

STONE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk

Les Trigg

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30th January, 2017

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL**, to be held in the **Council Chamber, 15 Station Road, Stone**, on **TUESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY, 2017** at **7.00pm** when the following business will be transacted.

Les Trigg
Town Clerk

Agenda

1. **To receive apologies for absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations Received**
3. **Representations from Members of the Public**
4. **To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 6th December, 2016, Minute No's. C17/064 – C17/070 (attached)**
5. **To receive the Minutes and decisions of the under mentioned Committees:**
 - a) General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 6th December, 2016, Minute Numbers GP17/102 – GP17/117 (attached)
 - b) Planning Committee Meeting held on the 6th December, 2016, Minute Numbers P17/070 – P17/074 (attached)
 - c) General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 13th December, 2016, Minute Numbers GP17/118 – GP17/121 (attached)
 - d) Planning Committee Meeting held on the 13th December, 2016, Minute Numbers P17/075 – P17/079 (attached)
 - e) Planning Committee Meeting held on the 3rd January, 2017, Minute Numbers P17/080 – P17/084 (attached)
 - f) Planning Committee Meeting held on the 17th January, 2017, Minute Numbers P17/085 – P17/089 (attached)
 - g) General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 24th January, 2017, Minute Numbers GP17/122 – GP17/128 (attached)

6. **To consider the Council's budget for 2017-18 and to set the Council Tax for the year.**
To consider the report of the Town Clerk (attached)
7. **Local Government Transparency Code 2014**
Openness of Public Bodies Regulations 2014
Information for Quarter Ending 31 December 2016 (attached)
8. **To receive the forthcoming Civic Announcements** (attached)
9. **To receive the Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Reports of Engagements**
(attached)

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Council Meeting as observers. Persons attending should enter the Borough Area Office through the rear entrance door (adjacent to the car park). The Council Chamber is at the top of the stairs.

Stone Town Council

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 6 December, 2016

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

ABSENT: Councillors Mrs C Collier, G Collier, P Leason and M Shaw

C17/064 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor M Shaw

C17/065 Declarations of Interest

None received.

C17/066 Representations from Members of the Public

None received.

C17/067 Minutes

RESOLVED

- a) That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 1st November, 2016, copies having been circulated to the members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record

C17/068 Committee Minutes

RESOLVED

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 1st November, 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 15th November, 2016, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record

C17/069 **Civic Announcements**

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

Councillor J Davies wished to add that Limestone Brewery are holding a charity event to launch a lager on 16th December. One of the charities will be “The Mayor’s Charities” and Members attending were encouraged to support the Mayor’s Charities.

C17/070 **Town Mayor’s and Deputy Town Mayor’s Announcements**

The Town Mayor’s and Deputy Mayor’s Announcements were circulated and noted.

Councillor J Davies commented on the great support of Remembrance this year, including the Mayor’s Cadets.

He also showed members gifts received from Bagnacavallo.

Councillor J Davies invited all Members to a Christmas buffet at the conclusion of tonight’s meetings.

TOWN MAYOR

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 6 December, 2016

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

Councillors Mrs C Collier, G Collier and P Leason for part of the meeting

Absent: Councillors M Shaw

GP17/102 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor M Shaw

GP17/103 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

Councillor I Fordham declared a pecuniary interest in Minute Number GP17/114 due to the location of the property.

Councillors G Neagus, Mrs J Piggott and M Williamson declared a personal interest in Minute Number GP17/110 due to their membership of the Festival Committee.

GP17/104 **To receive the reports of the County Councillors**

County Councillor I Parry was absent.

County Councillor P Jones reported that Staffordshire County Council has been written to by the Secretary of State regarding the repatriation of children from Calais. This is different from the Syrian families who have already been settled in Staffordshire.

Councillor Jones commented that the financial situation for the County Council is still “trying”.

There has been £1.6m set aside for dealing with potholes.

A bollard at Harecastle Road will be replaced soon.

Highways are considering the appropriateness of traffic calming measures on the Priory Estate following a petition to stop racing. This is currently a police matter.

He referred to the outbuild of bollards on Newcastle Road which were erected by Stafford Borough Council without consulting Highways. This is a concern as long vehicles find it difficult to turn left onto Newcastle Road, and there is a planning application for an additional four houses in the area.

The Health Authority is producing a Sustainability and Transformation Plan which will include a reconfiguration of services. County Councillor Jones urged Members

* 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.

to consider and make comments on the plan when it is available.

Councillor Mrs J Hood asked the County Councillor about the proposed new footpath outside Mojo's. She commented that it is a waste of money as there is already perfectly adequate footpaths in the area. Councillor Jones took information away about this.

Councillor Mrs J Hood referred to a public meeting held by Sir Bill Cash MP regarding the proposed HS2 Railhead development, and said that comments had been made that an old traffic study has been used for accessing the site. County Councillor Jones said he would look into the study which had been used.

Councillor G Neagus commented that the "Welcome to Stone" signs are hidden by foliage and asked for this to be looked at. He also referred to potholes on the entrance to Whitebridge Estate which cause problems for cyclists. He also asked for an update on the additional jobs promised at the new Meaford Industrial Estate. County Councillor Jones could not update regarding the jobs, but said that Stafford and Newcastle Colleges will be offering advance materials courses to work with industry at Meaford.

Councillor M Green thanked County Councillor P Jones for attending and noted that County Councillor A Parry was again not in attendance.

GP17/105 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP17/106 **Minutes**

RESOLVED

- a) Management Sub-Committee held on the 15th November, 2016, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

GP17/107 **Budget Overview**

The Committee considered the report of the Clerk* who also added that the report should also have pointed out that the £14,800 rollover on the Building Maintenance budget had been offset against the approved supplementary estimate for building works at the Frank Jordan Centre within the 2016-17 standstill forecast.

