



**Minutes of Wotton-under-Edge Town Council Meeting
held on Monday 19th December 2022 at 7.00pm in the Civic Centre**

Present: Cllrs M Tucker (Chair for Town Council), T Creese, J Turner (Chair for Planning Cttee), T Luker, D Thomas, T Young, N Pinnegar, J Cordwell, R Claydon, S Hunt, L Taylor, J Lewis.

In attendance: County Cllr L Cohen; District Cllrs, K Tucker, and G James; A Durn (Town Clerk), D Hyam (Administrator), J Chaplin (Stroud District Council).

T.6736 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted for Cllr P Barton, District Cllr C Braun.

T.6737 To receive Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations

Cllrs N Pinnegar and J Turner – Payments

T.6738 Symn Lane Car Park

A brief history of the development of the car park was given from its inception in 2015 through to planning consent given in 2018 and negotiations to the present day. It was explained that the Town Council expected a legal transfer of a completed car park when approved and signed off by Stroud District Council and the Town Council. The following issues were discussed between Stroud District Council Planning and the Town Council:

- a) The lack of a detailed layout. SDC would ask the developer for more details. Concern raised regarding whether the car park is being built as per the approved plan. SDC will take advice on the sign off.
- b) The 12 spaces on the bank. Concern was raised regarding stability of the bank. SDC had raised this with the developer who had stated that the stability engineering works had been carried out and it was not an issue. It was explained that it is the responsibility of the developer to build in a safe and secure method.
The loss of the 12 spaces was discussed. SDC stated that a planning variation was required if there was a change to the provision of the 12 spaces. This would then be subject to the SDC planning process and Committee consideration. Any financial mitigation would be subject to strict planning rules. If there was a breach of the planning agreement then enforcement team would be involved and processes followed.
- c) Future bank erosion management. SDC explained that if it was the open spaces, it would be the responsibility of the estate Management Company; if it was the car park it would be the Town Council if it had been transferred to their ownership. If there were future problems with bank stability it would be the responsibility of the developer to correct.
- d) Netting and debris on the bank and against the allotment site boundary concerns. SDC explained that this would need to be cleared and landscaped when construction is completed. Stock fencing would be the landowner's responsibility.
- e) Car park construction and inspection. Clarification was sought on the building control and inspection process. SDC explained that the SDC Building Control had not been used for inspection and that the developer uses their own inspection company. The developer must publish a completed building

regulations certificate. SDC will ask the developer for a copy of the Inspector's report. If there is a breach of the legal agreement the developer would be asked to put the issues right, if this is not complied with then the legal process would commence.

- f) Bank and site maintenance. Clarification was sought. SDC explained that all the property owners pay into a fund which pays for the management of the site.
- g) Horse chestnut tree. The tree has a Tree Protection Order. The developer was asked to stop working under the tree during construction works.
- h) Wall. It was explained the wall is the responsibility of Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Highways.
- i) Residents' concerns raised. SDC stated that professional advice would need to be obtained re landscaping screening and GCC would need to obtain advice on the impact on the wall.
- j) Parking bay spaces. Concern was raised re the number of spaces expected, the Local Plan requirement on sizes, the Town Councillor measurement of the site and bay sizes and impact on number of spaces and their usability and access. Cllr R Claydon said he would share his measurements and analysis of the site and potential bays. County Cllr L Cohen raised her concerns on safety, she stated that GCC would not adopt the site until they are satisfied it complies with their requirements. She asked who was currently responsible for safety. SDC reported that it is the developer's responsibility and if there are issues not being addressed then they should be reported to Health and Safety.

District Cllr K Tucker said that the district councillors visit the site and discuss together. He stated they were happy to continue to help.

There were no further queries and Stroud District Council was thanked for attending the meeting, discussing the car park development, and answering queries.

