#  Minutes of Wotton-under-Edge Town Council Meeting

#  Monday 19th July 2021 held in the Civic Centre

## Present: Cllrs R Claydon, P Barton, J Cordwell, T Luker, D Thomas, M Tucker, J Turner, L Taylor, D Davidson, T Creese, J Lewis, N Pinnegar

## In attendance: A Durn (Town Clerk), District Cllr K Tucker; County Cllr L Cohen

## T.6297 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr R Hale and accepted by Council.

District Cllr K Tucker gave District Cllrs C Braun’s and G James’ apologies.

##

##  T.6298 To receive Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Interests were declared by the following Councillors:

* Cllr N Pinnegar Accounts payments
* Cllr T Luker Accounts payments

## T.6299 Public Forum

There were no submissions from the public.

## T.6300 To receive reports from County and District Councillors.

**a) The County Councillor had previously circulated the following report:**

 **1**. **Meet Your Councillor**: I held the first monthly meeting at the Keepers on July 17th to allow residents to meet and discuss concerns and new initiatives. The next meeting will be on Saturday August 14th 10.30am – 12.30pm. It would be useful if this information could also be shared on the Town Council website.

**2**. **Road safety / speed controls**: I met with the Headteacher of Blue Coat, and we have discussed the now routine speeding and dangerous driving on Symn Lane, where a 20 mile limit is already in place. This behaviour is also common on Long Street and at the crossing on Haw Street. There is general agreement that we need to be creative with limited resources and deploy tactical devices to break the cycle together with a campaign fronted by local children using an integrated media approach. The intention is to try and launch an initiative when children go back to school in September in partnership with North Nibley and Kingswood.

**3**. **Highways Local** – Much of this budget had already been allocated to projects. Each parish council will have a proportion of the remaining £8,000 which largely will be devoted to traffic calming measures.

**4**. **Covid**: In the week Monday 5th July – Sunday 11th July there were 1673 cases of COVID 19.

Of these cases:

* 431 Gloucester
* 331 Cheltenham
* 238 Tewkesbury
* 218 Stroud
* 209 Cotswold
* 246 Forest of Dean

The rate of cases in the last 7 days per 100,000 is 255.7 in Gloucestershire.

In the week 26th June -2nd July, there 0 deaths mentioning ‘novel coronavirus’ which is 0.0% of all deaths.

All councillors are being asked to do what they can to spread the message about the importance of getting both doses of the COVID-19 vaccination. I have also agreed to work with the Comms Team on a cross party initiative to create an effective county wide flu vaccination campaign. The underlying message will be ‘If it ever mattered – this is the winter to get vaccinated!’.

**5**. **Build Back Better**: Subject to sign off on 21 July each of the county’s divisions will receive £40,000 to support their local area. Healthy lifestyles, environment and safer neighbourhoods are likely to feature in the criteria for bids.

County Councillor Linda Cohen contact details: linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk . Mobile 07791110906

There was a discussion on the report and County Cllr Cohen highlighted:

* the speeding measures that were being considered around Blue Coat School, the challenges of limited funding, and having an integrated approach with school staff, pupils, parents, and other organisations.
* The Build Back Better Fund was going to be ratified by the County Council on 21st June 2021 and needed careful thought on spend priorities
* holding monthly surgeries at The Keepers Community Hub for the public to meet her and discuss any issues they may have

The Council thanked the County Councillor for her report.

**b) The District Councillors had previously circulated the following report:**

*All Stroud District Council and Committee papers can be found here:*[*https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings*](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings)

**Community Services & Licencing Committee** – 24 June(Cllr Tucker)

The topics covered were:

* To consider the Council’s Youth Work Strategy.
* To approve participation in the ‘Hear by Right’ Youth Award Programme on behalf of SDC and agree an officer/member Working Group to support the development of an application.
* The appointment of members as Performance Monitoring Representatives.
* The appointment of members to ‘outside bodies’. Cllr Tucker is the representative of the Stroud Road Safety Liaison Group.
* A brief review of the proposed Committee Work Programme for 2021-22. (Additional considerations were made at a further meeting on 1st July).

Meeting papers can be found [here](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings/community-services-and-licensing-committee/community-services-and-licensing-committee-24-june-2021).

On 22nd June, all Committee members attended a compulsory virtual training session to update on all the legal aspects regarding Licencing and Licencing Appeals. This covered Licenced Premises, Premises Licence Holders, Taxies, Strip Clubs/Tattoo Parlours etc, Member’s Clubs and Temporary Event Notices. On average, there are about 10 Appeals/year and each of the 12 members are expected to take it in turn to sit on the 3-member Appeal Panel.