RESOLVED: To note the standstill That the Committee notes the standstill budget position for 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 and the issues related to setting the precept, and

RESOLVED: Asks each sub-committee to consider its financial needs for the next three years and report back to the General Purposes Committee on 24th January 2017 with its budget proposals.

GP17/108 **Stone Radio**

* 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.

The Clerk presented his report* and asked Members to decide if they were happy with the content, and if they would prefer a solicitor to produce the contract instead.

The Clerk confirmed that paid bookings made at least a week in advance will always take priority over the Radio using the site. The Radio are able to use Stone Station Community Centre when others are not on site and must give at least a weeks' notice to use the facility.

With regards to live music, Stone Radio will be liaising with the Caretaker to prevent him from being disturbed.

RESOLVED: To accept the contract with the addition of a clause to say that only sympathetic signage can be used at the Centre.

RESOLVED: Not to ask a solicitor to draw up the contract.

GP17/109 Letter from Sir William Cash MP regarding Stone High Street

A letter was received from Sir Bill Cash MP regarding Stone High Street and Westbridge Park.

RESOLVED: to write to Sir Bill Cash MP to say that the letter has been received and considered.

GP17/110 To receive a letter from Stone Festival Committee

Following the success of the Soap Box Derby in 2016, Stone Festival Committee asked for support from Stone Town Council to hold the event in 2017.

RESOLVED: to support the event and pay for the road closure.

GP17/111 Christchurch Way / Lichfield Road Highways Works

An email from Highways was circulated showing a proposed new footpath at the bottom of Town near the splinter island.

Councillor R Kenney has also found out that the crossing at The Swan and the crossing by Thai Lanna will remain. He is awaiting a response regarding the number of pedestrian accidents in the area.

RESOLVED: to write to Highways stating that the Council does not support the proposals due to their unnecessary nature and cost and the requirement that the splinter island would need to be retained. In addition, it was suggested that the County Council should undertake a further traffic flow survey in the area, with a view to the removal of the splinter island and an ending to the traffic congestion that it creates.

GP17/112 Letter re Stone & District Angling Society

* 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.

A letter has been received regarding the renewal of contract between Stone Town Council and Stone & District Angling Society.

RESOLVED: to enter a new agreement with Stone & District Angling Society on the same terms as the previous contract.

GP17/113 Members' Motions under Standing Order 4

Councillor J Davies

"During Christmas 1993 John Howland from the city of Carthage in Texas returned to Stone on the 50th anniversary of the time he had spent in the town as a member of the US Army Air Force awaiting his posting to his operational unit. He had never forgotten the wartime kindness and hospitality of the town and brought with him a proclamation from the Mayor of Carthage bestowing a number of gifts on Stone, including: "The flag of the Lone Star State of Texas to be displayed on all festive occasions as a reminder of the lasting friendship and appreciation of the people of Stone, Staffordshire, by the people of Carthage, Texas". The Town Council formally accepted those benefits and honours on 18 December 1993.

Now that the town has a permanent flagpole I ask the Town Council to resolve:

1. To fly the Lone Star State flag on three appropriate festive occasions each year: 29 December (the anniversary of the admission of Texas as the 28th state of the Union in 1845), 2 March (the anniversary of Texas gaining its independence from Mexico in 1836) and on 4 July (American Independence Day).
2. To purchase a Lone Star State Flag for this purpose in order to preserve the original presentation flag, the cost not to exceed £150."

RESOLVED: to purchase the flag to be flown on 29th December, 2nd March, 4th July and Thanksgiving Day. Also, to ask Texas to fly the Stone Town flag on occasions.

GP17/114 Member's Motions under Standing Order 4

Councillor I Fordham left the room for this item.

Councillor R Kenney

"Stafford Borough Council Planning Committee has deferred indefinitely a decision on the future of the grade 2 listed Church of St John landmark on the North Eastern entrance to Stone. This follows a failure to reach agreement with the developer who wishes to convert the church to residential use and build apartments on the site. The fabric of the church is deteriorating and it has now been surrounded with ugly boarding. Residents are dissatisfied with the situation and fear the loss of the building. They are demanding a sensible accommodation between Stafford Borough (whose planners seem to prefer a commercial use) and the developer.

I propose that the Town Council reiterates its support for a residential use that will safeguard the fabric of the church and urges Stafford Borough Council to reach an immediate accommodation with the developer that has the support of residents.

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Proposed Resolution:

"Stone Town Council is most concerned about the deteriorating state of the grade 2 listed Church of St John and the boarding now surrounding the building and reiterates its support for residential use. The Council urges Stafford Borough Council to enter into serious negotiations to find an acceptable residential solution."

RESOLVED: to write to Stafford Borough Council stating "Stone Town Council is most concerned about the deteriorating state of the grade 2 listed Church of St John and the boarding now surrounding the building and reiterates its support for residential use. The Council urges Stafford Borough Council to enter into serious negotiations to find an acceptable residential solution."

Councillor I Fordham returned to the meeting.

GP17/115 Member's Motions under Standing Order 4

Councillor R Kenney

"It has been raised by a member of the public that the Crown and Anchor Pub is not a listed building. This is one of the most significant buildings in the town and should have protected status.

I propose that the Council take steps to ensure that this building is protected for the future."

RESOLVED: to contact Stafford Borough Council to request that the Crown & Anchor Pub become a listed building

GP17/116 Update from Working Groups

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Councillor Mrs J Hood reported that the HS2 Railhead proposal has impacted on the timescale for the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan. Regulation 14 will not be actioned as quickly as originally thought, and there will need to be a further consultation. The next meeting will take place in January.