Cllr M Tucker pass the Chair of the meeting to Cllr J Turner to Chair the Planning items

T.6739 New Applications

The following planning applications were reviewed:

- a) **S.22/2547/FUL Old Malthouse, Bear Street.** Erection of 3 storey building to provide 10no. flats. The retention and conversion of 2-storey section of the former Old Malt house building to provide 2no. houses. The demolition of outbuildings and the erection of a 2-storey building to provide 2no. flats. It was **RESOLVED** to object to this application on the following grounds.
 - (i) 14 units is overdevelopment of site, contrary to policy CP/8/1 and HC1/1 of Stroud District Local Plan 2015.
 - (ii) Poor and dangerous access – contrary to NPPF Para 109 and policies CP13/3of the Stroud District Local Plan 2015. In response to earlier applications on this site it has been proven by the use of traffic cones that the junction layout with Bear Street presents significant access difficulties and would adversely impact highways safety. This would present particular safety and congestion problems on and off site during construction. There is concern that the proposed crossing point for pedestrians would be dangerous and it is not a suitable place for pedestrians to cross in Bear Street.

(iii) Lack of parking – only 16 spaces have been allotted for 14 properties in contravention of Stroud District Council Local Plan paragraph 5.67, which recognises Wotton's particular parking problems and the allocation does not satisfy the minimum requirements of Policy EI12 and Appendix 2 of the Local Plan. A reasonable provision would be 22 spaces. It is also understood that some neighbours have a right to park on the site at present and no additional parking provision has been provided for these vehicles. Inadequate provision has been made for visitor parking. Furthermore, in an attempt to create additional parking spaces, no amenity space has been provided in contravention of Policies HC1/7 and CP8/3. The modifications to the access at Bear Street would result in a loss of at least 3 on street parking spaces further exacerbating the parking problem.

(iv) Loss of privacy to neighbouring properties, including those being built in Berkeley Close. This contravenes Policy ES3/1.

(v) Due to the positioning of the parking bays, it is unlikely that vehicles would be able to turn to exit the site forward, if all bays are occupied. The tracking diagrams provided illustrate the difficulty of using the parking spaces. The layout is unsatisfactory and is counter to Policies CP8/3 and HC1/9.

(vi) No Affordable units are proposed contrary to Policy HC9. The comments of the Affordable Housing Officer are supported.

If the officer is minded to grant permission the Town Council requests that the application is called into committee.

- b) **S.22/2301/HHOLD 9 The Cloud.** Proposed two storey side extension (following demolition of existing extension). It was RESOLVED to make the following comments on this application. From the plans provided it is unclear what the extra rooms in the proposed extension will be used for as there is no further details. If the intention is to create extra bedrooms, then the Planning Authority must satisfy itself that there will be adequate parking provision which would not contravene policy EI12 (para 5.67 of the Local Plan that refers specifically to Wotton). It has been observed on the site and boundary plan that the proposed extension has encroached over the boundary between 9 The Cloud and Silver Lining.
- c) **S.22/2599/LBC 16 Bradley Street.** Kitchen renovation including removal of secondary staircase and widening of existing doorway. It was RESOLVED to make the following comments on this application. Historic England Listed Buildings details a description of a staircase within the building as follows; Interior retains C18 or early C19 shutters and stair. Clarification is needed as from the plans it is unclear if this is the staircase that is proposed to be removed. Furthermore, any features of historic significance should not be lost.
- d) **S.22/2157/HHOLD 25 Dryleaze.** Erection of a single storey rear extension and loft conversion (resubmission of S.22/1091/HHOLD). It was RESOLVED to make the following comment on this application. There is concern that there will be a loss of privacy for neighbours from the proposed terrace and side windows of the proposed extension. This would contravene policy ES3/1 of the Local Plan. If the Planning Authority is minded to approve this application they should satisfy themselves that these overlooking issues are acceptable.
- e) **S.22/1858/FUL 48 Long Street.** Demolition of existing storage building. Erection of building for use as a holiday let (lapsed permissions S.10/1435/COU & S.10/1436/LBC). It was RESOLVED to support with the following comment. The Planning Authority must satisfy itself that there is

adequate parking provision for the main dwelling and the holiday let which would not contravene policy EI12 (para 5.67 of the Local Plan that refers specifically to Wotton).