**Environment Committee** – 17 June (Cllr James)

The main business of this meeting was the emerging Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the Stroud Area, as presented to the meeting by Dr Dave Land and Sarah Williams of GCC. The plan is based on their consultation and desk based research and focuses on what they see as the main cycling desire lines from Stonehouse through Stroud and out to Chalford, and from Stroud to Nailsworth. The draft LCWIP is not being published yet, as it has not been internally approved, but the presentation can be viewed [here](https://youtu.be/34ZGPP60jrY) (about two minutes in). Further LCWIPs will follow for other areas of the district, with Cam & Dursley next, and Wotton-Kingswood to follow.

The LCWIP is intended to support future funding applications for these major schemes – but there was no guidance on how the smaller routes to connect to these major routes might progress and be funded. Nor were the officers able to say what would be the expected percentage uptake in cycling as a result of the LCWIP being implemented, nor the carbon reductions it is expected to deliver. The officers’ consultation remains open, so community groups can send their views and visions to David.land@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

The committee resolved to support the emerging LCWIP, work with GCC on the other LCWIPs for the district, continue to support local cycle and walking projects as identified in the Local Plan and Local Transport Plan, and delegate authority to Simon Maher (Senior Neighbourhood Planning Officer) and others to allocate funding to projects consistent with the above plans.

Appointments of SDC members to outside bodies were also agreed, including to the Cotswold AONB , Berkeley Nuclear Stakeholders and the Lower Severn Drainage Board. Meeting documents can be found [here](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings/environment-committee/environment-committee-17-june-2021).

**Development Control Committee** – 15 June

There was only one planning application on the agenda, which was refused:

S.20/2148/OUT | Redevelopment of the site for an industrial use (Use Class B2/B8) and retail use (Use Class A1) including the change of use of an existing dwelling house to office use (B1) with associated works, infrastructure and the creation of a new highway access onto the A38 with all matters relating to appearance and landscaping reserved | Sunnyside Nurseries Cam Dursley Gloucestershire GL11 5JA

Refusal was in line with the officer recommendation and the recommendation of county highways due to highway safety concerns in relation to the proposed new access onto the A38 in a 60mph zone, on the casting vote of the chair after a 5-5 tie.

**Stroud District Council (SDC) issues:**

* **Local Plan consultation – extended to 21 July**

Following approval by Council on 29 April, the SDC Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (covering planning changes up to 2040) is out for consultation and the deadline has now been extended to midnight on 21 July. The documentation is published online – at [www.stroud.gov.uk/localplanreview](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/localplanreview)

No further changes will be made to the plan as a result of the consultation but all comments, along with the plan will be submitted for examination by an independent Planning Inspector, appointed by the Secretary of State. Cllr Tucker has delivered hard copies of this Pre Submission Draft Local Plan to WTC, NNPC and SPC representatives, along with a copy the current 2016 Local Plan for comparison.

* **Council meeting cancelled**

The full Council meeting scheduled for 15 July has been cancelled because of the ongoing Covid restrictions and to avoid unnecessary cost of holding a meeting at Stratford Park Leisure Centre. Since the council is no longer legally allowed to hold remote meetings a meeting of all 51 councillors would need to take place in a bigger venue at the Leisure Centre which would cost more than £3,000 (mostly for the additional microphone hire). All business items have been deferred to the next meeting as there was nothing requiring urgent discussion.

* **Proposed boundary changes could change who represents you in Parliament**

As you will be aware,the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has published its initial proposals for new parliamentary constituency boundaries. The proposals and maps for the nine English regions have been published on the Boundary Commission’s website and the eight-week public consultation period will close on August 2, 2021. It is proposed that Wotton-under-Edge and North Nibley parishes move back into Stroud Constituency. Stroud District Council’s views will be discussed at the Strategy & Resources Committee meeting on 22 July. Reference: [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk/).

* **Improving transport for young people**

Stroud District Council is encouraging young people to participate in a travel needs survey – to help transport providers learn more about what young people need and what infrastructure needs to be put in place, including cycling and use of scooters. Stroud District Youth Council is working in cooperation with Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership (GCRP) to seek the views and opinions of young people (aged between 10-25) on transport and travel within the county. https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GlosYouthTravelSurvey/

* **Deadline for EU Settled Status applications**

Stroud District Council stepped up the information campaign during June about the need for EU citizens to apply to the EU Settled Status Scheme before 30 June in order to keep their rights to live and work in the UK. Cllr Braun wrote to every resident with EU citizenship on the Electoral Roll within the Wotton Ward to inform them of the deadline. Most residents had already completed the EUSS application but one older resident was not aware of the scheme at all and was grateful to receive a letter, which enabled them to submit an application before the deadline. Elderly people are particularly at risk of exclusion due to the way the scheme is administered.