GP17/117 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 – The Mayor – the next meeting will take place in January

Age Concern Stone & District – Councillor Mrs K Green – no meetings have taken place

Stone Town Band – The Mayor – no meetings have taken place

Walton Community Centre – Councillor M Shaw was not present

Stafford & Stone Access Group – Councillor Mrs C Collier – no meetings have taken place

Stone Common Plott Trustees – Councillor R Kenney reported that the last meeting had clashed with a Stone Town Council meeting, therefore nobody was able to represent Stone Town Council at the Common Plott meeting.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group - Councillor R Kenney reported that it was an interesting first meeting, and was very productive.

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Councillor M Williamson attended the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association Executive meeting and will report back at the next meeting.

Town Mayor

Stone Town Council – Planning Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 6 December, 2016

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

ABSENT: Councillors M Shaw

P17/070 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor M Shaw

P17/071 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

Councillors Mrs K Green and M Green declared a pecuniary interest in planning application 16/24996/HOU due to the location of the property.

P17/072 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None received

P17/073 **Planning Applications**

RESOLVED that the following observations be made on the Applications as listed:

Application Number – 15/23264/FUL

Location – Land between Boat Yard and Chandlers Way, Newcastle Road, Stone

Development – Amended Plan – Construction of four houses

Observation – Members strongly object on safety grounds due to the dangerous junction with Newcastle Road. Members also object as the land is in the Conservation Area identified as HUCA 6: “Trent and Mersey Canal” in the Stone Historic Character Assessment (May 2012) and defined as “Market garden and allotment” in its Historic Character Type. As such the application, should empathise with NPPF 2012 ref: Bullet Point 10 of para 17, Bullet Point 4 of para. 58, para 131 and para 132. This application does little to enhance its historic settings; a point noted by Mr. A Taylor, SBC Conservation Advisor.

The land remains adjacent to allotments and thus forms a green corridor for wildlife and acts as a buffer between the conservation area of the canal and the Chandlers Way development

This site is identified and known as “Newcastle Road” forms one of many recently identified and recorded green spaces in the parish of Stone and the evidence gathered forms part of the draft Stone Neighbourhood Plan evidence base which is used to shape and inform the policies. This planning application provides a wider opportunity to enhance an existing space resulting in improved natural environment for the neighbourhood amenity. We would welcome the opportunity to enhance this open green space with further planting & formal

landscaping to provide a natural screen and buffer for the neighbouring development in the conservation area.

Application Number – 16/25205/HOU

Location – 12 Telford Close, Stone

Development – Proposed bedroom extension to side with covered area to patio deck area

Observation – No objections

Application Number – 16/25127/FUL

Location – Land at 100 Newcastle Road, Stone

Development – Provision of timber waiting room adjacent to existing valeting bay

Observation – Members object to all retrospective planning applications, and request this structure is taken down

Application Number – 16/25132/HOU

Location – 11 Alma Street, Stone

Development – Replace existing front door with Victorian style wooden door

Observation – No objections

Application Number – 16/25147/COU

Location – Carstone Windows and Conservatories, Unit 7 Mount Road Industrial Estate, Mount Road, Stone

Development – Change of use from a warehouse to a gym

Observation – No objections

Application Number – 16/25193/HOU

Location – 6 Sawyer Way, Stone

Development – Alterations to existing kitchen and dining room area, including single storey rear extension

Observation – No objections

Application Number – 16/25079/FUL

Location – Land at rear 55 High Street, Stone

Development – Erection of two new garage blocks consisting of 5 garages

Observation – Members object as it is not in keeping with the Conservation Area

Councillor Mrs K Green and M Green left the room for the following item

Application Number – 16/24996/HOU

Location – 5 Tudor Close, Stone

Development – Change of roof design to existing garage area and change of use of garage to habitable room including alterations to front and rear elevations

Observation – No objections but this was without the benefit of neighbours' consultation

Councillors Mrs K Green and M Green returned to the meeting

Application Number – 16/25230/FUL

Location – Land rear of 9-11 Abbey Street, Stone

Development – Retention of boundary wall to the eastern boundary of the site

Observation – Members object to all retrospective planning applications

Application Number – 16/25223/HOU

Location – 1 Warm Croft, Stone

Development – Alterations and extensions to a dwelling

Observation – No objections but this was without the benefit of neighbours' consultation

P17/074

To note the following items considered under delegated powers where no objections were forwarded to Stafford Borough Council due to no Member asking for the item to be considered by a special meeting of the Committee.

None.

Town Mayor

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 13 December, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor R Kenney in the Chair and
Councillors Mrs J Farnham, Mrs K Green, M Green, Mrs J Hood, P Leason,
Mrs E Mowatt, G Neagus, A Osgathorpe, Mrs J Piggott and M Williamson

Absent: Councillors Mrs C Collier, G Collier, J Davies, I Fordham, Mrs M Goodall, T Jackson
and M Shaw

GP17/118 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs C Collier, G Collier, J Davies,
Mrs M Goodall, T Jackson and M Shaw

GP17/119 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None received

GP17/120 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP17/121 **Debt Benefit and Consumer Advice**

An email was received from Staffordshire County Council asking if Stone Town
Council would like to contribute towards Debt Benefit and Consumer Advice due to
a shortfall.

RESOLVED: Not to contribute to the service.

