

**MINUTES OF BRIMSCOMBE & THRUPP  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM  
ON TUESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 AT 6.00PM**



Present: Cllr Colette Wilson                      Chair  
          Cllr Bob Tyler                              Vice-Chair  
          Cllr Greg Pilley  
          Cllr Ben Morris  
          Cllr Brian Castle  
          Cllr Roger Martin  
          Cllr Nicky Russell

Absent: Cllr Bill Harvey

In attendance: District Councillor Martin Whiteside  
Chloe Turner (Case worker representing County Councillor Rachel Smith)  
Alexandra Lloyd-Jones (member of Brimscombe and Thrupp Climate  
Action Network)  
Joanna Woodfall attended to present proposal relating to agenda item 7.  
2 members of the public present

**1. Apologies**

District Councillor Deborah Young

**2. Declarations of Interest** (Members are requested to declare any interest they may have in the business set out on the Agenda to which the approved Code of Practice appears). There were no declarations of interest declared

**3. Approval of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

The Minutes were approved as a true record, with signing deferred to the next face-to-face meeting (as per the advice and guidance of GAPTC)

**4. To receive the monthly County Councillor report (5 mins)**

Chloe Turner provided a written update prior to the meeting (see appendix 1). Chloe Turner was not present at this point in the meeting.

Cllr Martin raised a question regarding the mobile testing unit at Stratford Park. Cllr Whiteside will find out who makes decisions on the use of the car park for the mobile testing unit.

Cllr Martin raised a question regarding chemical smells that have been present in the valley recently. Cllr Whiteside has asked environmental health to follow up on this.

Cllr Martin requested that the Locum Clerk contact Chloe Turner regarding overhanging trees on the A419 to request for Highways to clear these **[Action: Locum Clerk]**

**5. To receive the monthly District Councillor report (5 mins)**

Cllr Whiteside provided a written update prior to the meeting (see appendix 2).

Cllr Pilley asked Cllr Whiteside if SDC have submitted comments on the Whitepaper for Planning, and if so, if this could be circulated to the Parish Council.

**6. To receive the monthly District Councillor report (5 mins)**

Cllr Young sent her apologies

**7. Proposal for the A419:** To discuss proposal of community project focusing on water and wilding (Alexandra Lloyd-Jones and Joanna Graham)

The proposal and potential ways forward were discussed. The Council was unanimously in support of the proposals in principle. Alexandra Lloyd-Jones and Joanna Graham will take this forward and contact the Locum Clerk for any information needed from the Parish Council.

**8. Planning applications:** To consider current planning applications and agree any comments to be submitted by the Parish Council (Locum Clerk)

Applications requiring a decision:

- **S.20/1859/HHOLD**  
*Proposed patio area, retaining walls & upgraded vehicle access path/parking*  
**The Committee agreed to 'No Comment' on this application**  
**Stance: neutral**
- **S.20/1858/HHOLD**  
*Proposed outbuilding to house log store and terrace*  
**The Committee agreed to 'No Comment' on this application**  
**Stance: neutral**
- **S.20/1970/HHOLD**  
*Single storey timber frame office to rear*  
**The Committee agreed to 'No Comment' on this application**  
**Stance: neutral**

**[Action: Locum Clerk to submit comments to SDC]**

The Council discussed a planning issue regarding a field in Quarhouse, that had been brought to the Council's attention by a Parishioner. It was agreed that the Locum Clerk would liaise further with the Parishioner and put him in touch with the Planning and Licensing units at SDC **[Action: Locum Clerk]**

**9. Clerks report:** Details of progress undertaken by Locum Clerk to manage essential business, including report of hours worked and activities undertaken (**to be sent prior to meeting**)

The Locum Clerk updated the Parish Council on activities undertaken and progress made during September to manage essential business, this included a report that was circulated prior to the meeting, which was discussed.