* **Tricorn House**

On 18 June a tragic incident at the disused Tricorn House building in Stroud resulted in the death of a young person. Stroud District Council officers contacted the owners of the building and managed to secure access points to avoid any further access to the site. The council has granted planning permission for several schemes for the site although none have progressed.

* **Animal welfare issues**

Stroud District Council’s Animal Welfare Officers have noticed increased sightings of dogs with cropped ears and docked tails. There have been five reported cases within the district in the last two months. Ear cropping and tail docking is illegal in the UK unless performed by a vet for medical reasons and is referred to as ‘mutilation’ under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. If residents see a dog with cropped ears and/or a docked tail, they are asked to contact SDC at 01453 766321 or environmental.health@stroud.gov.uk or the RSPCA at 0300 1234 999.

*June council meetings from the previous report*

**Strategy & Resources Committee Meeting** – 10 June(Cllr Braun & Cllr Tucker)

Brimscombe Port redevelopment was the main agenda item – and the Committee unanimously supported the proposals to take steps to give notice to the tenants on the former industrial site, to secure vacant possession. Much of the discussion focused on what additional support could be provided to the tenants (Rush Skatepark and Grace Network) to find new homes. Both of these organisations are social enterprises and deliver huge benefits to the community. The Grace Network runs Stroud Furniture Bank, The Long Table, Stroud District Kids' Stuff, Kick Off Stroud, The Bike Drop, Gloucestershire House Clearances and facilitates Stroud Foodbank. So far only Stroud Foodbank has definite plans to relocate. The Committee received a petition with over 3500 signatures in support of Rush Skatepark.

Redevelopment of the port is one of SDC’s corporate priorities. It will be the destination at the eastern end of the canal – with the project delivering a reinstated canal and basin, a sustainable, new residential-led mixed use community. The redevelopment will also deliver better cycling and walking links, environmental improvements, a tourist destination, space for community and social enterprise. It will require new housing to be carbon neutral and include a minimum of 30% affordable homes. More information on the project can be found [here](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/brimscombe-port).

Brimscombe Port is a very complex and challenging site to develop and would be unviable without the significant amounts of public investment that have been secured. The tenants will need to vacate the site so that pre-demolition surveys can begin and the demolition of units can start outside of the main activity season for bats (between October to April). Works in the river required for the redevelopment are only permitted outside the fish spawning season (i.e. from June to September). Next steps on the [project milestones](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1485867/item-9-appendix-d-key-milestones.pdf) include marketing of the development opportunity and stating the procurement for a developer.

The Committee also received updates on the following:

* the Property Review ([link](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1485859/item-7a-property-review-update.pdf)), which references the review of Public Conveniences, which has been deferred to autumn 2022 due to Covid.
* Report of the first meeting of the Regeneration and Investment Board, which covered the Levelling Up Fund bid (SDC need to apply – but as the Government have designed this fund for constituencies, funding would only cover Stroud Constituency), Canal Corridor strategy, a pipeline of capital investment and regeneration schemes and a further bid for One Public Estate funding. ([link)](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1485861/item-7e-strategic-recovery-board-regeneration-and-investment-board-update.pdf)
* Corporate delivery Plan Progress, Corporate Peer Challenge progress and grant payments to the leisure provider SLM in Stroud. ([link)](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings/strategy-and-resources-committee/strategy-and-resources-committee-10-june-2021).

**Housing Committee meeting** – 8 June

Meeting papers can be found [here](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings/housing-committee/housing-committee-08-june-2021). As a follow up to the previous meeting, the committee considered the Council Housing Income Collection and Recovery Policy, Tenant Services Compensation Policy, Visitor Room Policy for Independent Living (formerly known as sheltered housing), the Cleaner Estates Strategy Action Plan and Service Standards Action Plan.

There was a brief discussion on the report. The District Councillors had provided the Town Council of 2 hard copies of the Local Plan documents for the office and the public to view.

The Council thanked the District Councillors for their report.

##  T.6301 Minutes of the Council ExtraOrdinary Meeting of 28th June 2021

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Town Council Extraordinary meeting on 28th June 2021 as a true and fair record.

##

##  T.6302 Chairman’s Announcements

The Chairman had circulated his report ahead of the meeting. He reported he had attended 2 webinars on Electric Vehicle charging and on Council communications. There were no questions.

##  T.6303 Accounts

1. To note insurance renewal at a cost of £4682.31 net of VAT

 The insurance renewal and cost were noted.

1. To note the 2021 Budget report

The budget report for 2021 was noted.

