

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 3RD MAY 2023 AT 7.30PM  
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

**Present**

Ms K Hudson (Vice Chair)  
Mrs D. Davidson (Parish Councillor)  
Mrs M. Shaw (Parish Councillor)  
  
Mr I. Kirkham (Parish Councillor)  
Mr C. MacFarlane (Parish Councillor)  
Mrs. N. Bradley (Clerk to the Parish Council)

**In Attendance**

Ms L. Cohen County Councillor)  
Ms C. Braun (District Councillor)  
Mr K. Tucker (District Councillor)  
  
Mr S. Lane (Playground Group)  
Mr P. Chamberlain }  
Mrs J. Jelfs } Residents  
Mrs J. Kirkham }  
Mrs T. Legge }

Ms Hudson opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

**1) Apologies**

Mr G. James (District Councillor)

**2) DPI Declarations and Dispensations**

There were no declarations.

**3) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Since Mr Packer resigned at the last meeting, it has been agreed to introduce a “rolling chair” system until the Council is back up to strength and a Chair can be elected. Mrs Shaw was willing to take in the role but made it clear that this would only be on a very temporary basis. Mrs Davidson proposed and Ms Hudson seconded this and the motion was carried unanimously. (87/23)

**4) - Signature of Declarations of Acceptance of Office**

Not applicable until the final appointments are made. (88/23)

**5) Co-option of councillor**

Mr MacFarlane introduced himself by saying that he has lived in Stinchcombe for three and a half years. He is retired and is interested in people and the outdoors and now feels that he would like to make an active contribution to village life. He left the room while Mrs Davidson proposed and Mrs Shaw seconded his co-option which was carried unanimously. Ms Hudson then welcomed him to the Council. (89/23)

**6) Confirmation of Appointments**

The following appointments were confirmed:-

Footpath Wardens – Mr A. Davidxon  
Tree Warden - Mr Kirkham  
Flood Warden - vacant  
Playground Equipment Warden - vacant  
Representative to Village Hall Committee - Mrs Shaw  
Representative to Stinchcombe Hill Trust – vacant. Mrs shaw will cover for the time being.

Representative to Stinchcombe United Charities – Mrs Julie Thomas  
Representative to Dursley United Charities - Mr Laurie Bradley  
Representative to Berkeley SSG - Mr Davies  
Snow Warden – Mr Davies  
Snow Plough Operator - Mr Longstreth (90/23)

## **7) Approval of Minutes of the Meeting Held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Acceptance of the minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> March was proposed by Mrs Shaw seconded by Mrs Davidson and carried unanimously. They were duly accepted and signed.(91/23)

## **8) Matters Arising From the Minutes**

- Cllr Braun confirmed that money available for walking and cycling projects can be allocated to smaller councils. She is happy to pass on ideas and proposals for projects. (92/23)
- SDC has been informed that the council has adopted the Code of Conduct. (93/23)
- Mr Packer has printed more copies of the Welcome Pack and Mrs Shaw will begin sending them out as required. [Action Mrs Shaw](#). (4/23)

All other matters arising are dealt with later in these minutes.

## **9) Reports by County and District Councillors**

The County Councillor's report is attached. (95/23)

The District Councillors' reports for March and April are also attached. (96/23)

## **10) Planning Matters**

New since Last Meeting

- S.23/0619/TCA, St Cyrs Church, 2 x Yew trees - Larger yew tree - height and lateral reduction all round by a maximum of 2m. Smaller yew tree (adjacent to off site beech tree) - Height reduction of a maximum of 2m to bring leading stems down to the height of the lowest leading stem. (97/23)
- S.23/0715/CPL, Upper LorrIDGE Berkeley Road, erection of a proposed transportable annexe within the curtilage. (978/23)
- S.23/0752/HHOLD, Roselands Taits Hill Road, proposed two storey side extension, single storey extension, raised decking with access steps & creation of new parking area. There have been some concerns from residents about the positioning of the new vehicle entrance at a dangerous place on the road. It was agreed to post a comment that the council does not object to the application but its support would be subject to Highways' approval. [Action Clerk](#) (99/23)

Decided Since Last Meeting

- S.23/0262/TCA, Lamport Court, T1-T7 - Removal of basal growth all around. Consent.