## 10. Finance

### (a) Accounts for approval and payment

The following accounts were presented for payment:

Recipient and details	Payment method	Amount
Staffing and expenses (including HMRC and pension)	BACs and Direct Debit	£3027.03
Hannah Warren (Reimbursement of expenses for Zoom monthly subscription - October)	BACs	£14.39
2 Commune (annual website hosting and 4 email accounts)	BACs	£648.00
PT Landscapes (Philip Turley – verge cutting) (paid)	BACs	£200.00
Denis Brown & Sons (Allotment fencing) (paid)	BACs	£464.88
Expenses – Colette Wilson (Community quilt)	BACs	£56.17
Freya Tate – bus shelter project (expenses and artist fee) (paid)	BACs	£750.00
Boss HR Ltd (HR advice) (paid)	BACs	£140.00
Hannah Warren (reimbursement of payment for postal redirection – 3 months)	BACs	£216.00
Megan Coleman (Medley) – bus shelter project (expenses and artist fee) (paid)	BACs	£569.01
Isa Clee – bus shelter project (expenses and artist fee) (paid)	BACs	£665.65
Damien Sung – bus shelter project (expenses and artist fee) (paid)	BACs	£749.61
PATA (Payroll rerun for August and September)	BACs	£10.00
Alice Sheppard Fidler – bus shelter project (expenses)	BACs	£105.78
Katherine Hollick – bus shelter project (remaining expenses and fees) (paid)	BACs	£406.39
Hannah Warren (Reimbursement of expenses for paper shredder)	BACs	£36.99
Expenses – Brian Castle (bus shelter project)	BACs	£80.00
Albie Lucas – bus shelter project (expenses and artist fee)	BACs	664.77
Zachary Walsh (Studio 18) – bus shelter project (expenses and artist fee)	BACs	£758.68
Zachary Walsh (Studio 18) – bus shelter project event promotion and materials	BACs	£82.99
Ruth Hickson (Studio 18) – bus shelter project (expenses and artist fee)	BACs	£733.90
Gritbins.net (replacement grit bin for Cotswold Close)	BACs	£91.78
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£10,472.02</b>

The accounts were agreed for payment.

### (b) To receive monthly breakdown of income and expenditure and monthly budget monitoring statement (Locum Clerk)

The Council received a breakdown of income and expenditure to date for the current financial year, and budget spends to date.

(c) To receive bank reconciliation (Locum Clerk)

The Council received the bank reconciliation

(d) To receive report on internal control carried out in August 2020

The Council received the report on internal control carried out in August 2020

(e) To discuss and plan 2021-22 budget and precept planning

It was agreed that the Locum Clerk will prepare a provisional budget for circulation and discussion at the Parish Council meeting in November 2020. The Locum Clerk will ask Councillors for details of future projects that need funding to inform this provisional budget

**[Action: Locum Clerk]**

**11. Councillor training needs:** To discuss and agree Councillor training needs (Locum Clerk)

The Council agreed that Councillors will go through the list of training offered by GAPTC and identify any individual training needs and requests **[Action: Clls]**

**12. Hope Mill Lane:** To discuss the proposal from Severn Homes (Documents sent ahead of meeting) (Locum Clerk)

The Council agreed that it is not interested in pursuing this proposal. The Locum Clerk will contact Severn Homes to communicate this decision, with the assistance of Cllr Pilley **[Action: Locum Clerk]**

**13. Golden Valley Cycling Route:** To discuss and comment on report (Documents sent ahead of meeting) (Cllr Pilley)

The Council agreed to issue a statement of support from the Parish, to be completed and submitted by Cllr Pilley **[Action: Cllr Pilley]**

**14. Interim Plans for the Port:** To discuss and agree the final proposal to be submitted to SDC (Documents sent ahead of meeting) (Chair)

The Council discussed and agreed the final proposal submitted to SDC. The Council is currently awaiting a response from SDC.

[Cllr Whiteside and Chloe Turner left the meeting]

**15. Bus shelter project:** To discuss plans for taking the project forward (Chair)

The Chair will prepare an evaluation report for the project, including a final budget ready for the next PC meeting. The report will also include thinking about the next steps and future of the project and other improvements that could be made within the Parish. **[Action: Cllr Wilson]**

**16. GDPR policy:** To review and ratify GDPR policy (Locum Clerk)

This item was adjourned to November 2020 **[Action: Locum Clerk]**

**17. Asset register:** To review asset register and discuss completion (Locum Clerk)

The Council discussed the development of the asset register and items already included. The Council discussed the list of Grit Bins that was circulated. The Locum Clerk will email Highways to obtain an updated list, including Gun House Lane which has recently been included within the Parish boundary **[Action: Locum Clerk]**. The Locum Clerk will add these to the Asset Register and carry out an inspection of these bins to check for damage or missing bins **[Action: Locum Clerk]**

**Clerk].** The Council decided to place an additional grit bin at the entrance to The Thrupp on Thrupp Lane **[Action: Locum Clerk]**. The Locum Clerk will resend the link to the Asset Register for continued completion, for discussion at the meeting in November 2020 **[Action: Locum Clerk]**.

