

Stone Town Council

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 7 February, 2017

PRESENT: Councillor J Davies in the Chair, and
Councillors Mrs C Collier, G Collier, Mrs J Farnham, I Fordham, 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 M Goodall, P Leason and M Shaw

C17/071 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs M Goodall, P Leason and M Shaw

C17/072 Declarations of Interest

None received.

C17/073 Representations from Members of the Public

None received.

C17/074 Minutes

RESOLVED

- a) That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 6th December, 2016, copies having been circulated to the members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record

C17/075 Committee Minutes

RESOLVED

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 6th December, 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 6th December, 2016, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record

- c) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 13th December, 2016, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record
- d) That the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 13th December, 2016, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record
- e) That the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 3rd January, 2017, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record
- f) That the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 17th January, 2017, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record
- g) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 24th January, 2017, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record

C17/076 Budget 2017-18 and Council Tax

The Clerk circulated a budget report* and proposed wording for the Council Tax leaflet (appendix 1). He reported that although there would be a significant amount taken from reserves in year one, he is happy that the budget is robust.

RESOLVED: to accept the proposal by the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee on 24th January as shown in Appendix 1.

**C17/077 Local Government Transparency Code 2014
Openness of Public Bodies Regulations 2014**

Noted

C17/078 Civic Announcements

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

C17/079 Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Announcements

The Town Mayor's Announcements were circulated and noted. The Deputy Mayor will prepare his report for the next meeting.

TOWN MAYOR

Stone Town Council

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 proposed that:

1. The Budget recommended by the General Purposes Committee on 24 January 2017, and set out in the Clerk's report to this meeting, is agreed.
2. The precept on Stafford Borough Council should be £273,725 for 2017-18, made up of £255,559 from Council Tax and £18,166 from Local Council Tax Support Grant, and resulting in a Band D Council Tax of £44.70 for this Council's purposes.
3. The wording for the 2017-18 Council Tax leaflet should be:

"Investing in and working to promote a vibrant town and encourage visitors is a key Town Council priority.

Stone Town Council provides services for the people and town of Stone. These services include community centres, allotment sites, free car parks, the Station Road Conveniences, Crown Meadow Nature Reserve, the provision of bus shelters, benches and dog bins, the upkeep of local amenities and planted areas, the Town Markets, Christmas lights in the High Street and at Walton, and town centre hanging baskets. It also provides grants to help charitable and community organisations such as the Stone Community Hub, supports various festivals, and the office supplies daily support and advice to local residents.

The Council seeks to develop and conserve the town by considering the impact of every planning application, and is currently preparing a Neighbourhood Plan that will help to shape and protect the future of Stone for years to come.

This year the Council Tax increase is due mainly to the taking on of services from Stafford Borough Council, including the Station Road Conveniences to prevent their closure, and the necessary major refurbishment of the Frank Jordan Centre to provide an affordable and modern community building.

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.