- f) **S.22/1859/LBC 48 Long Street.** Demolition of an existing storage building and erection of building for use as a holiday let, a resubmission of previously lapsed planning consents under references S.10/1435 & S.10/1436/LBC. It was RESOLVED to support this application.
- g) **S.22/2375/LBC 7 Orchard Street.** Installation of secondary glazing. It was RESOLVED to support this application.

Cllr S Hunt left the meeting

- h) **S.22/2642/HHOLD 8 Oatground.** Replacement of lean-to with single storey extension. It was RESOLVED to support this application.

Cllr S Hunt returned to the meeting

T.6740 SDC Planning Decisions Notice of the following decisions was received: The following Planning decisions were noted:

- a) **S.22/2143/HHOLD Wortley Farm House, Hill Mill Lane, Wortley.** Addition of new porch and installation of new external boiler on north elevation. **Application Permitted with 2 Conditions.**

- b) **S.22/1029/106R Land South Of, Symn Lane.** Modify the S106 legal agreement S.19/1722/VAR & S.17/2307/FUL to enable occupations of the first 6 open market units prior to entering into contract with a Registered Provider for the Affordable Housing units. **Discharged agreed and Deed of Variation completed on 11/10/2022.**

Cllr J Turner passed the Chair of the meeting to Cllr M Tucker to Chair the rest of the Council meeting.

T.6741 To approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting on 21st November 2022

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 21st November 2022 as a true and fair record.

T.6742 To approve the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting on 28th November 2022

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 28th November 2022 as a true and fair record.

T.6743 Public Forum

Members of the public can make representations, raise questions, or submit comments

There were no comments raised.

T.6744 To receive reports from County Councillor and District Councillors
County Cllr L Cohen presented the following report:

1. Symn Lane car park

I am working with the Town Council to ensure that GCC helps provide us with the advice and expertise we need to make informed decisions about the number and location of car parking spaces to accommodate new evidence about the unsuitability of original plans. Separately I am trying to work towards a deal which would allow

GCC to act as our conduit to allow us to sell any surplus energy we generate on the open market.

2. Winter holiday activities booking open

Families can book a range of fun, festive activities to help keep children and young people active, entertained and enjoying healthy meals during the Christmas school holidays.

Together with its partners, the County Council is providing a wide range of activities across Gloucestershire for four action-packed days of the school holidays from 19 – 22 December.

The winter Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) is funded by the Department of Education for families eligible for benefits-related free school meals. Using grant funding, the council is giving all families in Gloucestershire the opportunity to join in the fun by offering enriching holiday activities to all children and young people, through its Holiday Activities Programme (HAP). More information is available at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf.

3. Gloucestershire stands against Domestic Abuse

Gloucestershire County Council and the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board are continuing their work to prevent violence towards women and girls by taking part in the international awareness campaign, 16 Days of Action, and aiming to become 'White Ribbon' accredited.

At its meeting in November, Gloucestershire County Council agreed to work toward becoming a 'White Ribbon' accredited organisation, in a commitment to do more to end male violence against women and girls (VAWG). Around 80 per cent of domestic abuse victims in Gloucestershire are female according to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) so the 'gendered nature' of domestic abuse and associated crimes should be recognised.

Council also agreed the important role Gloucestershire's schools play in preventing VAWG by educating pupils about misogyny, equality, and healthy relationships. Schools are encouraged to sign up to the White Ribbon initiatives to enhance lessons and help bring boys and men into the conversation about preventing harm.

The 16 Days of Action started on 25 November: the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls. Over the next few weeks, the County Council and partners such as GDASS (Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service), the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Gloucestershire Constabulary will be working to raise awareness of domestic abuse and VAWG and the support available to victims and their families.

Partners will share information on the signs and types of domestic abuse, how to get support, and how bystanders can play a role in preventing harm.