- 18. Internal audit report for 2018/19:** To review internal audit report for 2018-19 and agree on actions needed in relation to point 4, as raised in 2019/20 internal audit – The receipt of funding in 2017 for a project that does not appear to have progressed. Review of what happened and whether the funding was returned (Locum Clerk)

The Council confirmed that this funding was received for the Neighborhood Development Plan, for which it was used.

- 19. Review of Standing Orders:** Review of current Standing Orders with reference to the Model Standing orders 2018, for amendment. Locum Clerk to circulate model standing orders 2018, for the amendment of the standing orders for adoption (Locum Clerk)

This item was adjourned to November 2020 **[Action: Locum Clerk]**

- 20. Review of Financial Regulations:** Tailor and adopt Financial Regulations from 2019 (Locum Clerk). Locum Clerk to tailor the model Financial Regulation from 2019 for circulation, and consideration/adoption (Locum Clerk)

This item was adjourned to November 2020 **[Action: Locum Clerk]**

- 21. Code of Conduct:** Feedback from Locum Clerk regarding review and update of Code of Conduct (Locum Clerk)

This item was adjourned to November 2020 **[Action: Locum Clerk]**

- 22. Community Speed Watch:** To discuss community speed watch information sent ahead of meeting and agree on actions (Cllr Tyler)

The information sent was discussed by the Council. Alexandra Lloyd-Jones updated the Council on a traffic report which is circulated to her via GAPTC, which she will forward onto the Locum Clerk **[Action: Alexandra Lloyd-Jones]**. The Council asked the Locum Clerk to request a report from the police on activities within the Parish, including regarding speeding **[Action: Locum Clerk]**. In relation to the information sent ahead of the meeting, it was agreed that Cllr Tyler will feedback to the community groups that police should take action regarding this **[Action: Cllr Tyler]**

- 23. Footpaths:** Update on progress regarding access on footpath from the approach of Claypits Lane to Wasa-Wasa (Cllr Morris)

Cllr Morris reported to the Council that he has walked this section of footpath and is not sure what might be done to resolve the issues raised. He reported on a possible Rights of Way budget that could be used to pay for possible works. It was decided that a walking group be set up, to look at which styles within the Parish are a priority **[Action: Cllr Morris]**

- 24. Post and postal redirection:** To update Council on current arrangements and to discuss and agree future plans (Locum Clerk)

This item was adjourned to November 2020 **[Action: Locum Clerk]**

- 25. Fromeside playing field:** To discuss field security and associated costs (Cllr Martin)

This item was adjourned to November 2020 **[Action: Locum Clerk]**

- 26. **Hope Mill Lane land, County Council land between car park and playing field and improvements to the playing field:** To establish sub-committee and way forward (Cllr Pilley)

This item was adjourned to November 2020 **[Action: Locum Clerk]**

- 27. **Parish Council COVID-19 helpline:** To receive an update and to discuss continuation of helpline and agree further action that is needed and associated spending (Locum Clerk and Chair)

A report was circulated prior to the meeting with an update.

- 28. **Parish Council Policies:**

- (a) To discuss the next policy to consider (*List of policies sent ahead of meeting*) (Locum Clerk)

This item was adjourned to November 2020 **[Action: Locum Clerk]**

- 29. **Neighborhood Plan:** Update on current situation, progress made and next steps that need to be taken, including a review of the budget (Cllr Pilley)

This item was adjourned to November 2020 **[Action: Locum Clerk]**

- 30. **Date of the next meeting:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 6.00pm via zoom

**CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA**

- 31. **Pursuant to 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the Public and Press leave the meeting.**

- 32. **Staffing:** Review of staffing issues

The current issues were reviewed and actions agreed accordingly

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS  
THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.10pm**