(100/23)

- S.23/0227/FUL, Stinchcombe Village Hall, Erection of extension to kitchen & store plus additional first floor room above. Permission. (101/23)

Still Undecided

- S.23/0193/LBC, Rough Hill Cottage Wick Lane, Demolition of modern additions & extensions. Refurbishment & extension of listed cottage. Bat surveys have been requested for both the cottage and the outbuilding. (102/23)
- S.23/0192/HHOLD, Rough Hill Cottage Wick Lane, Demolition of modern additions & extensions. Refurbishment & extension of listed cottage and conversion of outbuilding. As above. (102/23)
- S.22/1462/FUL, land At A38, Bristol Road, Berkeley, construction of straw barn. (103/23)

It is not considered that the extent of the work at Townsend Farm constitutes an engineering operation. Therefore, there is no breach of planning control and the enforcement case on the matter will now be recommended for closure. (104/23)

Removal of hedgerow on Wick Lane is permitted under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997. Therefore, there is no breach of planning control. (105/23)

Mrs Shaw had received a query about plans for the Swedish Houses but there have been no further developments regarding them. (106/23)

A query has also been received about the September 2021 screening request for proposed 60 dwellings, public open space and ancillary works north of Tait's Hill. Again, there have been no further developments. (107/23)

## **11) Footpaths and Rights of Way**

It was noted that the rugby club has not yet changed its proposed route for CST19/21 to include the Millennium Oak. (108/23)

Mrs Shaw has been in touch with Highways about the "No through Road" sign on Old Hill Lane and this is ongoing. (109/23)

There have been some concerns about the amount of mud spread by farm vehicles on Old Hill Lane but it is not clear who currently owns the land concerned. (110/23)

Gigaclear are again digging up Old Hill Lane but have not given residents any warning. Cllr Cohen will take this up with the company. [Action Cllr Cohen](#). (111/23)

## **12) Highways**

Ms Hudson has received no information about a possible alternative contractor to install the traffic calming measures, but the current one has informed her that he is much closer to being able to start work. She will continue to liaise with him. [Action Ms Hudson](#). (112/23)

Several local organisations have written to Siobhan Baillie about a 20mph speed limit in the area around the proposed new play area in the Church Field. Speedwatch has received a reply in which Ms Baillie accepts that this would be desirable. She has suggested a meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>, venue tba, which Ms Hudson and Mrs Shaw will attend. Mr Delafield will also be invited. [Action Ms Hudson and Mrs Shaw](#). (113/23)

Nothing has yet been heard from the Police re regarding the fatal accident on Tait's Hill but the item will be kept on the agenda. (114/23)

### **13) Facilities**

The Rugby Club has offered a slightly increased play area near the Village Hall at a peppercorn rent but would like to be able to use the Village Hall car park for five Sundays a year. Use of the Hall's overflow car park is tied to hire of the Hall but the committee has offered DRFC the use of the committee Room, which would include parking, for five Sundays per year at a discounted rate of £100. Discussions are ongoing and Ms Hudson's reply to Mr Sprague's recent email is attached. (115/23)

Planning have confirmed that a lease must be in place before a CLPUD can be obtained. The PC will negotiate the lease and make the application but the Playground Group will pay the costs (less the £500 originally designated for development of the new play area). The Clerk will email Ms Guy to make contact with her colleague who can deal with the lease and she and/or Mrs Shaw will act as a point of contact. [Action Clerk and Mrs Shaw.](#) (116/23)

### **14) Financial Matters**

Approval of Section 1 of the Annual Return, the Annual Governance Statement, was proposed by Mr Kirkham seconded by Mrs Davidson and carried unanimously. The Statement was duly signed by the Chair and Clerk. (117/23)

Approval of Section 2 of the Annual Return, the Statement of Accounts, was proposed by Mrs Davidson, seconded by Mr Kirkham and carried unanimously. The Statement was duly signed by the Chair and Clerk. (118/23)

Approval of the Certificate of Exemption was proposed by Mrs Davidson, seconded by Mr Kirkham and carried unanimously. The Certificate was duly signed by the Chair and Clerk. (119/23)

The Statement of Receipts and Payments was signed by Ms Hudson. (120/22)

An increase of 7.7% in the Clerk's salary bringing it up to £1,577.80 pa with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May was proposed by Mrs Shaw, seconded by Ms Hudson and carried unanimously. (121/23)

Authorisation of payments of £5460.28 insurance premium and £115.00 Internal Audit was proposed by Mr Packer, seconded by Mrs Davidson and carried unanimously. (122/23)