Last year, the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board launched a new countywide Domestic Abuse Strategy outlining how organisations will work together to prevent domestic abuse and improve services and support for victims. You can read more online at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/domestic-abuse-strategy/

White Ribbon is the UK's leading charity engaging men and boys to end violence against women and girls, working to prevent harm by addressing its root causes. The organisation encourages everyone, especially men and boys, to make the White Ribbon Promise to never use, excuse or remain silent about men's violence against women. Find out more at www.whiteribbon.org.uk

4. Week of activity for Carers Rights Day

To celebrate Carers Rights Day on Thursday 24 November, Gloucestershire Carers Hub held a week of activity to make sure unpaid carers know their rights and how they can access support.

There are over 63,000 unpaid carers in Gloucestershire, 1 in 10 people are carers, and 1 in 7 juggle caring responsibilities with work.

Carers will often be looking after a family member or friend who has a disability, mental or physical illness, or who needs extra help as they grow older. This can have a significant impact on their lives, from relationships and health to finances and work.

It is important for unpaid carers to know their rights and where they can access support when they need it, wherever they are in their caring journey. Whether that is in their workplace, in a healthcare setting, when interacting with professionals, or at home.

Registering as a carer is free and easy, visit: www.gloucestershirecarershub.co.uk , or call 0300 1119000.

Support is available for young carers from Gloucestershire Young Carers, visit www.glosyoungcarers.org.uk

5. Guides and Brownies

I met with both local groups recently for UK Parliament Week. The girls presented me with letters outlining their concerns and ideas for the parish and also made some group presentations. I will be mentioning some of the ideas at the December Town Council meeting which include: a youth club to help with the transition process from Year 6 to secondary school, a one way system through Old Town, planting blossom trees e.g. wild cherry, a focus on local wildlife and concerns about school numbers - but would like to propose that representatives are invited to speak at the next Town Council meeting.

Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership relaunches Gloucestershire's Road Safety Partnership relaunched last week with presentations from all the key partners to renew their commitment to joint working and vision zero – a global road safety project which aims to achieve zero deaths or serious injuries on our roads.

Cllr Dave Norman, cabinet member for community safety (including GFRS) and chair of the partnership, opened the event which heard from Nick Evans, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC); Superintendent Paul Keasey from Gloucestershire Constabulary; and Mark Preece, Chief Fire Officer. They were supported by other members of the partnership and in attendance were councillors from all tiers, National Highways, and community interest groups.

The event sought to relaunch the Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership, breathing new life into joint working and a shared commitment to reducing serious accidents and deaths on the county roads. Attendees heard about the new 'strategic approach' that the partnership will be following to achieve safe, secure, social, and efficient use of the roads.

Speaking at the event, Cllr Dave Norman said: "We've been working behind the scenes getting this partnership together and now we have the great pleasure of launching it here today. We know we need to do more to bring down serious injuries and deaths on our roads and we have to do this together. "Nick Evans, Deputy PCC and Chair of the Safer Gloucestershire Board, said: "We have a lot of work to do, and the tragic incidents we have seen on our roads over the last few weeks bring the reason for that into sharp focus. Now that we have re-established the road safety

partnership, I hope we'll be able to drive a concerted effort from statutory agencies and communities alike to educate all road users and encourage behavioural change. This won't happen overnight but is a long-term commitment to make Gloucestershire's roads safer. Superintendent Paul Keasey, of Gloucestershire Constabulary, said: "I have been working at a national level with the Home Office to develop a toolkit that can be used to make road safety joint working more effective. Gloucestershire will be a front runner in the process and an early adopter of this new way of working."

At the event attendees were asked to sign a pledge to support the road safety partnership in their commitment to vision zero. Vision zero is an aim to reduce deaths on roads to nil. The Community Speedwatch Safety Fund, a partnership between the county council and the OPCC, was launched earlier this year with the aim of making the county's roads safer for the pedestrians, cyclists and motorists that use them. You can [find out more information on the fund here](#).