**Signed:**.....

**Date:**.....

## Appendix 1

County Councillor Report, September 2020

*Chloe Turner for Cllr Rachel Smith*

1. *GCC has launched a public facing COVID-19 site, accessible from its main website at <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/covid-19-information-and-advice/>, including a dashboard interpreting national data for Gloucestershire. There are ongoing issues with coronavirus testing capability in the county, but the location of mobile testing units is available on the site here <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/covid-19-information-and-advice/mobile-testing-unit-locations/>, updated at least weekly. GCC is encouraging everyone to download and use the free NHS Covid Track & Trace mobile phone app which was launched at the end of last week.*
2. *Update on the GCC Local Transport Plan (2015-2031) Review, which closed earlier this year: the consultation received 1340 responses (of which 22% came from the Stroud district). The updated Plan is due to be presented to Council in December, with a view to being actioned in early 2021.*
3. *GCC launched a new Waste Less Recycle More campaign this month, as 60% of black bag waste destined for the Javelin Park incinerator has been shown to be composed of recyclable materials. The attached summary shows the range of plastic items not dealt with by council schemes that can be recycled locally through the Terracycle scheme - via Chalford Hill School or the Greenshop, Bisley.*

## Appendix 2

### Stroud District Councillor's Report

#### Report of meetings 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020

#### Brimscombe Port

- The Parish Council Interim Proposals to rent space to kick-start local social enterprise and recovery in Unit 4 and Port mills are being urgently discussed by both Councillors and Officers. I hope to have a definitive reply by the end of the current week.
- The closure of The Ship pub this weekend has prompted rapid discussions of alternative community led uses. There is an opportunity to think creatively about how the space could be used in the short and medium term.
- The planning application for the infrastructure is still awaiting Environment Agency response on flooding.
- Further work on viability is underway and a possible source of additional public sector investment money is being pursued.

#### Coronavirus Response

##### Outbreak Management Plan

Local Authorities with Public Health responsibilities (in Gloucestershire, the County Council) were asked by Government to prepare **Local Outbreak Management Plans** (LOMP) by 30 June 2020 to

support the national NHS Test and Trace programme in the identification and management of Covid-19 outbreaks. They were given Government funding to develop and deliver tailored plans working with the district councils, local NHS, PHE and other stakeholders to identify and contain potential outbreaks in settings such as workplaces, care homes, hospitals and schools. These plans will need to be in place for the foreseeable future. The LOMP provides the framework for the county's local multi-agency response to Covid-19, and aims to anticipate, prevent and contain incidents and outbreaks in the local area, as well as taking the opportunity to work with local people to prevent outbreaks place. [Link](#)

### **SDC working arrangements**

Following the new national restrictions (22 September), the SDC Ebley Mill Reception will not open to the public in early October as planned. Most SDC staff will return to working from home unless they cannot do their jobs at home. Customer Services staff continue to work from Ebley Mill as experience has shown that the council can provide a better service in this area from COVID-secure offices

### **Update on SDC Environmental Health work**

A brief overview of the work since March, of the District Council's Environmental Health team which have a crucial role in Covid-prevention, compliance and enforcement:

- **Local businesses** - 563 contacts have been made with local businesses specifically in respect of Covid-19 matters. These figures will include contacts with some businesses more than once. They include a range of interventions such as responses to complaints about non-compliance, requests for guidance from businesses, on-site interventions to check and monitor compliance and monitoring the health status of the crew of ships arriving at Sharpness Docks.
- **Public Health meetings** Environmental health managers are involved in weekly meetings with Public Health and other agencies in Gloucestershire at a strategic and operational level. This includes regular discussion of clusters and outbreaks and the development and regular modification of a Covid Prevention Plan.
- **Enforcing regulations** Since the start of the lockdown EH officers have been actively enforcing the Coronavirus Restriction Regulations as they apply to businesses and were also responsible for ensuring that the phased re-opening of businesses, as restrictions were eased, was carried out in accordance with government's Covid-Secure guidelines. Officers in the Commercial Services Unit are authorised under the Health and Safety at Work Act and, together with Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspectors, can enforce Covid-secure measures if necessary. District Councils are not involved in enforcement of the requirements in educational establishments or primary care.
- **Business Advice** The team have also sent out email and paper mail shots to some specific business sectors (such as hairdressers and licensed premises) and contacted 130 taxi drivers with advice (which included the adoption of a local policy on the use of screens in taxis).
- **A new Covid Compliance Officer** – David Peacock - has now been appointed to monitor compliance and provide additional support for local businesses. The post has been fully funded by Public Health Gloucestershire as part of a £300K support package to assist District Councils in managing Covid security.



