the options of buying or leasing a depot that had also been discussed by the T&FG.

On being put to the vote, the majority voted for the Motion with 3 abstentions.

RESOLVED Authority to be delegated to the Head of Asset Management (in consultation with the Strategic Heads of Finance and Business Services and Customer Services and after consideration of specific options by the Waste Services Task and Finish Group and the Strategy and Resources Committee), to acquire a depot site to support the multi-service contract on the most favourable terms available.

(d) Council Tax Discount from April 2015

The Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee outlined the above report that had been agreed at Committee on 30 October 2014. Based on the proposed change, the Council's General Fund would benefit by £30,000 per annum.

On being put to the vote, the majority voted for the Motion.

RESOLVED To level of discount for Class C empty properties be set at 25% for the 6 months' period.

(e) Local Council Tax Support Scheme

The Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee outlined the above report that had also been agreed at Committee on 30 October 2014. On being put to the vote, the vote was unanimous.

RESOLVED To adopt the current Local Scheme as the scheme for Stroud District Council for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

CL.028 NOTICE OF MOTION

Introduction of a Free School into the Stroud District – 05/14

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor David Drew and seconded by Councillor Stephen Lydon.

“This Council opposes the introduction of a Free School into the Stroud District because there is no justification in terms of pupil numbers, the outcome would be divisive and it would be damaging to existing schools in the District. The process of application is not transparent and has not involved local consultation. The motion asks that this Council makes known its opposition to Stroud's MP and the Secretary State for Education.”

On being put to the vote, the majority voted for the Motion.

CL.029 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chair of Council