

Stone Town Council

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 9 February, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor M Williamson in the Chair, and
Councillors Ms L Bakker-Collier, Mrs C Collier, G Collier, J Davies, Mrs J Farnham,
Mrs M Goodall, M Green, Mrs K Green, Mrs J Hood, T Jackson, R Kenney, P Leason,
Mrs E Mowatt, G Neagus, A Osgathorpe, Mrs J Piggott and M Shaw

ABSENT: None

C16/062 Apologies

None received

C16/063 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None received

C16/064 Minutes

RESOLVED

- a) That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 5th January, 2016, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record

C16/065 Committee Minutes

RESOLVED

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 5th January, 2016, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record
- b) That the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 5th January, 2016, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record
- c) That the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 12th January, 2016, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record

* 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.

- d) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 26th January, 2016, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record

C16/066 To set the Council's Budget for 2016-17 to 2017-18 and to set the Council Tax for the year

RESOLVED: In respect of the Town Council's budget for 2016-17 to 2018-19

1. The Budget recommended by the General Purposes Committee on 26 January 2016, and set out in the Clerk's report to this meeting, is agreed.
2. The precept on Stafford Borough Council should be £242,402 for 2016-17, made up of £224,333 from Council Tax and £18,069 from Local Council Tax Support Grant, and resulting in a Band D Council Tax of £40.09 for this Council's purposes.
3. The wording for the 2016-17 Council Tax leaflet should be:

"Stone Town Council provides services to the people and town of Stone. These services include two community centres, two allotment sites, two free car parks, Crown Meadow Nature Reserve, the provision of bus shelters and benches, the Town Market and Christmas lights. It also provides grants to charitable and community organisations, supports various festivals and works to promote the town and encourage visitors. This year the Council will be investing in the town centre and events. We are currently preparing a Neighbourhood Plan that will help to shape the future of Stone for years to come. At its monthly meetings the Council welcomes questions from the public and sets aside time to listen and respond. Assistance with public questions will gladly be given by the Council's staff."

4. The Clerk is authorised to seek tenders/quotations, place orders and make payments in accordance with this budget, the Council's policies, and Financial Regulations.

**C16/067 Local Government Transparency Code 2014
Openness of Public Bodies Regulations 2014**

The reports of the Local Government Transparency Code 2014 and Openness of Public Bodies Regulations 2014 were noted.

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C16/068 **Member's Motions under Standing Order 4**

Councillor Mrs J Hood

“On Tuesday 15th December, during the Tourism and Town Promotion Sub-Committee meeting, Councillor Margaret Goodall reported on her attendance at Christmas Lights events in other towns in the capacity of Town Mayor's Consort. Her remarks were unkind and critical, thereby potentially jeopardising Stone's relationship with those towns.

As Chairman of the Sub-Committee, I wrote to her to ask for a public apology, pointing out that in attending as Mayor's Consort she was acting as an ambassador representing Stone. No apology has been forthcoming to date, and she has been reported in the press as saying that she will not be apologising.

As a result of this incident, I would ask the Council to:

1. Express its lack of confidence in Councillor Goodall to represent the Council as Mayor's Consort, and,
2. Request that the Town Mayor reconsiders his choice of Consort for the remainder of the Mayoral year.”

Councillor Mrs J Hood withdrew her item.

C16/069 **Civic Announcements**

The Civic Announcements, which were previously circulated, were noted.

C16/070 **Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Announcements**

The Town Mayor's Announcements were circulated and noted.

TOWN MAYOR

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