Town Mayor

Stone Town Council – Planning Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 13 December, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor G Neagus in the Chair and
Councillors Mrs J Farnham, Mrs K Green, M Green, Mrs J Hood, R Kenney,
P Leason, Mrs E Mowatt, A Osgathorpe, Mrs J Piggott and M Williamson

ABSENT: Councillors Mrs C Collier, G Collier, J Davies, I Fordham, Mrs M Goodall, T Jackson
and M Shaw

P17/075 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs C Collier, G Collier, J Davies,
Mrs M Goodall, T Jackson and M Shaw

P17/076 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None received

P17/077 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None received

P17/078 **Planning Applications**

RESOLVED that the following observations be made on the Applications as listed:

Application Number – 16/24673/ADV

Location – Whitecross Dental Centre, 10 High Street, Stone

Development – Proposed new branding to existing dentist; 2 x projecting signs, 1
hanging sign, 2 x frosted vinyl signs, 2 x laminated signs

Observation – Members delayed making a comment until the next planning
meeting when an amendment to the plan will be considered

Application Number – 16/25290/HOU

Location – 29 St Michael's Mount, Stone

Development – First floor side extension plus internal alterations

Observation – No objections but this was without the benefit of neighbours'
consultation

P17/079 **To note the following items considered under delegated powers where no
objections were forwarded to Stafford Borough Council due to no Member
asking for the item to be considered by a special meeting of the Committee.**

None

Stone Town Council – Planning Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 3 January, 2017

PRESENT: Councillor G Neagus in the Chair and
Councillors J Davies, Mrs J Farnham, I Fordham, Mrs M Goodall, Mrs K Green,
M Green, Mrs J Hood, R Kenney, P Leason, A Osgathorpe, Mrs J Piggott and
M Williamson

ABSENT: Councillors Mrs Collier, G Collier, T Jackson, Mrs E Mowatt and M Shaw

P17/080 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs C Collier, G Collier and
Mrs E Mowatt

P17/081 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

Councillor Mrs J Piggott declared a personal interest in planning application
16/25394/FUL.
Councillor Mrs J Farnham declared a personal interest in planning application
16/25368/HOU.

P17/082 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None received

P17/083 **Planning Applications**

RESOLVED that the following observations be made on the Applications as listed:

Application Number – 16/24673/ADV

Location – Whitecross Dental Centre, 10 High Street, Stone

Development – Amended Plan – Proposed new branding to existing dentist; 2 x
projecting signs, 1 hanging sign, 2 x frosted vinyl signs, 2 x laminated signs

Observation – No objection providing it is in keeping with the conservation area.

Application Number – 16/25332/HOU

Location – 54 Heath Gardens, Stone

Development – Conversion of existing garage to dining room and utility

Observation – No objection but this was without the benefit of neighbours'
consultation

Application Number – 16/25394/FUL

Location – Westbridge Park, Stafford Street, Stone

Development – Provision of a new permanent modular building to replace the Wells Bladen Girl Guides centre at Westbridge Park. The replacement building will be sited adjacent the existing Pumphouse building. The development includes provision of a new hardstanding, cross-over to the private access road, foundation and services. An existing skateboard park will be demolished and relocated within Westbridge Park

Observation – Members object as they feel the location is wrong and suggest the new guide facilities are located next to the existing scout facilities so both groups can benefit from the parking facilities, and the new skate park is sited where the current skate park is located. Members have concerns regarding the lack of external lighting for children going to and leaving the building. Members are waiting for a detailed plan for facilities on the whole of Westbridge Park as previously promised. As per the Stafford Borough Council document “A Leisure Strategy for Stone”, it was stated “These proposals will require the relocation of the Guide Hut and discussions have been opened with the Guide Association. As part of the proposal a new activity park with equipment suitable for older children (over 5’s) and teenagers is proposed. The design and location of this facility will be subject to consultation with local children along the lines developed for Victoria Park and Wildwood Park in Stafford but an initial location has been identified to the south of the new leisure centre where a natural surveillance can be provided from the new building.” The term "location has been identified to the south of the new leisure centre where a natural surveillance can be provided from the new building" is paramount to the success of the promised teenage facilities. It would be a distant recreational location that could not be policed leading to those that wanted to use the facilities being excluded by others from using them.

Application Number – 16/25368/HOU

Location – 1 Brookfield Court, Stone

Development – Proposed ground floor extension

Observation – No objections but this was without the benefit of neighbours’ consultation

P17/084

To note the following items considered under delegated powers where no objections were forwarded to Stafford Borough Council due to no Member asking for the item to be considered by a special meeting of the Committee.

None

Town Mayor

Stone Town Council – Planning Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 17 January, 2017

PRESENT: Councillor G Neagus in the Chair and
Councillors J Davies, I Fordham, Mrs K Green, M Green, Mrs J Hood, T Jackson,
R Kenney, P Leason, A Osgathorpe, Mrs J Piggott, and M Williamson

ABSENT: Councillors Mrs C Collier, G Collier, Mrs J Farnham, Mrs M Goodall,
Mrs E Mowatt and M Shaw

P17/085 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs C Collier, G Collier, Mrs J Farnham,
Mrs M Goodall, Mrs E Mowatt and M Shaw

P17/086 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

Councillor A Osgathorpe declared a personal interest in planning application
16/25431/HOU

P17/087 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None received

P17/088 **Planning Applications**

RESOLVED that the following observations be made on the Applications as listed:

Application Number – 16/25112/FUL and 16/25113/LBC

Location – 48 High Street, Stone

Development – Alterations to the existing shop front. Internal alterations.
Demolition of 1960s 3 storey rear extension. Formation of new side entrance
with associated staircase and construction of rear gated external entrance with
railings

Observation – No objections

Application Number – 16/25261/FUL

Location – 1A Edward Street, Stone

Development – Conversion works to commercial building to form two residential
apartments