### **15) Dates of Next Meeting**

Tues 6<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm

Wed 19<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 7.30pm

### **16) Councillor's Resignation**

At the end of the meeting, Mrs Hudson offered her resignation from the Parish Council with immediate effect. The council thanked her for her efforts and wished her well. (123/23)

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MEETING OF 3RD MAY 2023  
STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS AND AUTHORISATIONS

<u>Building Society balance on 15<sup>th</sup> March</u>	£ 11,699.73
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Receipts since 15<sup>th</sup> March

Donation to Village Gateways costs	£ 1,170.00
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Payments since 15<sup>th</sup> March

Clerk's Materials	£ 11.89
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<u>Building Society balance on 3<sup>rd</sup> May</u>	£ 12,857.84
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Authorisation is sought for

Insurance premium 2023-24	£ 460.28
Internal Audit fee	£ 115.00

Prepared by

Approved by

E.N. Bradley  
Clerk & RFO  
3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

Chairman

K.Hudson  
Vice Chairman



## Stinchcombe Parish Council County Councillor's Report

Prepared by Cllr Linda Cohen – April 2023

### **Our Bus Service**

I met with the Cabinet member on Good Friday to discuss the likelihood of support for a series of innovative initiatives to provide public transport for residents in Wotton and the surrounding villages. There is a will to help and we have been given the services of a senior officer to look at the particular requirements of the local population. We will scope out a flexible service that can affordably meet the quite different needs of each part of the community e.g. planned hospital appointments, shopping trips, regular commutes to work and school, access to social hubs and part time work for young people . This is unlikely to be a bus service in the way that we understand it at the moment. With some creative thinking we can probably achieve something better. This will not be an immediate fix but would, I hope be delivered relatively swiftly.

WECA has also proposed a new 'dial up service' which will end its route at KLB. I have asked that GCC intervene and offer the funding to extend the route to Wotton.

### **Highways**

There is steady remedial work to potholes and more extensive infrastructure work and resurfacing in planning, including Road Green. I am aware that very recently filled potholes or areas where Severn Trent or Gigaclear have visited are already coming apart at the seams. I report and prioritise everything of which I am aware but would ask that residents continue to report anything they identify directly to highways. I try and follow social media but it's not a reliable way to highlight issues.

[www.Gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/](http://www.Gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/)

advantage of all the schemes available to us to monitor speed and have invited officers to see first hand the perilous journeys that some of our children need to make to get to school. There is more money in the new budget for the traffic regulation orders which allow for the implementation of 20 mph zones. I have also highlighted the work undertaken by our neighbouring county Oxfordshire and suggested that the Cabinet talk to their opposite number to better understand how they are delivering such an effective programme.

### 3. Lengthsman Work

This is ongoing and includes hedge trimming, sign cleaning and general maintenance.

## General Update

### 1. Gloucestershire County Council Budget 23/24

A budget of £567 million was agreed, an increase of £46 million on 22/23 levels. The budget will raise around £13.6 million to help fund services through a council tax increase of 2.99%. The national social care precept at 2% will also be applied to raise an additional £7.4 million to support vulnerable adults. Based on a band D property, this equates to a £6.04 monthly increase.

I personally pushed for an amendment for a further £75,000 to be spent on a 'spend to save' project which would look at the best practises of those county councils that have been successful with early intervention and preventative measures that have reduced the cost of children in care and the spending levels on Children's Services.

This is an area that is absolutely vital not only to ensure that every child in the county enjoys the care that we would expect for our own children but that we also protect all our other critical services including: maintaining roads, collecting waste, road safety, flood defences and public transport – all of which are at risk if we don't get a grip on the escalating cost of Children's Services.

### 2. Potholes

I would ask that residents continue to report any issue related to: potholes; lights, signals and signs; damage to pavement or kerb; road markings and stud issues trees, hedges and vegetation; drainage and flooding; spillages or obstructions on the road; Winter Maintenance - Grit and PROW - public footpaths & bridleways (not pavements).

issues can also be logged here:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/>

### **3. Have your say on healthy lifestyles service**

Gloucestershire County Council wants to hear your views on their proposed changes to the healthy lifestyle service.

As part of the council's legal duty to improve the health and wellbeing of local people and reduce health inequalities, they provide a [healthy lifestyles service that supports people to make changes like quitting smoking or losing weight](#).