6. Views wanted on proposed 2023/24 budget for Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire County Council wants to hear your views on its proposed 2023/24 budget

In the current proposals, spending for 2023/24 will reach £560 million, a rise of almost £40 million on 2022/23 levels. There is also £119 million committed to complete infrastructure projects such as the Gloucester South-West Bypass, Arle Court Transport Hub, the flagship 26-mile cycle spine, and flood alleviation schemes like those in Nailsworth, Coleford, and Pittville.

The council is proposing committing a further £22 million into protecting the county's vulnerable children, and a further £21 million into supporting vulnerable adults and those living with a disability.

By the end of this financial year (2022/23), the council will have invested around £34 million into highways resurfacing schemes, repairing potholes and routine maintenance across the county's roads.

The council invested £35 million in the brand-new High School Leckhampton, which opened in September and is providing an enriching academic environment for students. A further £44 million is being ear marked in 2023/24 to continue delivering the best possible educational facilities for children and young people in the county. The budget proposes raising £13.4 million to help fund services through a council tax increase of 2.99%. The proposals would also see £7.3 million raised specifically to support work with the most vulnerable adults in the county through a further 2% increase in the adult social care precept.

Despite this increase the Council still expects to have one of the lowest council tax levels of any county council. Based on a band D property, residents would pay an additional £6.04 each month.

The council continues to challenge itself to work more effectively and as a result has identified £33 million in savings and efficiencies for next year.

Please take a few minutes to complete the short survey so that GCC can listen to your thoughts before finalising the budget."

For more information on the budget and details on how to have your say, visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/budget2023-24

Public consultation runs from 8 December 2022 until 5pm on 5 January 2023.

Contact details linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk . Mobile 07791110906

District Councillors presented the following report:

All Stroud District Council and Committee papers can be found here:

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings> Recordings of meetings are available via the Committee meeting webpage on the Council's You Tube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeH_AmF0s-TShcYIM8Stweg

Stroud District Councillors Report – December 22 Report of meetings during November and December

Cost of Living Crisis

There is now more information on the SDC website about cost-of-living issues: money energy & water, food, family & childcare, mental health support, and warm spaces. www.stroud.gov.uk/costofliving

Locally, The Keepers Community Hub in Wotton and GL11 Community Hub in Cam continue to provide support to residents.

Development Control Committee 15th November

The committee considered the following papers and applications:

- Stats on Planning and Enforcement Key Performance Indicators
- Planning Enforcement - updated local enforcement plan to set out the operational objectives of the council's planning enforcement service.
- Parcel H13 And H14 Land West of Stonehouse, Grove Lane, Westend, Stonehouse S.22/1645/REM

Reserved Matters in Respect of Erection of 216 no. Dwellings, Landscaping, Infrastructure & Associated Works Pursuant to Outline Planning Permission S.14/0810/OUT.

- Play Area, The Bourne, Brimscombe, Gloucestershire S.21/1240/FUL pdf icon PDF 302 KB

Erection of 4 dwellings.

- Land At Rear Of 1, Cutler Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire S.22/1936/FUL Erection of bungalow with associated car parking, refuse/recycling provision, cycle and electric wheelchair storage and amenity space.

All documents can be found here:

<https://stroud.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&MId=1347&Ver=4>

SDC also received notice from the Planning Inspectorate that it has allowed an enforcement appeal and costs in relation to Land at Ashen Plains, North Nibley against an alleged breach of planning control "without planning permission" for the erection of two agricultural buildings.

Strategy and Resources Committee – 24th November

Rural England Prosperity Fund – business and communities

SDC has been allocated (but not yet awarded) £400k for capital projects - from the rural funding top up to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. If the Government confirms the £400k award, SDC will need to spend £100k next year 2023/24 and £300k in 2024/25. The plan is for the amount to be evenly split between rural businesses and rural community groups. If Government do confirm this allocation, which seems likely, SDC will start communications on this in the new year so that community groups and businesses will know how to apply for a grant.