Observation – No objections

Application Number – 16/25349/FUL

Location – Plot 9 Whitebridge Industrial Estate, Whitebridge Way, Stone

Development – Formation of 2 no. window openings in the existing factory
building

Observation – No objections

Application Number – 16/25429/FUL

Location – Fillybrooks Garage, Newcastle Road, Stone

Development – Existing forecourt canopy to be raised from 3.8m to 4.75m with screen between canopy and roof of shop

Observation – No objections

Application Number – 16/25431/HOU

Location – 2 Hawley Close, Stone

Development – Single storey rear and side extension and replacement and demolition of existing boundary wall and re-siting with timber fence, concrete post and gravel board

Observation – No objections but this was without the benefit of neighbours' consultation, and providing the height of the fence is within planning guidelines

Application Number – 16/25472/HOU

Location – 18 Berkeley Street, Stone

Development – Proposed kitchen, sitting room extension at rear together with internal alteration to form utility and WC

Observation – No objections

Application Number – 16/25477/FUL

Location – Wells Plastic Ltd, Stone Business Park, Emerald Way, Stone

Development – Extension to the rear and side of the existing building with interior alterations to the existing layout

Observation – No objections

P17/089

To note the following items considered under delegated powers where no objections were forwarded to Stafford Borough Council due to no Member asking for the item to be considered by a special meeting of the Committee.

None

Town Mayor

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 24 January, 2017

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

Absent: Councillors Mrs J Farnham and M Shaw

GP17/122 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs J Farnham and M Shaw

GP17/123 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None received

GP17/124 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP17/125 **Minutes**

RESOLVED

- a) Management Sub-Committee held on the 13th December, 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 MAN17/027 be adopted. Minute MAN17/024 was considered at minute GP17/126.
- b) Environment Sub-Committee held on the 13th December, 2016, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record. Minute ENV17/013 was considered at minute GP17/126.
- c) Estates Sub-Committee held on the 17th January, 2017, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record. Minute EST17/031 was considered at minute GP17/126.
- d) Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee held on the 17th January, 2017, 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 TTP17/017 and TTP17/018 be adopted. Minute TTP17/019 was considered at minute GP17/126.

GP17/126 To Determine budget 2017-18 for recommendation to the Council

The Committee considered the report of the Clerk circulated with the agenda and a briefing paper circulated to all members.

Councillor R Kenney stated that for 2017-18 if all requests from the Sub-Committees are agreed, the Council Tax Band D figure will rise by 15% from £40.09 to £46.10, which is too high.

With regards to the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee budget, it was agreed to remove the proposed £5,500 per annum for marketing, and reduce the provision for the music festival from £6,000 to £4,000 per annum. The £500 per annum for the Christmas market was also taken out.

With regards to the Estates Sub-Committee budget, it was agreed to reduce the £800 in 2017-18 to refurbish the A34 bus shelter to £200 in order to remove it.

Councillor M Williamson proposed that the £100,000 reserve earmarked for the Crown Wharf should be used to pay for the refurbishment of the Frank Jordan Centre. Councillor T Jackson seconded the proposal and asked for a named vote:

Councillor	Mrs C Collier	Abstain
	G Collier	Abstain
	J Davies	Against
	I Fordham	Against
	Mrs M Goodall	For
	Mrs K Green	Against
	M Green	Against
	Mrs J Hood	Against
	T Jackson	For
	R Kenney	Against
	P Leason	Against
	Mrs E Mowatt	Against
	G Neagus	Against
	A Osgathorpe	Against
	Mrs J Piggott	For
	M Williamson	For

The motion was lost.

With regards to the Council Tax, the Clerk reported that the amendments made during the meeting result in Council Tax Band D at £44.70, a 11.5% increase, with a further indicative 2% increase for the next two years, giving figures of £44.59 and £46.51 respectively.

Councillor M Green stated that there would be an increase in the Council Tax but Stone will be offering more services for the money.

Councillor R Kenney moved the motion set out at appendix 1, including the new Council Tax figures as set out above, which was seconded by Councillor M Green. Councillor M Williamson requested a named vote:

Councillor	M Williamson	Against
	Mrs J Piggott	Against
	A Osgathorpe	For
	G Neagus	For
	Mrs E Mowatt	For
	P Leason	For
	R Kenney	For
	T Jackson	Against
	Mrs J Hood	For
	M Green	For
	Mrs K Green	For
	Mrs M Goodall	Against
	I Fordham	For
	J Davies	For
	G Collier	Against
	Mrs C Collier	Against

The motion was carried.

RESOLVED: To recommend to the Council the budget set out in the Appendix.

GP17/127 **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.**

RESOLVED: to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting whilst the next item of business is discussed.

GP17/128 **Confidential Minutes**

RESOLVED

- a) Management Sub-Committee held on the 13th December, 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 MAN17/027 be adopted.
- b) Estates Sub-Committee held on the 17th January, 2017, 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 EST17/033 be adopted.

Town Mayor

* 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.