The current contract comes to an end in March 2024 and the council wants to hear your feedback on their proposed changes for the new service starting on 1 April 2024.

Since the healthy lifestyles service was first put in place in 2017, there has been an increase in lifestyles support available to every adult in the county including the [NHS digital weight management programme](#) and the Community Wellbeing Service.

With this in mind, the council is proposing to change the weight management offer (currently a referral to Slimming World) to more bespoke, targeted support for those people who find it most difficult to benefit from mainstream services. The aim is to continue to work with community organisations to deliver personalised support alongside activities already available in their local community.

It was announced in September that [£3.6 million would be invested into a separate bespoke service for children and families](#), as recent data shows a significant increase in the number of young people that have obesity since the start of the pandemic.

Without intervention, childhood obesity tends to carry on into adulthood and can cause serious health complications like heart disease and diabetes. The support for children is therefore not part of this consultation.

The consultation runs until Sunday 16 April. You can have your say by [taking part in the survey here](#).

### **4. New campaign to save energy costs and cut carbon**

An energy-saving campaign has been launched by Gloucestershire County Council aimed at helping residents to save money and carbon this winter.

The campaign, called 'Cutting costs and carbon', encourages people to see what they can do to reduce energy usage and make their homes more energy-efficient.

In the UK, around 22 per cent of the country's carbon emissions come from our homes - including emissions from heating, lighting and appliances.

According to the Energy Saving Trust (EST), the average household could save about £280 a year on its fuel bills by being more energy-efficient. This equates to more than a tonne of carbon emissions per household every year.

The campaign aims to save residents money by helping them reduce the amount of energy consumed in their homes by making simple changes or investing in low energy solutions.

It will run until the middle of March and focus on three different areas - measures which involve no cost, low cost and some cost. Some of the ideas include:

No cost:

- Turning boiler flow rates down - save an average of £100 a year
- Switching appliances off rather than leaving them on standby - save an average of £70 a year
- Turning the oven off 10 minutes before your food is ready - it will retain heat and continue cooking

Low cost:

- Radiator reflectors
- Draught excluders - save an average of £60 a year
- Secondary glazing

Some cost:

- Switching to LED lights - save up to £55 a year
- Renewable opportunities - save up to £455 a year
- Home insulation - save up to £355 a year

All costs taken from <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/energy-saving-advice/>

## 5. The Holiday Activities and Food Programme returns from 3 - 14 April

The Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) is funded by the Department of Education, for children eligible for benefits related free school meals.

Families will be able to access up to four days of fun activities for free in their local area.

This spring, the line up of enriching activities available includes family days out, sensory play, football, basketball, forest skills, gymnastics and much more.

Using grant funding, the county council and its district partners are also able to offer holiday activities which are available to all children and young people across the county, through its Holiday Activity Programme (HAP).

To find out what is happening in YOUR local area and when all activities are taking place, families can [follow their HAF district lead on social media for updates](#).

Activity bookings will open on **Thursday 16 March**.

Parents and carers can make sure they are HAF ready by [signing up to the Children's Activity and Booking System \(CABS\)](#). Families who have registered previously will be automatically enrolled and do not need to sign up again.

More information is available for parents at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf).

Additional support will also be available for families through the [Holiday Free School Meal Vouchers scheme](#) which will be running again during the spring school holidays. Details will be available soon and families are encouraged to check [our website](#) regularly for updates.

## 6. Extra winter fuel payments for Homes for Ukraine hosts

Gloucestershire County Council and local councils will continue to pay £125 per month to those hosting on the Homes for Ukraine scheme for February and March 2023.

Hosts involved in the scheme have already received a £125 payment to help cover increased energy costs for November and December 2022, and January 2023. The decision comes following the Government's extension of the Homes for Ukraine scheme for an additional year.

### Could you become a host?

Gloucestershire's Homes for Ukraine team is always looking for people who can offer a Ukrainian guest a safe place to stay under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The team are looking for people who might have a second home, rental property, annex, or spare rooms anywhere in Gloucestershire and particularly in the Cheltenham area.

If you would be interested in supporting someone fleeing war for at least six months, please get in touch with the Homes for Ukraine team

via [hfuteam@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:hfutuream@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

An optional tax-free 'thank you' payment of £350 per sponsoring household per month is also available to hosts who can accommodate one or more guests for up to twelve months. This rises to £450 for months seven to twelve in Gloucestershire.

After twelve months this 'thank you' payment is increased to £500 per household.