For rural businesses, there will be capital grants available for:

- small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas
- growing the local social economy and supporting innovation

- developing and promoting the visitor economy
- rural communities there will be capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups
- creation and improvements to local rural green spaces,
- existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer
- local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities
- rural circular economy projects
- impactful volunteering and social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places

Canal Project

The committee received an update on the progress of the Canal Project, reaffirmed support for the project, and allocated an additional £1m from the capital reserves for this capital project towards meeting a budget gap which has been caused by inflationary and other pressures (Brexit, Covid, Ukraine, energy crisis, cost of materials). This will help to bring forward additional funding from other project partners and to keep up momentum with this large capital project:

www.stroud.gov.uk/news-archive/canal-investment-to-benefit-communities

Other items agreed:

- Measures for measuring Social Value.
- Annual Corporate Procurement and Contract Management Update
- Performance Management Framework Review
- LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan Progress

Various reports were noted:

- Performance Management
- Leadership Gloucestershire Update
- Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC)
- Regeneration and Investment Board
- Brimscombe Port Redevelopment
- Fit for the Future Update – SDC modernisation programme
- Update on the Economic Development Strategy

All documents can be found here:

<https://stroud.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=1365&Ver=4>

Audit and Standards Committee – 29th November

The Committee approved the Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 and discussed the following reports:

- Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit Report
- External Audit activity progress
- Internal Audit Progress Report 2022/23
- Half Year Treasury Management Report 2022/23
- Corporate Risk Register Update

Community Services & Licensing Committee – 1st December

Taxis - Committee approved an Interim Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Emissions Policy as proposed by the Task and Finish Group and to approve it prior to formal consultation.

Committee agreed that it would not be proportionate to impose mandatory CCTV in Stroud licensed taxi and private hire vehicles.

Reports were discussed on Performance Monitoring Q1 and Q2, Budget Monitoring Q1 & Q2 and Committee Revenue Estimates.

Reports were also presented as follows:

- Museum in the Park (Cowle Trust)
- Police and Crime Panel
- Citizens Advice
- Mental Health Champions
- Homestart
- Woodchester Park Mansion
- Progress update on Stroud Lido
- Progress on Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) – for SDC leisure centres.

Other issues

New Bicycle Mayor

SDC hosted a meeting on 18 November to discuss walking and cycling with town and parish councils, cycling advocacy groups, and SDC councillors. This event was about bringing partners together to share local knowledge and understanding, to inspire and enthuse each other, and to drive forward the mission of “modal shift” – the move towards ending our dependency on fossil fuels, reducing our carbon emissions, whilst improving air quality, mental and physical health.

The council is also looking for a volunteer to become Stroud District Bicycle Mayor, to help advocate for cycling in the district, and help make cycling accessible to all as part of a global network of Bicycle Mayors. Applications close on 20 January – for more details visit <https://bycs.org/>. Applications can be made at: <https://tinyurl.com/stroud-bicycle-mayor>

Boundary Commission

The Boundary Commission has published its revised proposals on the review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries including Stroud and The Cotswolds constituencies. The revised proposals are being consulted on until December 5. The process aims to make sure that each Member of Parliament represents an equal amount of people.

The revised proposals are as follows:

- Wotton-under-Edge ward (Wotton and North Nibley parishes) would transfer from The Cotswolds constituency to the Stroud constituency (Stinchcombe continues to remain in Stroud constituency)
- Kingswood ward would transfer to the new South Cotswolds constituency, (Cirencester and North Wiltshire constituency in the initial proposals).

These revised proposals would mean that the Stroud district would be split into three constituencies with three MPs when currently (and in the initial proposals), it is split into two. To comment, visit www.bcereviews.org.uk.

Interview Clothing Rail

This is a new scheme for giving out smart clothes for job interviews. SDC has joined forces with Stroud Library to launch the scheme as a pilot until early December to help people get into employment and has been inspired by Gloucestershire Recycles' textiles campaign, 'Wear Not Waste'.

Recycling Christmas trees to help Longfield Hospice

Longfield Community Hospice in Minchinhampton has launched its annual Christmas Tree Recycling Campaign, where, for a voluntary donation, the charity's team of volunteers will collect your real trees at the end of the festive season and take them to be recycled. The hospice is hoping to collect and recycle more trees than ever this year and raise more than £40,000, which could help fund over 700 hours of Hospice at Home care. In previous years, as many as 2,800 households from across Stroud district, Cirencester and Gloucester have taken part in the scheme.