Stone Town Council

General Purposes Committee 24th January 2017

Revenue Budget 2017-18 to 2019-20

Proposal by Chairman of General Purposes Committee

In respect of the Town Council's budget for 2017-18 to 2019-20, it is recommended that the Council approve the standstill budget set out in the Clerk's report to this meeting with the following amendments:

- To support proposals from Sub-Committees, as set out below:

	Budget 2017- 18 £	Budget 2018- 19 £	Budget 2019- 20 £
Estates			
A34 Bus Shelter	200	-	-
Oulton Road Bus Shelter	700	-	-
Environment			
Crown Meadow Tree Maintenance	800	800	800
Maintenance of "No Mans' Land"	800	800	800
Maintenance of Benches	700	-	-
Side Entrance Gate - Crown Meadow	300	-	-
Tourism & Town Promotion			
Music Festival	4,000	4,000	4,000

- To provide a further contingency for work at the Frank Jordan Centre, and change its timing as follows:

	Forecast 2016-17 £	Budget 2017- 18 £
Building Works	-45,000	90,000
Caretaking (3 months less)		-1,000
Additional Income (3 months less)		1,300

- To provide a further £4,500 in 2016-17 for the additional cost of the 2016 by-election above the amount already included in the budget.
- As a result, to recommend a budget of £355,900 for 2017-18, with indicative budgets of £259,800 in 2018-19 and £289,700 in 2019-20.
- To recommend an increase in the Council Tax for a Band D property to £44.70 for 2017-18, with indicative increases to £45.59 in 2018-19 and £46.51 in 2019-20.

* 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.

Stone Town Council

7th February 2017

Town Council Budget 2017-18 to 2019-20

Report of Town Clerk

Introduction

1. This report considers the setting of the Town Council's Budget for 2017-18, with indicative figures for the following two years.

Background

2. At a series of meetings during December 2016 and January 2017, the General Purposes Committee and its Sub-Committees considered their potential budgets for 2017-18 to 2019-20. As a result of this consideration, the General Purposes Committee on 24th January 2017 recommended a budget for approval by the Council.
3. The budget proposed by the General Purposes Committee is set out at Appendix A. It can be summarised as follows:

Actual		Budget	Forecast	Budget	Budget	Budget
2015-16		2016-17	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
£		£	£	£	£	£
8,560	Estates	81,400	30,500	124,200	28,900	29,300
11,549	Environment	20,200	18,500	24,100	23,700	24,300
27,982	Tourism & Town Promotion	41,700	36,800	36,400	37,400	37,400
166,248	Management	176,000	180,600	166,700	169,800	198,700
8,305	Neighbourhood Plan	15,000	8,000	22,000	0	0
2,090	Earmarked Reserves	-61,000	-54,000	-22,000	0	0
224,734	TOTAL	273,300	220,400	351,400	259,800	289,700
	Planned Contribution to (from) Balances			-77,675	25,979	8,456
	Precept Required (including LCTSG)			273,725	285,779	298,156
	Band D Council Tax Equivalent			£44.70	£45.59	£46.51

4. The Council is not required to accept the above budget, and is free to set the Council Tax at whatever level it thinks appropriate. The rest of this report does, however, assume the acceptance of the proposed budget, and a number of the comments made below may need to be reconsidered if the budget changes.

Robustness of Budget

5. In setting its budget and precept, the Council must determine:
 - The estimated expenditure for the year.
 - Such allowances as it considers appropriate for contingencies.
 - Such financial reserves as the Council considers appropriate to raise in the year.
 - Such reserves as are sufficient to meet any revenue account deficit from any earlier year.
6. These issues have been considered as part of the budget setting process so far, and have resulted in the proposed budget under consideration today.
7. The Clerk's role, as Responsible Financial Officer, is to advise members on the robustness of their plans, and in particular the adequacy of their reserves to meet possible future issues.
8. I confirm that I am able to advise members that, even though the proposals require a contribution of £77,675 from the Council's reserves in 2017-18, the indicative plans for contributions to reserves in the following two years should ensure that the Council's current plans can be reasonably sustained into the future.
9. Excluding the reserve previously earmarked for the Crown Wharf project, the neighbourhood plan, and rollovers, the Council held balances of £169,147 at the beginning of 2016-17. These are forecast to increase to around £191,149 by the end of the current year as follows:

	£
Opening Balances 1 April 2016	169,147
Planned Contribution from Balances	-18,998
Budget Adjustments (net)	-11,900
Re-timing of FJC Building Works	+45,000
Additional cost of By-Election	-4,500
Forecast Underspending 2016-17	+12,400
Forecast Balances 31 March 2017	<u>191,149</u>

10. As can be seen from the table in paragraph 3 above, the three-year budget proposed by the General Purposes Committee would result in movements in these balances as follows:

	Budgeted Contribution to (from) Balances £	Estimated General Fund Balance £	Number of Months Net Expenditure
31 March 2017	-	191,149	-
31 March 2018	(77,675)	113,474	5.2
31 March 2019	25,979	139,453	6.3
31 March 2020	8,456	147,909	6.0

11. I would recommend that a Council the size of Stone Town Council should hold general reserves equivalent to around six to nine months' net expenditure. It can be seen from the above table that whilst this has not been achieved in 2017-18, reserves do regenerate in later years. I am therefore able to advise the Council that its reserves should be adequate to meet the Council's needs.
12. Members should be aware that the contribution to reserves in 2018-19 and 2019-20 are necessary in order to anticipate the cost of elections in 2019, and avoid the need to meet the whole cost from one year's precept.

Council Tax Leaflet

13. The Council also needs to determine the wording to be used on the Council Tax leaflet.
14. The wording for 2016-17 was:

"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."

15. Members are asked to consider the wording for the 2017-18 leaflet.

Recommendations

16. That the Council determines its budget and Council Tax for 2017-18, indicative budgets for 2018-19 and 2019-20, and the wording of the Council Tax leaflet.