The fuel payment extension of £125 per month for February and March 2023 is in addition to this.

Find out more online at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/your-community/ukrainian-support](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/your-community/ukrainian-support)

## 7. Contact

My contact details are [Linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk), telephone: 07791

110906. If you would like to discuss any of the items included here or have any other issues or ideas please get in touch.

# Stroud District Councillors' Report – May 2023

## Report of meetings during April 2023

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

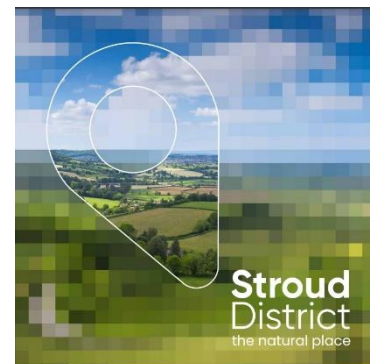
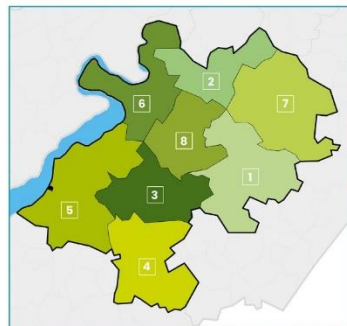
<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings>

Recordings of meetings are available via the Council's You Tube channel (Live recordings):

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeH\\_AmF0s-TShcYIM8Stweg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeH_AmF0s-TShcYIM8Stweg)

### New prospectus to support investment

The business sector has joined with Stroud District Council in a new venture to boost investment in the district. The new prospectus: 'Stroud District - The Natural Place' was launched on 27 April. The aim is to stimulate investment by helping people discover what makes our local places, people and businesses so special. It will help enterprises which want to establish themselves in the Stroud district, as well as existing businesses wishing to expand or diversify. The prospectus also sets out the 'Great Eight' local area clusters across the district. The online prospectus can be viewed online or downloaded at: [www.strouddistrict.co.uk](http://www.strouddistrict.co.uk)



### Strategy & Resources Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> April

The committee agreed the following items:

- **Kingshill House** in Dursley - the charity Kingshill House Limited provides a valued programme of events, classes and workshops focused on creativity, health and wellbeing at the Kingshill House site which is owned by the Council. SDC already provides some grant funding to the charity and will continue working with them with a view to agreeing a revised lease. SDC had previously agreed to work towards a Community Asset Transfer of the building. However, that is no longer being sought by the Kingshill House Trust and instead a further lease is being considered, as the current lease is due to expire next October.
- **Stroud Cemetery Chapel** - following negotiations with the Stroud Preservation Trust, the

Committee unanimously agreed to grant the Trust a lease for the Chapel, along with funding to cover the cost of essential works to bring the building back into use. This reflects strong local support for this historic building to remain in community ownership.

- **Procurement Strategy** – agreed to update the SDC Strategy for adoption later this year.
- **Other reports** on budget monitoring and reports from recent meetings and groups: Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee, Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee, Canal Project Update, Fit For the Future Update programme, Regeneration and Investment Board, Leadership Gloucestershire.

### **Development Control Committee – 25<sup>th</sup> April**

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- Follow-up report for planning application s.22/2596/HHOLD at 32 Wharfdale Way, Hardwicke, Gloucester. Erection of double garage to side of main house. Application permitted.
- Land Adjacent to, Dozule Close, Leonard Stanley, Gloucestershire (S.21/2860/OUT) Outline application for 13 houses of which 9 are custom build houses and 4 affordable together with associated access, parking & amenity spaces. Application refused.
- Thomas Keble School, Eastcombe, Stroud, Gloucestershire (S.23/0188/VAR) Variation of Condition 25 (Construction Delivery times) of planning permission S.22/0918/FUL (as amended by S.22/2197/VAR). Application permitted.
- Land Parcels A & B, Near Whitminster, Gloucestershire (S.22/2098/VAR) Section 73 Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of Permission S.21/0465/FUL (The construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning for a renewable energy scheme of up to a 49.9 megawatt (MW) solar farm and up to a 49.9MW battery storage facility). Variation to consist of two point-of-contact masts required to connect solar farm to electricity grid, reconfiguration of solar arrays and addition of spare containers. Application permitted.
- Land north east of, Kingston Road, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire (S.22/1157/FUL) Installation and operation of a 36MW battery storage facility. Application permitted.