To arrange collection of your tree, visit www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree where you can make a voluntary donation to your local community hospice. Bookings can be made from 15 November until 3 January 2023.

The fundraising team are also looking for volunteers, vans to collect Christmas trees, or tree chippers from Sunday 8 to Tuesday 10 January 2023. To volunteer either with your time or if you have a van or chipper, then please contact the events team on 01483 886868 or email events@longfield.org.uk. Find out more about your Longfield at www.longfield.org.uk

Severn Area Rescue Association (SARA)

The SARA headquarters has been redecorated thanks to a team of volunteers from Stroud District Council and property services contractor Bell. Work was carried out on the SARA headquarters in Sharpness as the inshore lifeboat and water-rescue charity was the council's staff charity of the year from 2020-2022. However, as the Coronavirus pandemic restricted fundraising events, the SARA crew asked for practical help in renovating their base instead. To find out more about SARA or make a donation, visit the website <https://www.sara-rescue.org.uk/>

Stroud Women's Refuge

SDC staff raised more than £400 for Stroud Women's Refuge at a charity event held at the council's offices. Stroud Women's Refuge, which supports women who have been forced to leave their home due to domestic abuse, was chosen as council's charity of the year. Established in 1977, as the Stroud Beresford Group, it is the only refuge in Gloucestershire, and one of only a handful of independent refuges in the UK. SDC provided premises free-of-charge for the charity when it started up.

To find out more about the Stroud Women's Refuge where you can buy Christmas cards and the Inspired recipe book, visit the website www.stroudwomensrefuge.org

The Town Council thanked the County and District Councillors for their reports and wished them all a Happy Christmas.

County Cllr L Cohen and District Cllr K Tucker left the meeting

T.6745 Chairman's Report

The Chairman had circulated the following report:

22nd November Car park action plan review.

23rd I attended the retail group at GFirst LEP in support of the Chair of GMTF (Gloucester Market Town Forum).

The retail group spent several hours reviewing what GFirst LEP could do to support retail in the form of training and life skills.

It was decided to support new employees and potential employees with confidence building for new people going into the workplace, it was strongly felt so many young people are struggling to adjust after lockdown.

28th Planning Committee.

AGM of Gloucester Market Towns Forum, which was attended by the Town Clerk and me, we also joined a guided tour of Lechlade, their play area, and town centre. Again this year GMTF have decided not to charge a membership fee, and are trying to negotiate a Forum price to join the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) which should save money for the Council on future membership fees of both organisations.

Lechlade is a small town with a population of three thousand people, who have invested well in a great community hall which is also their council offices, they have a great deal of new development going on all around the town enabling them to invest back into the town.

30th Christmas Under The Edge event - road closure walk round and risk assessment review of the town centre.

3rd December Christmas Under The Edge event attended by approximately 3 to 3.5 thousand people from all over the district, 32 stall holders, 8 food vendors, the town fire engine and crew, the police, and paramedics.

Santa's grotto and Town Hall teas were organised by The Keepers.

All charities and schools raised good money to support their respective organisations, thank you to everyone who helped and supported the event.

A special mention for Cllr Sue Hunt and volunteer M Lovell who did all the social media, planned music and entertainment for two stages, gazebo and pop-up acts, just brilliant thank you.

5th Pre Budget discussions.

There were no comments.

T.6746 Accounts

a) To consider quotes and agree contractor for inspection to Symn Lane Play Area.

It was RESOLVED to appoint G B Sports Ltd to carry out the inspection.

b) To agree SLCC membership 2023 of £354.

It was RESOLVED to pay the membership for 2023.

c) To note appointment of PKF Littlejohn LLP as external auditor for financial years 2022/23 to 2026/27 The appointment was noted.

d) Budget 2022/23 – to note report.

