

STONE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk
Les Trigg

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18th April, 2016

A meeting of the **STONE TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING** will be held at **STONE STATION COMMUNITY CENTRE**, on **THURSDAY 28TH APRIL, 2016** at **7.00pm** when the following business will be transacted.

I trust you will be able to attend.

Les Trigg
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. **To receive apologies for absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting held on Thursday 30th April 2015 (copy attached)**
4. **To receive the Annual Report of Stone Town Council from the Town Mayor, Councillor Mike Williamson**
5. **To receive any other relevant reports from Town, County and Borough Councillors and other organisations**
6. **To consider any questions or matters of interest raised by residents**

Stone Town Council – Annual Public Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held in the Stone Station Community Centre on Thursday 30 April, 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs C Collier in the Chair and
Councillors H Brunt, G Collier, Mrs J Farnham, M Green, Mrs J Hood, T Jackson, P
Jones, R Kenney, Mrs J Piggott, Mrs J Price, M Shaw, Mrs S Shaw and Miss A
Tomlinson

Also present ten members of public and one member of the press.

ABSENT: Councillor Mrs C Hearing, Mrs M Goodall, Miss J Nelson and M Williamson

C15/075 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs M Goodall and M Williamson

C15/076 Declarations of Interest

None received.

C15/077 Minutes

RESOLVED

- a) that the Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting held on the 24th April, 2014, copies having been circulated to the members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C15/078 Annual Report of Stone Town Council

The Annual Report of Stone Town Council (copy attached) was received.

C15/079 Reports from Town, County, Borough Councillors and Members of Other Organisations

Councillor Mrs J Hood spoke as Chairman of Age Concern, saying that Age Concern Stone is a stand-alone organisation covering a huge area. The organisation did not apply for a grant last year due to staffing redundancies. All staff are now volunteers. Without Age Concern in the Town there would be a huge void. She finished by asking the next Mayor to consider Age Concern when they decide on their charities for the year.

She also thanked the Mayor and Consort for a great year.

Councillor H Brunt stated that there was no mention of the £100,000 in the Annual Report. The Clerk stated that it has been transferred to reserves, but as yet, there has been no decision made on what to do with it.

Councillor M Green stated his disappointment that Councillor I Parry was not in attendance. He went on to say that something urgently needs to be done regarding the state of the roads in Walton as many residents are now having to pay for repairs to their cars. He asked that Stone Town Council support the residents request to the County Council for a rolling programme of repairs to the roads.

County Councillor P Jones reported that Staffordshire County Council have several priorities that affect Stone. The main priority is improving prosperity and there has been an investment of more than £8m across the County. This will result in 2,500 jobs for local people which goes hand in hand with the new property developments. It will be long term employment and will help to regenerate the High Street.

Support has also been given to Mansion House doctor's surgery to expand its practice.

County Councillor Jones was aware that Highways have not been able to respond to all of the requests for road repairs but they will endeavour to get the work done. He will also be contacting Councillor I Parry impressing the urgency to speed up the work in Walton.

He finished by saying that each County Councillor has £10,000 of grants for their area. Over the last year he has given money to all Stone schools and towards the Common Plott building refurbishment among other projects.

Councillor Mrs J Farnham reported that she is concerned about speeding on Victor Street and stated that the speed humps are ineffective. She asked that Highways make the speed humps stronger and higher, and also to consider repairing the pavements in the area.

She also stated that there had been a problem with barbed wire on the Coppice. An enforcement order has been put in place and the barbed wire has been removed.

Councillor Mrs J Price thanked the Mayor for all of her work throughout the year, and also thanked the staff for their support over the time she has been on the Council.

Councillor H Brunt asked the Town Clerk if there has been any movement on "pop-up shops" in the Town. The Clerk stated he was no further on as the high rents of shops in the Town do not make it a viable proposition. Councillor Brunt asked the Clerk to negotiate the rents.

Councillor Mrs J Hood asked every Councillor to oppose the development by David Wilson Homes in Walton which has just won a judicial review.

C15/080 **Questions or Matters Raised by Residents**

A member of the public noted that the Town Council have put a bid in to run the Youth Centre and asked if it included a Youth Service. The Mayor responded by confirming that the proposal would be to take on the building as a Community Centre and will not involve a Youth Service.

A member of the public asked where the police lamp that was outside the Police Station on Radford Street has gone. The Clerk responded that the lamp did not form part of the planning application, and that when queries had been made into the whereabouts of the lamp, no response was received.

A member of the public who lives at The Moorings shared his concerns regarding the proposed supermarket on Westbridge Park that will be sited immediately opposite The Moorings. He asked that the residents' situation be highlighted when any future discussions regarding the development take place.

A resident from Newcastle Street highlighted issues regarding unsafe parking around Newcastle Street and St Dominic's School. He said that parking wardens don't patrol that part of the road or attend to any of the illegal parking. He highlighted it as a serious traffic problem and asked that the Town Council put pressure on the management team of the school and traffic management teams, particularly at school opening and closing times. Councillor R Kenney stated that the junction of Newcastle Street and Margaret Street has been discussed recently and that Stone Town Council asked for double yellow lines in that area on both sides of Newcastle Street. Councillor G Collier said he had not received any complaints about that area but he would look in to it if he is re-elected.

A Stone resident asked about developments in the Town and referred to the Plan for Stafford Borough. The Clerk reported that Stone Town Council is considering putting a Neighbourhood Plan together, but stated that such a plan could not change the Stafford Borough Plan but would add detail to it.

Town Mayor