### **Audit & Standards Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> April**

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The Committee considered the following items:

- Revised Complaints & Feedback Policy ([link](#)) and flowchart ([link](#))
- Follow up review of SDC [Planning Enforcement service](#)
- Information on SDC use of [Air Source Heat Pumps](#)
- Review of the Risk Management Strategy and policy statement

- Report of the Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit
- Internal Audit Plan for 2023-24
- Corporate Risk Register Update
- Internal Audit Activity Progress Report 2022-23.

## Council – 27<sup>th</sup> April

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Council agreed the following items:

- **Interim Fleet Procurement Strategy** for Ubico fleet replacement over the next four years, which will see the fleet use more electric vehicles (for lighter vehicles) and look to move to the lower carbon HVO – Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil - instead of diesel, for the heavier vehicles over 3.5 tonnes.
- **Ubico Five Year Vision And Business Plan 2023/2024**
- **Changes To Committee Membership**  
Committee changes were required due to two councillors recently leaving the Conservative Group:  
Cllr Nick Hurst (who had become disaffected with the direction of the national party which 'has moved away from solid Conservative values') ([link](#)) and Cllr Nick Housden who has 'stepped back' from the party, due to being arrested and more recently charged with assault causing actual bodily harm ([link](#)). Their committee places have been taken by other Conservative Group members.
- **Hunting** In the public questions the Leader confirmed that the SDC's Animal Welfare Charter prohibits hunting with dogs on council land.
- **Update to the Constitution** - minor amendments and updates.
- **LGA Corporate Peer Challenge** Revisit and Feedback Report.

The final report from the LGA is largely positive. It includes some final suggestions for ways that the Council can improve, which will be included in relevant service area's service plans for 2023/24. The peer challenge team report says:

*"...members of the peer team met with a focus group of town and parish councils to assess progress against the actions taken related to working with town and parish councils. Feedback from those who attended the focus group was positive, the district council was credited for driving forward the work with town and parish councils and the work developing the town and parish charter was singled out for praise. There was recognition from town and parish council stakeholders of the council taking a reciprocal rather than top down approach."*

*"Stroud [district] is in many ways a unique place with a strong industrial heritage, but with a real focus on the future and ensuring both the development but also sustainability of the district. This shines through both in the value base of the council and indeed its communities and the stakeholders we met with. The peer team found that what underpins all of this is strong partnerships between the council and its communities and both staff and council members who are real advocates for the council and the district."*

*“There is an overwhelming sense from those that the peer team spoke to of working for an organisation that does not just care about staff but wants staff to care about each other. The peer team heard that SDC has its heart in the right place, it has staff who want to work for an organisation that cares, that has a sense of purpose and is doing the right thing, a good employer and provider of services for the right reasons.”*

- **Motion on Domestic Abuse**

Gloucestershire County Council has prepared a Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-24: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2110605/gcc-domesticabuse-strategy.pdf> and SDC supports delivery of this strategy, along with the Police, the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS) and Stroud Beresford Women's Refuge. The council resolved to prepare a report to set out SDC's role in addressing Domestic Abuse.

- **Motion to reject the Illegal Migration Bill**

There was a lively debate on this motion. The Council noted that:

- At the end of 2021, around 89 million people were forcibly displaced across the world. Of these, 27 million were refugees, whilst 53 million were internally displaced within their country of origin.
- Of all the refugees in the world, 72% are living in countries neighbouring their country of origin, often in developing countries. The UK is home to approximately 1% of the refugees who were displaced across the world.
- In 2022, 75% of initial asylum decisions made by the UK Government resulted in a grant of asylum or other form of protection.
- The Government has brought forward yet another immigration bill, at a time when there are currently no safe routes to the UK for nationalities of many countries most likely to be granted asylum including those with family members in our local communities.
- People who arrive irregularly, when there are no safe and legal routes available to them, would never be allowed under the provisions of the new Illegal Migration Bill, to access the asylum system. Instead, they are likely to be detained and / or left destitute, without the right to work and in limbo indefinitely.
- The Illegal Migration Bill would also remove vital protections for women and children, and victims of trafficking, meaning they could all face detention.

