

# Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

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

**PRESENT:** Councillor R Kenney 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, P Leason,  
Mrs E Mowatt, G Neagus, A Osgathorpe, Mrs J Piggott, M Shaw and M Williamson

**ABSENT:** None

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**GP16/126** **Apologies**

Apologies were received from County Councillor P Jones

**GP16/127** **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

Councillor P Leason, Mrs H Hood and R Kenney declared a personal interest in  
Minute Number GP16/132, Grant Request for St Michael's Community Hall

**GP16/128** **To receive the reports of the County Councillors**

County Councillor P Jones tendered his apologies

County Councillor I Parry was absent

Councillor M Green requested that a report be sent by the County Councillors if  
they are unable to attend the meetings.

**GP16/129** **Representations from Members of the Public**

Having declared a personal interest in Minute GP16/132, Councillor Mrs J Hood  
spoke as a member of the public and asked the committee to support the grant  
request for St Michael's Community Hall.

**GP16/130** **To appoint a Member to the Liaison Group with other Parish Councils**

RESOLVED: to appoint Councillor J Davies as the Council's representative on the  
Liaison Group.

**GP16/131** **Ex-Servicemen's Bowls Match**

Councillor's noted the date of the match (Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016) and agreed to  
fund the buffet as in previous years.

**GP16/132**    **To consider the following request for grant from local organisation**

**St Michael's Community Hall**

The Committee considered the grant application received from St Michael's Community Hall.

RESOLVED: to award £300

**GP16/133**    **Consultations**

a) HS2

The HS2 Consultation information was received and noted.

b) West Midlands Rail Franchise

Councillor M Williamson reported that he had attended a public consultation at Stoke Station. He has also contacted Stone's MP, Sir Bill Cash about the development.

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor M Williamson and Councillor Mrs J Hood to represent the Council at the stakeholder meeting in Stafford.

RESOLVED: to establish a working group consisting of Councillors M Williamson, Mrs J Hood and R Kenney, and Mr J Heal, to report back to the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

**GP16/134**    **Member's Motions under Standing Order 4**

**Councillor P Leason**

"Since there have been a number of flats built in Church Street (including the conversion of the former Robin Hood pub) there has been a problem with parking for those attending services at St Michael and St Wulfad's Church. This has resulted in people having to park on the grass in the churchyard. Over the last few weeks with all the rain cars have started to get stuck and the grass has been churned up. The churchyard is now maintained by Stafford Borough Council and so the Church has written to them to ask if they would consider putting some form of matting on part of the grassed area which the grass can grow throughout allow cars to be parked. I would like the Town Council write to the Borough Council to support the churches request.

In the meantime, I would ask the Town Council to consider allowing members of the congregation to use the carpark at the Frank Jordan Centre when it is not being used on a Sunday. Perhaps this could be considered by the Estates Committee at their next meeting.

A number of people have expressed concern about cars parking in the churchyard over the old graves and having this item on the agenda will allow members to express their views and possibly come up with an alternative solution to the problem."

Councillor P Leason stated that it may be difficult to get planning permission for the matting for the grass due to it being consecrated ground. He suggests that a solution would be to have the key to the Frank Jordan Centre car-park which avoids caretaking costs.

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\* 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.

RESOLVED: To consider this issue at the next meeting of the Estates Committee, upon receipt of a report from the Town Clerk regarding the possible implications.

**GP16/135 Councillor A Osgathorpe**

“That the Town Council informs Stafford Borough Council that it does not support the Ploszajski Lynch Report, (A Sports Facilities Strategy for Stone and Surrounding Area, Final Report – September 2013)”

RESOLVED: to write to Stafford Borough Council to state that Stone Town Council does not support the Ploszajski Lynch Report.

**GP16/136 Update from Working Groups**

a) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Councillor Mrs J Hood stated that the group are forging ahead. Members walked the Town on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February with Hannah Barter from Urban Vision. This is in preparation for a meeting with the public at Crown Wharf. The state of the Town came as a shock e.g. street furniture, litter, chewing gum. P Leason will do a short talk about Stone’s heritage at the public meeting.

**GP16/137 To receive reports from Town Councillors on attendance at meetings of local organisations and outside bodies as a representative of the Town Council**

None received

**Town Mayor**