Stone Town Council

Budget 2017-18 to 2019-20

Actual 2015-16 £		Budget 2016-17 £	Forecast 2016-17 £	Budget 2017-18 £	Budget 2018-19 £	Budget 2019-20 £
6,574	Frank Jordan Centre	62,600	14,000	95,900	4,700	4,800
6,118	Stone Station	9,500	4,500	4,600	4,700	4,700
-18,967	Town Market	-12,000	-9,300	-6,600	-6,800	-7,000
4,704	Car Parking	8,500	8,500	5,900	4,400	4,500
3,103	Bus Shelters & Street Furniture	10,900	11,400	6,800	4,100	4,300
0	Public Conveniences	0	0	6,200	6,400	6,600
479	Street Lighting	500	500	500	500	500
698	Dog & Litter Bins	1,200	700	700	700	700
1,065	Joules Clock	0	0	0	0	0
4,786	Town Electricity Supply	200	200	200	200	200
0	Building Maintenance	0	0	10,000	10,000	10,000
13,052	Grounds Maintenance	12,900	12,900	14,100	14,500	14,900
24	Crown Meadow Improvements	5,200	5,200	3,700	2,700	2,700
0	Westbridge Park	0	0	6,200	6,400	6,600
-1,528	Allotments	2,100	400	100	100	100
19,247	Christmas Lights	16,800	15,000	15,000	15,500	16,000
925	Advertising	500	300	500	500	500
7,810	Tourism & Town Promotion	24,400	21,500	20,900	21,400	20,900
7,030	Grants	9,200	9,200	8,400	8,600	8,800
119,397	Salaries & Employment Costs	123,500	123,900	129,600	133,500	136,400
3,047	Accommodation	4,200	4,100	4,200	4,200	4,200
7,272	Insurances	7,500	7,800	8,000	8,200	8,400
12,610	Administration	28,000	28,000	20,000	18,500	19,000
910	Audit & Legal Fees	900	900	900	1,000	1,000
20,022	Town Council Elections	4,000	8,500	0	0	25,000
2,787	Allowances - Mayor & Deputy Mayor	2,900	2,900	3,000	3,100	3,200
325	Regalia & Presentations	3,200	3,400	500	500	500
1,079	Civic Dinner & Hospitality	1,000	400	1,000	1,000	1,000
1,990	Remembrance Sunday & War Memorials	2,000	1,900	1,500	1,500	1,500
1,925	Miscellaneous	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,800	1,800
-683	Interest	-600	-600	-600	-600	-600
8,305	Neighbourhood Plan	15,000	8,000	22,000	0	0
-11,461	Concurrent Functions Allowance	-11,500	-11,500	-11,500	-11,500	-11,500
-8,305	Neighbourhood Plan Reserve	-15,000	-8,000	-22,000	0	0
10,395	Rollover Reserve	-46,000	-46,000	0	0	0
224,734		273,300	220,400	351,400	259,800	289,700
	Planned Contribution to (from) Balances			-77,675	25,979	8,456
	Precept Required (including LCTSG)			273,725	285,779	298,156
	Band D Council Tax Equivalent			£44.70	£45.59	£46.51

Stone Town Council

Local Government Transparency Code 2014

Information for Quarter Ended 30 December 2016

Expenditure Exceeding £250

Date	Reference	Supplier	Description	Amount
03/10/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Market Square	£290.00
03/10/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Frank Jordan Centre	£421.00
05/10/2016	16367	Empire Hire Ltd	Generator, PA wings, lighting & barriers - Jo Clarke homecom	£1,120.00
05/10/2016	16366	Empire Hire Ltd	Music Festival - Stage, barriers & electrical supply	£1,250.00
10/10/2016	16381	Grant Thornton UK LLP	Fee in respect of 2016 Annusl Return	£800.00
10/10/2016	16380	M J Plant	Grounds maintenance	£1,052.00
13/10/2016	D/Dbt	British Gas	Electricity FJC	£294.13
18/10/2016	16389	STC Petty Cash A/c	Reimbursement of petty cash a/c	£250.85
24/10/2016	16393	Atlas Contractors Ltd	Cleaning of FJC - October 2016	£536.19
03/11/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Frank Jordan Centre	£421.00
03/11/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Market Square	£290.00
11/11/2016	16412	City B Group Ltd	Erection & dismantling of marquees	£978.00
11/11/2016	16409	M J Plant	Crown Meadow Improvements	£1,610.00
15/11/2016	16418	Current Electrical & Property	Supply, manufacture & install electricity box in Mill Street	£723.00
17/11/2016	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply - Stone Station	£345.18
22/11/2016	16431	The Crown Hotel Stone	Reception - Remembrance Day	£383.33
22/11/2016	16433	Empire Hire Ltd	Hire of stage & sound system - switch-on	£1,575.00
22/11/2016	16427	Atlas Contractors Ltd	Cleaning of FJC Nov 16	£536.19
22/11/2016	16432	Current Electrical & Property	Marquee lights/ temporary power x 2 - Switch-ON	£600.00
22/11/2016	16428	Mr B Hull	3 x floodlights - Plane Tree	£624.00
29/11/2016	16440	Severn Trent Water Ltd	Water charges - STN 23 06 16 - 18 11 16	£489.54
30/11/2016	16442	MJ Plant	Grounds maintenance - boaders & roundabout	£3,557.90
30/11/2016	D/Dbt	MJ Plant	Removal of fallen tree - N/C Rd allotment	£550.00
01/12/2016	16451	City B Group Ltd	Erecting and dismantling of marquees - Nov 16	£1,055.00
05/12/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Frank Jordan Centre	£421.00
05/12/2016	D/Dbt	SBC	Rates - Market Square	£290.00
15/12/2016	16463	Protec Fire Detection plc	Annual maintenance of fire alarm system	£409.88
16/12/2016	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply - Stone station	£336.43
20/12/2016	16467	Stone Community Hub	Sept, Oct , Nov instalment of annual grant Min No GP17/008	£1,500.00
20/12/2016	16466	Christmas Plus Ltd	Installation of Christmas Lights	£3,861.90
23/12/2016	D/Dbt	British Gas	Gas supply - FJC	£946.43
28/12/2016	D/Dbt	Network Rail	Rent of Stone Station 25 12 16 - 24 03 17	£987.50

