

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 1 March, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor R Kenney in the Chair and
Councillors Mrs C Collier, G Collier, J Davies, Mrs J Farnham, Mrs M Goodall, Mrs K Green, M Green, T Jackson, Mrs J Hood, G Neagus, A Osgathorpe, Mrs J Piggott, M Shaw and M Williamson

ABSENT: Councillors Ms L Bakker-Collier, P Leason and Mrs E Mowatt

GP16/138 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Ms L Bakker-Collier, P Leason and Mrs E Mowatt. Also, County Councillors P Jones and I Parry

GP16/139 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None received

GP16/140 Presentation by Karen Wardell, Stone Community Hub

Mrs Wardell was welcomed to the meeting and spoke on behalf of the Trustees of the Stone Community Hub. The Hub is a registered charity and is based at the Frank Jordan Centre. Its mission is to make lives better and this is done by offering support and advice and also offering opportunities for social interaction and learning. There has been a withdrawal of Stafford Borough Council funding. Various new services are due to start and it is hoped that these will help to fund the existing services. It is expected that there will be a loss of around £6000 this year. Mrs Wardell invited Councillors to visit to see the services which are being offered.

Mrs Wardell was thanked for attending.

GP16/141 To receive the reports of the County Councillors

County Councillor P Jones tended his apologies

County Councillor I Parry tended his apologies

It was agreed to send a list of concerns to the County Councillors as neither were in attendance. The issues raised were:

- Subway at Walton has been flooded again resulting in children crossing the A34 on their way to school
- Can County Council support Stone Community Hub with funding?
- Manhole cover on Crown Street outside Joules Court makes a noise every time a vehicle goes over it
- There are still drivers making u-turns outside the new fire station on A34 which is dangerous. This has been mentioned before and Members ask for an update
- State of roads all over the town needs addressing

* Items marked with an asterisk refer to reports or papers circulated with the agenda or distributed at the meeting. They are attached as an appendix to the signed copy of the Council minutes.

- No update received regarding dangerous bend on Aston Lodge or entrance to co-op car-park on Crown Street
- Machinery was situated on the green area of Newcastle Road when the recent works were undertaken. Since the machinery has been removed the area has not been made good. As a consequence, every time it rains the road is covered in mud.
- Lots of road works have been taking place but there is a lack of road sweeping which means debris is being carried around the town

RESOLVED: to write to the County Councillors with the above concerns

GP16/142 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP16/143 **Minutes**

RESOLVED

- a) that the minutes of the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee held on the 16th February, 2016, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record and that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee at Minute TTP16/039 be adopted.

Councillor M Green commented that Minute Number TTP16/040 Preparation of the Town Guide, the guide should include a street index as well as a map.

Councillor J Davies updated Members regarding Minute Number TTP16/039 saying that the MOD are in receipt of a letter from the Town Council regarding assistance at the event to commemorate 100 years since the end of World War 1 in 2018.

GP16/144 **Pumphouse**

Councillor R Kenney commented that the Town Council had become the “middle man” between the Scouts and the Borough Council and recommended that any future conversations regarding a lease take place directly between them rather than through the Town Council. This proposal was amended to say that should the Scouts vacate, Stafford Borough Council give Stone Town Council first refusal on the building.

The amendment was carried.

The updated motion was carried.

RESOLVED: to facilitate a lease agreement for the Pumphouse directly between Stafford Borough and the Scouts, and to ask for first refusal of the Pumphouse should the Scouts vacate the premises

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GP16/145 **West Midlands Rail Franchise Consultation**

Councillor Mrs J Hood has circulated papers to the working group. Meetings have been attended by Jon Heal and Councillor Williamson. Mr Heal has given a detailed response to question 9. Councillor Mrs Hood proposed that the Mr Heals notes be used in Stone Town Council's response to the consultation. This was agreed.

RESOLVED: to respond to the West Midlands Rail Franchise Consultation with the notes received from Mr Heal

GP16/146 **Financial Regulations**

In accordance with normal practice, the updated Financial Regulations will stand deferred until the next meeting of the committee. The Clerk asked Members to contact him with any questions or comments prior to the next meeting if possible.

GP16/147 **Annual Review of Risk Assessment**

Members noted the document and suggested that this be looked at in the Management Sub-Committee next year.

GP16/148 **Proposed Dates for Mayor Making**

The proposed dates were noted as follows:
Tuesday 10th May – Mayor Making
Tuesday 17th May – General Purposes and Planning

GP16/149 **Member's Motions under Standing Order 4**

Councillor M Green

"I would like to propose that the Council push for the bollard at the top of the High Street be repaired or replaced.

It has been missing for over six months and despite phone calls from the council office it still has not been replaced.

My point is that on Friday I caught a town trader in the High Street, with his van, at 11:45 in the morning. He must have moved the temporary cone and proceeded down the High Street.

This therefore becomes a hazard to the public who use the High Street and think it is safe after 10:00."

RESOLVED: to write to Highways to follow up complaint

GP16/150 **Member's Motions under Standing Order 4**

Councillor G Collier

"I have had complaints about the amount of dog mess on the pavements around Stonefield Square and surrounding areas. After watching 'Caught on Camera' on television, a resident and myself have the idea of using cyclist head cams to catch the culprits. I ask the members to support this idea and will give more information at the meeting."

RESOLVED: to make contact with Stafford Borough Council initially, and ask the Clerk to look at legalities of filming and costs of cameras

GP16/151 **Member's Motions under Standing Order 4**

Councillor G Collier

“Some residents in Lichfield Road have requested traffic calming measures such as signs or chicanes to reduce the number of speeding motorists. I ask the members to support their request for traffic calming.”

RESOLVED: to write to Highways for an investigation into the speeding traffic on Lichfield Road

GP16/152 **Extension of Meeting Time under Standing Order 4.25**

RESOLVED: to agree to extend the length of the meeting beyond 1.5 hours

GP16/153 **Update from Working Groups**

- a) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Councillor Mrs J Hood reported that there will be a Town Tour with members of the public on Saturday March 12th starting from Crown Wharf Car Park at 10:30am.

The next meeting of the Steering Group will take place on Thursday 3rd March at 6pm in the Council Chamber.

GP16/154 **To receive reports from Town Councillors on attendance at meetings of local organisations and outside bodies as a representative of the Town Council**

Councillor Mrs K Green attended the Age Concern meeting. Age Concern Stone falls under the umbrella of Age UK. Volunteers are now driving people to medical appointments as a new service being offered. There is also a lunch club that has recently started.

Councillor Mrs Cathy Collier also attended the Age Concern meeting. She also attended the Stafford & Stone Access Group. A website is being set up that will name and shame shops and businesses with limited access. Refuse workers have been asked to place bins back after emptying allowing space for people to get past.

Town Mayor