The Council therefore voted to

1. Condemn the Illegal Migration Bill, which it considers to be in opposition to fundamental tenets of international human rights law, and represents an attack on migrants' rights.
2. Commit to defend the rights of all people in our communities to live side by side in dignity and to continuing to welcome those who make our district their home.
3. Call on the Home Secretary to: a) Withdraw the Illegal Migration Bill. b) Commit to resourcing an asylum system that can deliver fair and timely asylum decisions. c) End the Home Office contracts with providers of temporary, often poor quality and unsuitable accommodation for

asylum seekers.

4. Call on the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing and Communities to open discussions with local authorities about the best ways and resources needed to provide good quality long term accommodation for all those in need, including asylum seekers, within our communities.
5. Mandate our Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to this effect.

## **For information**

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### **By-election to be held for Painswick and Upton district council seat**

A district by-election in Painswick and Upton will be held on Wednesday 17 May 2023 following the resignation of Conservative Councillor Jason Bullingham, due to health reasons. This will be the first election in Stroud district where voters are required to present voter ID. Four candidates from the main political parties have confirmed that they will stand.

### **Allergy awareness**

Stroud District Council Food Safety Officers have been marking Allergy Awareness Week by sharing the practices of some of the food businesses with the highest safety ratings in the Stroud district. Officers inspecting food businesses have highlighted the best allergen practices of those that have particularly high standards.

### **First Bicycle Mayor for Stroud district**

James Jeffery has been chosen as the first Bicycle Mayor for Stroud district. James will be part of a wider network of bicycle mayors – a global cycling network that encourages bicycle mayors from across the world to collaborate and share ideas. The mayors stand for a two-year term and actively engage with industry, Government and residents to promote positive cycling initiatives and showcase cycling on a global and local platform. James has established a strong foundation locally – having already worked in various physical activity jobs, including as a school games organiser for Stroud district. He aims to encourage more people to take up cycling in the district, particularly children, with the aim of developing confident residents who cycle.

### **Independent Living scheme renovated**

The Independent Living scheme at Burdett House has been renovated to include an updated communal area, enhanced security features, a brand-new kitchen area and improved laundry room facilities. Burdett House is the ninth Independent Living scheme to be completed as part of Stroud District Council's £8million project to update and modernise its accommodation for older people in

the district.

### **Private landlord fined £10,000**

A landlord in Stroud has received a combined total of £10,478 in fines and costs for breaching safety regulations. Stroud District Council's Environmental Health Officers brought the successful prosecution against Mr Amonbir Mander who owned the London Hotel in Stroud, as the building fell below acceptable safety standards and there was a serious fire safety risk. London Road Hotel is now in the hands of new owners, having been sold by Mr Mander prior to appearing in court. The new owners are working closely with council officers to improve standards.

### **Rodent problems**

Stroud District Council Pest Control Officers are advising people to check their homes and business for the tell-tale signs of pests. The council offers a professional and competitively priced pest control service for people who would rather not deal with pests themselves. Spring is often the time when people find evidence of rats and mice in their homes and businesses. Spring cleaning can uncover signs of rodents which can be drawn to homes and gardens as their natural food sources such as seeds, nuts and berries are scarce.

### **New addition to the Cotswold Boatmobility fleet**

Access to the Stroudwater Canal will be enjoyed by many more people thanks to the launch of Symphony, a new wheelchair accessible boat. Symphony is the second wheelchair accessible boat for the Stonehouse based charity Cotswold Boatmobility and was sponsored by the Cotswold Canals Connected partnership.

The volunteer run Cotswold Boatmobility aims to make boating accessible for all with wheelchair accessible boats and katanus, an amalgamation of a catamaran and canoe. Participants typically have mobility, mental health or learning issues and without the charity would struggle to get onto the water. The charity has also welcomed visits from other groups (including the Wotton Beaver Scouts, who are booked to attend in the coming weeks).

### **Canal Spring Festival - 13/14 May 2023**

The canal spring festival will include canoeing, paddleboarding, boating, live music, dog shows, arts and crafts, and children's activities. The Canal Spring Festival will take place on Sunday 14 May at various locations along the canal in Stonehouse, including St Cyr's Church, Boakes Drive and Stonehouse Court Hotel. It will be preceded by The Lock Challenge (TLC) on Saturday 13 May which will see participants walk or run 5k, 5 mile and 10 mile routes along the canal towpaths. There will also be an accessible route of up to 3k, which is open to all (follow the link to register: <https://www.letsdothis.com/gb/e/tlc-193303>). The weekend of events aims to highlight the incredible resource that is the Stroudwater canal, and to encourage more people to use and visit it.