The report was noted

Cllrs J Turner and N Pinnegar left the meeting

e) To approve December accounts for payment

It was RESOLVED to approve the payments for the December accounts.

Cllrs J Turner and N Pinnegar joined the meeting

T.6747 Motorcycle Anchor Points

The request was discussed for motorcycle anchor points for the Chipping and Potters Pond car parks. Stroud District Council had considered the request and did not feel there was a demand for The Chipping but proposed for points to be installed at the Potters Pond car park. The Town Council reviewed their proposal. It was RESOLVED to accept the proposal as long as there was no removal of car parking spaces, that the District Council paid for and installed the points.

T.6748 Renishaw Old Town

The Council considered the request from Renishaw regarding the junction of their work access on Old Town and the proposal of solutions including the application of a Traffic Regulation Order. It was recognised that there was damage caused to the pavement and congestion caused by vehicles turning in and out of the junction, and the lack of parking in the town for residents and the use of Old Town. It was RESOLVED to meet with Renishaw to discuss their concerns and possible solutions.

T.6749 Budget Meeting

It was RESOLVED to hold the informal business meetings to discuss budget options on January 10th and 16th 2023.

T.6750 Code of Conduct

The comments from Cllr R Claydon had been reviewed by the Monitoring Officer. She had explained that there will be a draft Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils for consultation in January 2023.

T.6750 Cost of Living Support

The quotes were reviewed. It was RESOLVED for Cotswold Letterpress to print the leaflets and for Wotton Directory to deliver the leaflets with the January Wotton Directory magazine.

T.6751 Christmas /New Year Opening Hours

The statutory and contractual holidays were noted. It was RESOLVED to close the office on 24th December 2022 and to open the office on 3rd January 2023.

T.6752 Further proposed reforms to the planning system in England. To note Ministerial Statement by Michael Gove announcing a series of further proposed reforms to the planning system on England including changes to how local housing need figures are calculated, and increased protection for neighbourhood plans against developer appeals. These reforms are to take place “alongside” those contained in the Levelling up and Regeneration Bill. More detail will be set out on the following approach in an upcoming National Planning Policy Framework prospectus, which will be put out for consultation by Christmas. The statement was noted.

T.6753 Brief reports from Councillors

There were no reports.

T.6754 EXEMPT ITEMS: Prior to consideration of the following agenda items, councillors are invited to pass the following resolution: Pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by S100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that its consideration would involve the disclosure of exempt information
It was RESOLVED to exclude the Press and Public.

T. 6755 Symn Lane Car Park

The Council considered the proposal from the developer regarding the 12 parking spaces on the bank following the discussion earlier in the meeting with Stroud District Council and the County and District Councillors including planning requirements and processes, liabilities, the stability requirements of the bank, the demand for parking spaces, possible options for parking spaces, parking layout and sizes of bays, resident concerns and options, the legal requirements, the overview and requirements of Stroud District Council and Gloucestershire County Council. It was RESOLVED that if asked by Stroud District Council on the options of the 12 spaces, that the Town Council would agree to not retaining the 12 spaces. It was RESOLVED that if Stroud District Council did not require the 12 spaces to be built that the Town Council would not accept liability of that land and bank area of the 12 spaces.

An update was given on the EV Chargers project and negotiations with the GCC partner. A query on the size and location of the feeder pillars had been sent to the developer. Further information is awaited.

T.6756 Youth Services

a) To receive the final report from The Door

The final report from the former youth services provider had been received and was reviewed. It was noted that due to a misunderstanding it was available but had not previously been sent. The Council expected more detail in the final report but as the contract had ended further information was not requested.

b) To receive an update

Play Gloucestershire has held 6 sessions at Synwell Playing Fields and despite the poor weather there has been an increasing attendance and the sessions are being positively received. An application to the Police Crime Commissioners Fund has been made to extend the provision until September 2023. Results expected in the new year. The Outreach Van will be contacted in the new year. The contract with the National Youth Agency is to be finalised, further details on the action plan will be reported to Council.

The meeting ended at 9.50pm

Signed:

Date: