

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 2 August, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor R Kenney in the Chair and
Councillors Mrs C Collier, G Collier, Mrs J Farnham (until Minute Number
GP17/050), Mrs M Goodall, Mrs K Green, M Green, Mrs J Hood, T Jackson, P Leason,
Mrs E Mowatt, G Neagus, Mrs J Piggott, A Osgathorpe, M Shaw and M Williamson

Absent: Councillor J Davies

GP17/035 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor J Davies.

GP17/036 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None received.

GP17/037 Presentation by Stone Radio

Stone Radio gave a presentation to Stone Town Council and asked for support. They would like the free use of community rooms within internet access range, and a guaranteed length of time that the building could be used for. This would enable them to get the project moving.

RESOLVED: to take to a special Estates meeting on 16th August to discuss further.

GP17/038 To receive the reports of the County Councillors

County Councillor I Parry was not in attendance.

County Councillor P Jones reported that the number of Looked After Children in the County has dropped below 1000 for the first time.

He also reported that there will need to be reductions in social care funding.

All schools in Stone are showing steady progress and Alleyne's Academy have just had a Good Ofsted judgement.

Councillor Jackson and County Councillor Jones attended a small event at Meaford to mark the end of the first phase of construction for the Meaford Power Station. The Power Station will provide 800 well paid science based jobs.

Councillor Jones was disappointed that Stafford Borough Council has given permission for an 11m high building to be built on land near to the power station which will be visible to residents on Whitebridge Manor. He asked that Stone Town Council writes to Stafford Borough Council for tree planting and landscaping to preserve the rural aspect of the area. It was suggested that the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan includes special designation at Meaford.

Councillor Mrs M Goodall reported that the Pumphouse installation on Northesk

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Street has been removed.

Councillor P Leason reported that a road sign “Walton (Stone)” has disappeared from between the footbridge and Walton roundabout on the A34. Councillor R Kenney reported that signs have disappeared on Rookery Lane regarding a 7.5tonne weight limit, and give way signs were obscured by vegetation. These points will be referred to Highways by County Councillor Jones.

GP17/039 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP17/040 **Minutes**

RESOLVED

- a) that the minutes of the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee held on the 19th July, 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 Minutes TTP17/004, TTP17/005 and TTP17/006 be adopted.
- b) that the minutes of the Estates Sub-Committee held on the 19th July, 2016, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

GP17/041 **Terms of Reference**

The Committee considered draft terms of reference for the General Purposes and Planning Committees as presented by the Clerk.

RESOLVED: The Terms of Reference for the General Purposes and Planning Committees were approved.

GP17/042 **Station Road Toilets**

The Committee considered the Town Clerk’s report* regarding the proposed closure of Station Road toilets by Stafford Borough Council.

Members were in agreement that the toilets should be kept open.

RESOLVED: to take on the running of the Station Road Toilets. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Stafford Borough Council to ask them to continue running the toilets beyond the current August 2016 deadline to allow the Town Council to make proper arrangements for taking them over.

GP17/043 **Budget Monitoring**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk*.

The Clerk stated that the budget is generally on target and he has no major concerns about it.

The Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk were thanked for the production of the report.

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RESOLVED: to accept the Budget Monitoring Report.

GP17/044 **National Pay Award 2016-17 and 2017-18**

The Clerk presented his report* to the Committee on the implementation of the national pay award.

After this, officers of Stone Town Council left the meeting for the remainder of this item.

RESOLVED: to refer this item to the next Management Sub-Committee.

GP17/045 **Off-Street Parking Order**

The Committee considered proposals from Stafford Borough Council to Members regarding proposed new timings and pricing structure for car parks in the Town.

RESOLVED: to write to object to the new charges and to ask the Stafford Borough Council to reconsider.

GP17/046 **Member's Motions under Standing Order 4**

Councillor Mrs J Hood

"At the meeting on 17 May 2016 the committee resolved to appoint annually two Mayor's Cadets for the ensuing year and to approve an associated protocol. The protocol provided the Mayor's Cadets to support the Mayor on these specific occasions: at the annual Mayor Making, on Civic Sunday, and on Remembrance Sunday.

At the forthcoming Burma Star Commemoration to be held in Stonefield Park on Sunday 14 August 2016 the Town Mayor will participate and lay a wreath. Therefore, I ask the Town Council to agree that the Mayor's Cadets may support the Town Mayor both at this and future annual Burma Star Commemorations."

RESOLVED: to allow the Mayor's Cadets to be in attendance at the annual Burma Star Commemorations.

GP17/047 **Member's Motions under Standing Order 4**

Councillor R Kenney

"More and more Town and Parish Councils are being asked to take an increased role in delivery of services. The Government's vision for the 'Big Society' envisages increasingly local delivery of services and local engagement with citizens.

I would therefore like the support of the Council to ask the Town Clerk to produce a report on devolution of services from Stafford Borough Council. The report would contain such things as which we could take on and improve, also costs and how they could be funded and if monies would be available from the Stafford Borough Council part of residents Council Tax."

RESOLVED: to support Councillor Kenney's motion

GP17/048 **Update from Working Groups**

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a) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Councillor Mrs J Hood reported that the graphic design hasn't yet been agreed. The draft Plan has been submitted to Stafford Borough Council, and should be discussed in a meeting on 9th August.

GP17/049 To receive reports from Town Councillors on attendance at meetings of local organisations and outside bodies as a representative of the Town Council

Stone ATC – Cllr M Williamson and Mayor

No report

Age Concern Stone & District – Cllr Mrs C Collier and Cllr Mrs K Green

No meeting taken place

Stone Town Band – Mayor

No report

Walton Community Centre – Cllr M Shaw

Walton Community Association are in the process of getting a Public Access Defibrillator and will be asking the Town Council for a grant to support it.

Stafford & Stone Access Group – Cllr Mrs C Collier

No meeting taken place

Stone Common Plott Trustees – Cllr Mrs C Collier, Cllr G Collier, Cllr M Shaw, Cllr R Kenney, Cllr Mrs J Hood

A 60ft long crush is to be installed to help with the treatment of cattle on the Plott.

RESOLVED: to adjourn the following items until after the Planning Committee Meeting.

GP17/050 To resolve, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting whilst the next item of business is discussed on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the debate

This was RESOLVED

GP17/051 Confidential Minutes

RESOLVED

- a) that the confidential minutes of the Estates Sub-Committee held on the 19th July, 2016, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record and that the recommendation of the Sub-Committee at Minutes EST17/010 and EST17/014 be agreed.

The Committee considered the proposed refurbishment works at the Frank Jordan Centre.

RESOLVED:

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- a) To suspend Standing Order 4.25 to allow the completion of this item.
- b) That the confidential minutes of the Estates Sub-Committee held on the 19th July, 2016, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- c) That further discussion take place at the Estates Committee meeting on 16 August 2016.

Town Mayor