- **HSE** will continue to be responsible for Covid-secure enforcement in settings such as food factories and agricultural holdings but it is anticipated that Covid Compliance officers will be enabled to provide advice and guidance to all businesses.
- **Current priorities** for SDC officers are the hospitality industry, close contact services (such as hairdressers and nail bars), nurseries and events.
- **The Licensing Team** have been in regular contact with licensed premises to keep them up to date with developments and have provided advice and guidance to local taxi drivers.

### **Support for those who need to self-isolate**

Those on lower incomes who cannot work from home and have lost income as a result will be supported by a payment of £500 which will be administered by district authorities. National guidance is awaited.

-----

### **‘Be a Councillor’ event**

SDC is planning to hold an event towards the end of October, for prospective Parish/Town and District Councillors. The event will help to promote life as a Councillor and will provide information to anyone interested in being elected as a Councillor in May 2021.

## **Environment Committee – 3 September**

### **Control of Dogs - Extension of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO)**

Following formal consultation, the Committee agreed to endorse the proposal to further extend for another 3 years, the four existing Public Spaces Protection Orders relating to dog control. These are:

**PSP01** Failing to remove the faeces when a dog under the person’s control has defecated on any land within the District which is open to the air and to which the public has a right of access.

**PSP02** Not putting a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer of the Council if such restraint is necessary to prevent a nuisance, behaviour likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to a person or the worrying or disturbance of any animal or bird. This also applies to all land within the District which is open to the air and to which the public has a right of access.

**PSP03** Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded which applies, where signed at the entrance, to any fenced, hedged or walled children’s play area, bowling green, croquet lawn, tennis court, skateboard park, cycle enclosure, putting green or other sporting or recreational facility.

**PSP04** Not keeping a dog on a lead in a designated area. This applies to all allotments, cemeteries, car parks, canal towpaths and designated cycle tracks as well as specified footpaths routinely used to access any primary, secondary or high school or college.

The consultation showed that there was overwhelming support for retaining the first three orders. In relation to the fourth order, Consultees were asked whether it should be amended to remove canal towpaths and cycle tracks from the specified areas where dogs should be kept on leads. Consultee responses overall were not in favour of making this change – and responses from members of the public were strongly opposed to a change to this order.

### **Planning White Paper – Proposed changes to planning system**

A report to the committee from the Planning Review Panel meeting set out the key changes proposed in the White Paper 'Planning for the Future' as follows:

1. Local plans would be simplified and focus on identifying three categories of land – "growth areas" that are "suitable for substantial development"; "renewal areas" that are "suitable for development"; and "protected areas". In "growth areas", outline approval would be automatically granted for forms and types of development specified in the plan. Development in renewal areas would "cover existing built areas where smaller scale development is appropriate" and could include the "gentle densification" of residential areas, development in town centres, and small sites in and around villages. There would be a "statutory presumption in favour of development" specified in the plan. Protected areas, including green belt, conservation areas and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), would still be subject to "more stringent" development.
2. Local plans should be subject to a single and "simplified" statutory "sustainable development" test, replacing the existing "tests of soundness". This new test "would consider whether the plan contributes to achieving sustainable development in accordance with policy issued by the secretary of state", the consultation states. The test could also "become less prescriptive about the need to demonstrate deliverability" and full planning applications would be required for new schemes
3. A new 'single infrastructure levy' will replace the existing developer contributions system of section 106 agreements and the community infrastructure levy. The government says the new levy will be a nationally-set, flat rate charge and would be based on the final value (or likely sales value) of a development. It says it intends the new levy to raise more revenue than under the current system of developer contributions, and deliver "at least as much" affordable housing, and on-site affordable housing, as at present
4. Penalties for councils that fail to determine an application within the statutory time limits could involve "the automatic refund of the planning fee for the application". Ministers also "want to explore whether some types of applications should be deemed to have been granted planning permission if there has not been a timely determination".
5. Where applications are refused and the decision is overturned at appeal, the paper proposes that "applicants will be entitled to an automatic rebate of their planning application fee".
6. Each local planning authority would be required to have a chief officer for design and place-making.
7. The suggested changes to local plans, developer contributions and development management "would require primary legislation followed by secondary legislation". Ministers "would expect new local plans to be in place by the end of the Parliament".