Procurement Information

1. Invitations to Tender for Contracts Exceeding £5,000

None

2. Contracted Agreements Exceeding £5,000

None

Stone Town Council

Openness of Public Bodies Regulations 2014

Information for Quarter Ended 31 December 2015

Decisions that would otherwise have been taken by the Town Council or one of its Committees that have been delegated to an officer:

- 1. Under a specific express authorisation; or**
- 2. Under a general authorisation to officers to take such decisions and, the effect of the decision is to:**
 - a. grant a permission or licence;**
 - b. affect the rights of an individual; or**
 - c. award a contract or incur expenditure which, in either case, materially affects the Town Council's financial position.**

None

STONE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
7TH FEBRUARY 2017

CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor

Monday 1st February Opening of Community Room, AEDdonate

Tuesday 14th February Visit to Christchurch Academy

Wednesday 15th February Visit to Chamber by CO 22 Signal Regiment

Saturday 25th February Stone Lions Annual Charter Dinner

TOWN MAYOR

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT
7 February 17

Friday 25 Nov 16

The Mayor and Mayoress attended the switching on of the Uttoxeter Christmas lights by Adam Peaty, that town's Olympic gold medallist (a colleague of our own Olympic Champion, Joe Clarke).

Saturday 26 Nov 16

The Mayor was pleased to support the Cheadle Christmas event which was very well supported and included the switch-on of the Cheadle Christmas lights by an Elsa lookalike from the film 'Frozen'.

Sunday 27 Nov 16

The first Christmas carol service of the season was held at Walton Community Centre, attended by the Mayoress and the Mayor, who read the opening lesson.

Wednesday 1 Dec 16

This day saw the start of the daily opening of Advent windows throughout the town centre, organised by Christchurch. The Mayor and Mayoress joined a good-sized gathering at 'Simply Petals'. Over the subsequent 23 days the Mayor attended all but two of the daily window openings and was delighted to see a steady increase in the numbers supporting these events.

The Mayor and Mayoress then attended the formal opening of the newly-extended Mansion House doctors' surgery in Abbey Street. The new facilities were a much-needed major enhancement to the infrastructure of the town.

Saturday 3 Dec 16

The Stone Choral Society performed a seasonal concert in Christchurch featuring Christmas music and carols. The Mayoress supported from the audience while the Mayor supported by singing in the choir.

Tuesday 6 Dec 16

The Mayor and Mayoress hosted a small reception for the town councillors in the council chamber at the conclusion of the evening's meetings.

Thursday 8 Dec 16

The Mayor made another visit to Uttoxeter, this time to support their 'Christmas Cracker' street market. It is always useful to see how other towns promote themselves.

Saturday 10 Dec 16

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire Freemasons held their annual Carol Service at St Michael's and St Wulfad's, and the Mayor was delighted to support this event, especially because the new Provincial Grand Master was a long-term Stone resident and businessman.

Sunday 11 Dec 16

The Civic Carol Service at St Michael's and St Wulfad's was very successful and enjoyable, and extremely well supported. The Mayor and Mayoress welcomed (among others) the Mayor and Mayoress of Stafford Borough, the High Sheriff, our MP (Sir Bill Cash), and the CO of 22 Signal Regiment, MoD Stafford.

The Mayor and Mayoress continued to practise their carol-singing skills at the Stone Outward Division, Girl Guides, carol service held in St Saviour's, Aston-by-Stone.

Tuesday 13 Dec 16

Throughout the year the Mayor has been keen to support Trinity Skills for Life and, in the afternoon, was delighted to attend their very enjoyable Christmas Event in St Michael's and St Wulfad's.

In the evening the Mayor and Mayoress returned to St Saviour's, Aston-by-Stone, to attend the Aston and Little Stoke Scouts' carol service and, afterwards, to present some awards in Aston Village Hall.

Wednesday 14 Dec 16

The Mayoress, accompanied by Councillor Kristan Green, attended the charity event organised by the Mayoress of Stafford Borough at the Tillington Hall Hotel.

Thursday 15 Dec 16

The carol-singing season continued in the secure environment of Drake Hall Women's Prison. The Mayor and Mayoress joined the Mayor and Mayoress of Stafford Borough and the High Sheriff and his wife at a very enjoyable Christmas service with an excellent performance from a choir drawn from the inmates.

Sunday 18 Dec 16

The Mayor and Mayoress attended the Stafford Borough Carol service at St Mary's, Stafford, whose enhanced choir performed their pieces with great musical skill and to good effect.

Tuesday 20 Dec 16

The Mayor joined the Stone Lions at Morrison's for the draw for the Christmas hampers generously donated by the store.

Saturday 24 Dec 16

The Mayor joined a large procession of carollers that moved up the High St, pausing at each advent window, until arriving at Christ Church for final prayers. The advent window initiative was again a very successful and enjoyable way to bring the town together to mark Christmas.

Sunday 25 Dec 16

The Mayor and Mayoress visited the residents and their families who were celebrating Christmas at St Mary's Nursing Home adjoining St Dominic's church. It was a great pleasure to join them and the staff on Christmas Day itself.

Wednesday 25 Jan 17

The Mayor and Mayoress visited St Michael's First School to talk to the children about the town mayoralty. The children were very interested in what the Mayor and Mayoress had to say and asked a number of questions. The Headteacher invited the Mayor to return at a convenient date to talk to Year 4. The Mayor invited the School Council to hold one of its future meetings in the Council Chamber.