

# Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

## Minutes of the meeting held in Stone Station Community Centre on Tuesday 25 April, 2017

**PRESENT:** Councillor R Kenney in the Chair and  
Councillors J Davies, I Fordham, Mrs K Green, M Green, Mrs J Hood, T Jackson, Mrs  
E Mowatt, A Osgathorpe, Mrs J Piggott and M Shaw

**ABSENT:** Councillors Mrs C Collier, G Collier, Mrs J Farnham, Mrs M Goodall, P Leason,  
G Neagus and M Williamson

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**GP17/187**     **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs C Collier, G Collier, Mrs J Farnham,  
Mrs M Goodall and M Williamson

**GP17/188**     **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None received

**GP17/189**     **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

**GP17/190**     **Response to issues raised in General Purposes Committee Meeting of Thursday  
30<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

Members considered a document\* circulated at the meeting setting out potential  
responses to points raised by traders at the previous meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

**Markets**

It was noted that the Council are already in the process of arranging a number of  
late night shopping events and that market stalls are to be erected in future with a  
clear back panel. Members expressed concern about the viability of the market if  
traders were not accepted if they sold the same products as town centre shops.

The introduction of a formal agreement with market traders will be considered,  
which would cover leaving times and the leaving behind of rubbish.

**RESOLVED:** To ask the Tourism & Town Promotion and Estates Sub-Committees to  
consider advertising of the market.

**RESOLVED:** To ask the Estates Sub-Committee to consider whether the Council's  
policy should be varied to allow market traders to use their own marquees.

**Parking**

The Committee noted that on-street parking is a responsibility of Staffordshire  
County Council and that the issue of a refund parking scheme would be considered  
by any future town centre partnership.

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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 ask Stafford Borough Council to consider a regular free parking arrangement for Stone on specific days/times, similar to the Christmas free parking arrangements.

### **Signage**

A new noticeboard has already been agreed by the Council. Brown signs are already in place on A34 but are quite often covered by foliage.

**RESOLVED:** To contact Highways to ensure brown signs remain visible.

### **Stone Festival**

It was reported that the Festival Committee are examining the re-routing of all or some of the parade through the High Street.

### **Christmas**

The Committee considered that the Plane Tree is well decorated for Christmas, and an that there would be no gain from providing an additional Christmas tree Christmas Tree.

### **Traders**

The Committee noted that Traders are in discussion with Stafford Borough Council about starting a Town Centre Partnership along similar lines to the one already in place in Stafford.

**RESOLVED:** To discuss the establishment of a Town Centre Partnership at the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee.

### **Council**

The Committee noted that maintaining the cleanliness of the High Street is a matter for Stafford Borough Council, but that traders themselves also have a responsibility. Cigarette ends were identified as a particular concern. It was noted that Stone in Bloom have been painting street furniture and spraying weed killer.

The Clerk reported that it was illegal for the Council to subsidise businesses, but that the Borough Council had some limited powers in this area.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk be asked to research the legal requirements for cigarette bins.

**RESOLVED:** To write to Stafford Borough Council to ask them to extend their business subsidy scheme to Stone.

**RESOLVED:** To write to Staffordshire County Council to request a review of the town centre traffic management arrangements.

**GP17/191 Members' Motions under Standing Order 4**

**Councillor Mrs J Hood**

"I ask the General Purposes Committee to consider the benefits of an ENJOY STONE card, similar to the existing ENJOY STAFFORDSHIRE card.

This would offer a vehicle for local traders to be part of the card scheme and offer discounts, special offers and promotions throughout Stone to encourage shoppers to shop locally.

Discussions would need to be held with traders to determine the arrangements for managing card issue, communications, advertising, and the card benefits."

RESOLVED: To refer this issue to the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee.

**GP17/192 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 Press and Public from the next item of business.

**GP17/193 Staffing Issues**

The Clerk presented a report regarding staffing issues.

The recommendations were agreed subject to minor amendments to the person specification.

The Clerk was authorised to appoint to a temporary post to cover the position until a permanent employee is appointed.

**Town Mayor**