Cllrs Luker and Pinnegar left the meeting

1. To approve July 2021 accounts for payment

It was RESOLVED to agree the July 2021 accounts for payment of £33903.82 incl VAT

Cllrs Luker and Pinnegar joined the meeting

##  T.6304 Tourism .

1. To discuss a proposal to set up budget to fund tourism support for the town

There was a lengthy and detailed discussion on the joint working by

Market Towns regarding having a Market Towns Tourism Officer for the Stroud district area, the support that the local Town Councils had provided from their resources for tourism. It was explained that Wotton had the challenges of not having a Chamber of Trade or an equivalent organisation for all the businesses in the town and surrounding area. There was a further discussion on the concerns about the commitment and priorities of Stroud District Council to market towns, tourism, and support, and the approaches that had been made to the senior management team to resolve these concerns. A meeting had yet to be held. The proposed governance structure of a Steering Group of the market towns and the contract of a Market Towns Tourism Officer was discussed including the options for performance management and sustainability, as well as partnership working locally with community groups and organisations as well as wider afield.

It was RESOLVED to develop a Tourism Budget of £5k to be funded from Earmarked Reserves and revenue budget, and to bid for extra resources from the Welcome Back Fund.

It was RESOLVED to hold a Wotton Regeneration Partnership Group meeting to discuss further.

1. To discuss proposals for the Welcome Back Fund

The details of the Government’s Welcome Back Fund had been previously circulated. There were suggestions put forward on events and initiatives for the use of the Fund.

It was RESOLVED to call a Wotton Regeneration Partnership Group meeting to discuss.

1. To discuss projects for improving tourism and visitor experience

There was a discussion on possible events, marketing proposals, trails. It was proposed that a list of propositions of the offers was needed to be put together with the unique selling points of Wotton under Edge (WUE), develop a tourism and marketing strategy, calendar of events, and making it clear that WUE is ‘Open for Business’. The outcome is to attract visitors to the town and surrounding area.

It was RESOLVED to discuss at the Wotton Regeneration Partnership Group meeting.

1. To discuss the draft Economic Development Strategy for the Stroud District

It was RESOLVED for Councillors to send their thoughts and ideas to the Clerk.

##  T.6305 Speeding vehicles

##  a) To discuss a request for a speed reduction survey and measures to slow down the traffic for vehicles proceeding in Haw Street and agree actions

##  The Council had received concerns from members of the public regarding the speed of vehicles through Haw Street as well as in other areas of Wotton under Edge. There was a discussion on options for speed calming including the use of wooden school children models, involving school children in designing a speed calming campaign, speed indication devices, and a Community Speedwatch scheme.

 It was RESOLVED to consider the effectiveness of the measures and pilot those that were more effective. Cllrs Claydon and Tucker volunteered to take part in the Community Speedwatch.

## T.6306 Strategic Planning

 a) To agree to recommendations from the Strategic Planning Working Group:

1) Stroud District Local Plan – response to consultation

The response was reviewed, and amendments proposed.

It was RESOLVED to agree to the recommendation with the amendments and submit to Stroud District Council.

2) Cotswold District Local Plan – response to consultation

It was RESOLVED to make no comment.

3) Neighbourhood Development Plan

It was noted that the Government were reviewing the planning framework and guidance which included Neighbourhood Planning.

It was RESOLVED to not develop a Neighbourhood Development Plan at this stage but keep it under review.

4) Other recommendations

There were no other recommendations.

## T.6307 Cotswold National Landscape Board

##  a) To vote on the Parish Council representative to be a member of the Cotswold National Landscape Board

 Two candidates had been put forward to the election. The Council considered each candidate and Nick Hare received the majority vote.

 It was RESOLVED to propose Nick Hare as the Parish Council representative member of the Cotswold National Landscape Board.

## T.6308 Consultations – To agree response to:

## a) Stroud District Council Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy, and review of street and building names and monuments

 The Council reviewed the Policy and the street and building names and monuments.

 It was RESOLVED to make no comment. The Clerk was asked to arrange training on equalities, diversity and inclusion for all councillors and staff.

##

##  T.6309 Clerk’s Report – June 2021

 The Clerk’s report was circulated ahead of the meeting. It was noted that New Road should read Knapp Road.

 It was RESOLVED to agree to make changes to staff terms and conditions regarding COVID isolation requirements.

##  T.6310 Correspondence

## a) To note a letter advising of repeated difficulties with the recycling lorry not being able to access the corner of Ellerncroft Road, Lisle Place, and Merlin Haven due to a parked car, and requesting double yellow lines.

 Councillors had considered the letter and visited the sites. It was agreed that for any future incidences, vehicles details should be taken and reported to the Police.

##  T.6311 Brief reports from Councillors

**Footpaths Committee, Special Purposes Committee, Allotments Committee, Wotton Youth Partnership, Town Regeneration, Sports Foundation, Wotton Pool, Heritage Centre, and any other meetings attended**.

Meetings attended as follows:

Wotton Youth Partnership – there is to be a questionnaire to Youth Providers, and an article in the Wotton Times.

##

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed: ……………………………………Dated: …………………………