The consultation closes in mid October. The District Council will be submitting a response.

## Local Plan Review

Covid-19 has resulted in some delays to producing the final, updated Local Plan, although good progress has been made in terms of evidence gathering. Submission of the Plan will be delayed, until March 2021 or May 2021. This will mean that an extra 60 houses will be added to the Local Plan Requirement – as it will be more than 5 years since the current local plan was approved. Covid-19 has also raised some queries as to how dwellings should be built in future particularly as working from home (as opposed to going out to work) requires work space at home.

## Housing Committee - 22 September

### Strategy and Plan for new Council Homes

The Committee approved the Strategy and Action Plan for the next phase of council house building in the District. Within the Council's financial plan, a budget of £22.8 million has already been approved for a further 111 new homes to be delivered over the next 4 years together with a land acquisition fund of £3 million

In accordance with approved procedures, where there an existing budget has been agreed, any land/property purchases above £500,000 will be presented to Strategy and Resources Committee for approval (unless there is insufficient time in which case the Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee will be consulted).

Affordable housing is a key priority for the Council – as referenced in the Corporate Delivery Plan and the recent new Strategy 'Recover, reset and Renew: A Strategy for Stroud District Council 2020-21' which sets out the Council's approach post Covid 19 and longer term renewal.

In the last five years, the SDC New Homes and Regeneration Programme has seen 239 new homes added to the Council's stock of over 5,000 properties in the District.

The new strategy and action plan detail the vision and objectives for the delivery of new homes over the next four years and set out the priorities for the purchase of more land, the methodology for setting the type, tenure, location and standards of accommodation.

New homes will be constructed in line with the Council's 2030 Carbon Neutral commitment and will take a 'fabric first' approach to achieve minimum SAP 86 ratings. SAP rating scores are out of 100; homes in Stroud District have an average SAP rating of 50+, and current Council homes have an average SAP rating of 65. To note – work is continuing to improve the SAP rating of all council homes, to make them more energy efficient for tenants. Each new scheme will be assessed to establish the best value approach to delivering greater energy efficiency.

### Tenant Services Fraud Policy.

The Committee adopted the new policy, which has been fully reviewed and revised in consultation Tenant Ambassadors, Tenant Reps on Housing Committee and community groups who were supportive of the approach. The previous Policy was lacking detail to deliver the actions required to manage this area of the service.

A **Performance report** – was presented to the Committee which set out progress against Housing actions in the Corporate Delivery Programme and the Capital Programme.

Housing Committee papers can be found in the [Document Pack](#)

## **SDC Full Council - 7 September**

### **Local Government reorganisation proposals**

Although Government Ministers had announced that a recovery and devolution white paper would be published in the autumn, it seems that publication has now been postponed until the new year/spring 2021. As a result, at this Extraordinary Meeting of the Council it was agreed to defer the [Report on Local Government Reorganisation](#) for consideration until the Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper has been published. The Council Leader said that information from Central Government indicates that they are having a rethink and there is likely to be change of emphasis in the proposals – away from compulsion on local government reorganisation, and instead for it to be taken forward only in those areas that are in favour of it happening.

As a result, SDC will not be spending £25,000 to develop a joint proposal promoting a two unitary authority solution for Gloucestershire, as the paper had proposed.

### **Committee chairs**

New members were appointed to positions on the Community Services & Licencing Committee, Housing Committee and Strategy & Resources Committee, following the resignation of Cllr Chas Townley from chairing Housing Committee.

## **Strategy & Resources Committee – No meeting in September**

**Canal bid** - We eagerly await the deliberations of the Heritage Lottery Fund for £8.7m to complete the Stroudwater Canal. The announcement of whether we have been successful will be known this month.

Next meeting will be held on 8th October 2020. The lengthy Agenda can be viewed [here](#) with items on asset management, asset sales, Brimscombe Port and Covid-19.

**Stroud Leisure centre** - An Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee will be held 20th October 2020, to discuss the latest proposal from Sports Leisure Management (SLM), who run our facilities at Stratford Park, to financially support them until March 2021. Following tense discussions at Committee, the previous offer from SDC (to loan SLM £175k with terms to be agreed) was quickly rejected by SLM on commercial grounds. The next proposal is thought to be a reduced ask, but for an outright grant rather than a loan.

**Martin Whiteside**