

# Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

## Minutes of the meeting held in Christ Church Centre on Tuesday 30 March, 2017

- PRESENT:** Councillor R Kenney in the Chair and  
Councillors G Collier, J Davies, Mrs J Farnham, Mrs M Goodall, Mrs J Hood,  
T Jackson, P Leason, Mrs E Mowatt, G Neagus, Mrs J Piggott, M Shaw and  
M Williamson  
By Chairman's invitation: Mr A Jones and Mr M Williams
- ABSENT:** Councillors Mrs C Collier, I Fordham, Mrs K Green, M Green and A Osgathorpe
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**GP17/168** Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs C Collier, I Fordham, Mrs K Green, M Green and A Osgathorpe

**GP17/169** Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None received

**GP17/170** Representations from Members of the Public

**Mr Jon Cook**

Mr Cook reported that he had conducted a survey on A Little Bit of Stone and 1300 responses had been received.

The survey found that 77% of people who come to Town do so to eat. Respondents were keen to see investment in leisure time activities. Concerns were raised about the length of time the scaffolding has been around the Crown Hotel in the centre of High Street. Landlords should make the front of the buildings more appealing. 76% of the responses were from people who live in Stone. 95% of the people who responded say they visit Stone regularly, the majority by car. 51% of visitors spend 1 to 2 hours in the Town. On a scale of 0 -10 where 10 is the best, the average score for the High Street was 4.4.

**GP17/171** Stone Town Centre

Mr A Jones and Mr M Williams were invited to address the Council.

They said that traders from the town had met and produced a list of concerns (Appendix 1). These concerns were raised and discussed by the Committee.

In response to a question regarding which Council was responsible for which service, a note was circulated (Appendix 2).

In response to questions from traders regarding loading and unloading on the High Street, a copy of the traffic orders in force was circulated.

It was agreed that a special meeting of the Committee should be arranged to allow

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the Council to consider its response to the points made.

**Town Mayor**

## **Points from town centre businesses**

### Market

- Special events e.g. antiques
- Selected stalls to try to reduce stalls selling the same as local businesses e.g. toys, pet items, books, underwear
- Tie in scheme e.g. first period FOC second period cover cost but must attend days agreed
- Currently stalls block views and access to shops on the highstreet
- Rubbish left behind by stall holders
- Markets not policed properly (stall holders turn up and go as they please)
- Advertise spaces in the market to attract new stall holders
- Allow stall holders to bring their own stalls
- Offer empty market stalls at the farmers market to businesses in town (when stall holders have not turned up on the day)
- Who is responsible for the high street barriers (not always up when should be)

### Parking

- Uplift free parking from 1 to 2 hours
- Free parking on given days on the council run car parks
- Refund parking scheme similar to Newcastle under Lyme (i.e. what the co op do)
- Free parking

### 24/7 Signage

- Brown signs from the A34 for places of interest
- Business directory noticeboards on the high street and places such as the gym (one idea is to make these magnetic with each business paying for their own magnet on each board)
- Monitor and enforce codes of practice for A boards and goods outside of shops
- Enforce shops to maintain their frontage

### Town promotion

- Council on social media to promote the town and town event
- Promote the fact that Stone is a town full of independent businesses
- Market the town as if it were a brand
- Town centre manager

### Stone festival

- Route the parade through the high street

### Christmas

- Focal point Christmas tree
- Christmas market with events such as a carol singers

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## Traders

- Council and trader steering group
- Supporting each other
- Clarify loading in the high street as some traders have been given a ticket
- Set up a traders association with representatives from Stone and Stafford council

## Shopping

- Late night shopping with some events/entertainment/market once a month
- Limit charity shops
- An anchor store on the high street

## Landlords

- Pressure on to maintain buildings **e.g.** not have scaffolding up for over a year
- Pop up shops in empty buildings

## Council

- Approach local businesses when doing events e.g. food for the Christmas light switch on
- Tidy the high street
- Run a scheme to subsidise new businesses in town in the same way charity shops are helped
- Charity shops selling new unused items should be subject to the same rate bands as normal shops
- Who is responsible for what between Stone Town Council and Stafford inc planning
- Traffic management through the town, very poor only seems to add to congestion
- Councils plan B if M & S is built (how to attract M & S visitors to the high street)

# Services Provided by Councils in Stone

## Summarised List of Key Services

Stone Town Council	Stafford Borough Council	Staffordshire County Council
<b>Planning</b>		
Consider planning applications as consultee and pass comments back to SBC or SCC.  Prepare Stone Neighbourhood Plan	Consider and determine most planning applications  Planning enforcement  Historic buildings/conservation areas  Tree preservation orders  Prepare Plan for Stafford Borough	Consider and determine specific planning applications  Strategic planning  Minerals and waste planning  Historic buildings
<b>Highways, Streetscene and Parking</b>		
Off-street car parking:  - Crown Wharf  - Northesk Street  Bus shelters  Litter and dog bins (some)  War memorials  Joules clock  Benches	Off-street car parking:  - Crown Street  - Stafford Street (Disabled parking)  - Westbridge Park  - Christchurch Way  Street Cleansing, including town centre  Litter and dog bins (most)  Street naming	Public highways  On-street car parking  Traffic management  Street lighting  Passenger transport and transport planning
<b>Recreation</b>		

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Stone Town Council	Stafford Borough Council	Staffordshire County Council
Community Centres: - Frank Jordan Centre - Stone Station Crown Meadow Allotments: - Newcastle Road - Mount Street	Sports and leisure centres: - Westbridge Park - Alleyne's Parks and open spaces: - Westbridge Park - Stonefield Park - Other parks and play areas	Parks & open spaces Libraries
<b>Other Key Services</b>		
Christmas Lights Town Market Public conveniences (Station Road) Grants to voluntary bodies Remembrance Parade (with British Legion) Tourism and town development	Refuse collection/recycling Housing Building regulations Economic development Tourism development Farmers Market Food safety Licensing Public conveniences (Crown Street) Dog and pest control Noise abatement Grants to voluntary bodies Council Tax and Business Rates collection Housing and Council Tax benefits	Education Personal Social Services Refuse disposal/recycling Economic development Tourism development Consumer protection Trading standards Public health Registration of births, marriages and deaths Grants to voluntary bodies Concessionary travel
<b>Council Tax and Business Rates 2017-18</b>		

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Stone Town Council	Stafford Borough Council	Staffordshire County Council
Council Tax total income - £273,725  Equivalent to £44.70 per Band D property	Council Tax total income - £6,834,000  Equivalent to £150.53 per Band D property	Council Tax total income - £315,300,000  Equivalent to £1,142.54 per Band D property
Business Rates total income – None  Equivalent to £0.00 per Band D property	Business Rates total income – £4,230,000  Equivalent to £97.23 per Band D property	Business Rates total income – £97,600,000  Equivalent to £353.67 per Band D property

**NOTE:** This is a summary of key services only. It is not intended to be a comprehensive list either of services that can be provided by each tier of local government or of services that are actually provided within Stone.

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