

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in Stone Station Community Centre on Tuesday 16 May, 2017

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

ABSENT: Councillors Mrs J. Farnham, Mrs M. Goodall, P. Leason, Mrs J. Piggott and
M. Williamson

GP18/001 Apologies
Apologies were received from Councillors: Mrs M. Goodall, P. Leason,
Mrs. J. Piggott and M. Williamson

GP18/002 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None received

GP18/003 To receive the Report of the County Councillors

County Councillor Mrs J. Hood

Councillor Mrs Hood said she was delighted to have been elected and will do her best to serve the community. She had no report.

County Councillor I. Parry

Councillor Parry was not present at the meeting.

Councillor M. Green asked that it be recorded that Councillor Parry had not attended the meeting and that the Town Council write to him to ask him to be present.

GP18/004 Representations from Members of the Public

None

GP18/005 To elect the Members, Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the following Sub-Committees:

The Committee considered returning to the previous arrangements whereby Sub-Committees consisted of seven appointed members.

RESOLVED: To change the number of Sub-Committee member to seven.

The Town Clerk reminded members that the two ex-officio members were in addition to this seven, as set out in Standing Orders.

The Committee considered the election of Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and 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 the Council's Sub-Committees.

RESOLVED: To appoint the following Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and Members to the Sub Committees for the municipal year 2017-18:

Tourism & Town Promotion

Chairman: Councillor I Fordham

Vice Chairman: Councillor Mrs Hood

Members: Councillors: I. Fordham, Mrs J. Hood, P. Leason, Mrs K. Green, Mrs J. Piggott, M. Williamson, Mrs C. Collier

Environment

Chairman: Councillor P. Leason

Vice Chairman: Councillor A. Osgathorpe

Members: Councillors: P. Leason, A. Osgathorpe, Mrs K. Green, G. Neagus, Mrs J. Piggott, Mrs M. Goodall, M. Shaw

Estates

Chairman: Councillor M. Green

Vice Chairman: Mrs J. Hood

Members: Councillors: M. Green, Mrs J. Hood, Mrs E. Mowatt, I Fordham, Mrs J. Farnham, T. Jackson, G. Collier

Management

Chairman: Councillor M. Green

Vice Chairman: Councillor Mrs E. Mowatt

Members: Councillors: M. Green, Mrs E. Mowatt, G. Neagus, A. Osgathorpe, T. Jackson, Mrs M. Goodall, M. Williamson

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

It was proposed by Councillor M. Green seconded by Mrs. E. Mowatt and agreed that members remain the same as last year with G. Collier and Mrs C. Collier removed. The members are:

Chairman: Councillor Mrs Hood

Vice chairman: Councillor A. Osgathorpe

Members: Councillors Mrs J. Hood, A. Osgathorpe, M. Green, G. Neagus, I. Fordham, Mrs J. Piggott, T. Jackson and M. Williamson

GP18/006 Appointment to Outside Bodies

The Committee considered appointments as the Council's representatives on outside bodies.

All proposals were unopposed except for Walton Community Centre where a vote took place to determine the appointment between Councillor M. Green and Councillor M. Shaw.

RESOLVED: To make the following appointments of council representatives to the following bodies:

Stone ATC (Mayor plus 1 member)

Councillors: J. Davies and M. Green

Age Concern Stone & District (2 members)
Councillors: Mrs C. Collier and Mrs K. Green

Stone Town Band (Mayor)
Councillor J. Davies

Walton Community Centre (1 member)
Councillor M. Green

Stafford & Stone Access Group (1 member)
Councillor Mrs C. Collier

Stone Common Plot Trustees
Councillors: Mrs C. Collier, G. Collier, Mrs J. Hood, R. Kenney and M. Shaw

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group
Councillors: Mrs J. Farnham, M. Green, A. Osgathorpe, Mrs J. Hood and R. Kenney

Trustees of the Town Hall Charity (all members)
All members

Richard Vernon Trust (1 member until 2021)
Councillor R. Kenney
(Existing members: Councillors P Leason and M Shaw)

GP18/007 Community Paths Initiative – Bids for 2017-18

The Committee considered an invitation received from Staffordshire County Council to apply to the Community Paths Initiative and noted that in previous years it had been forwarded to the Stone Common Plot Trustees.

RESOLVED: To forward the details for making an application under the Community Paths Initiative, to Stone Common Plot Trustees.

GP18/008 Protocol for Marking the Death of the Sovereign or other members of the Royal Family

The Committee considered proposals from Stafford Borough Council regarding a protocol for condolences and floral tributes related to the death of a member of the Royal Family.

It was noted that the Borough Council were intending to centralise activities in Stafford, but members considered that Stone should have its own arrangements.

RESOLVED: That Stafford Borough Council be informed that Stone wishes to make its own arrangements.

RESOLVED: That a working group is established to determine the venue and arrangements Stone should make in preparation for marking the death of the Sovereign or other member of the Royal Family.

GP18/009 Town Centre Issues

Future of the Co-op Building

This item arose following County Councillor Jones' suggestion that the Co-op building should become a health centre. It was acknowledged that good health facilities are needed but members referred to the assessment that justified the

need to build the Marks and Spencer food store on Westridge Park, and expressed concern that if the Co-op building was not used for retail purposes there may be a further proposal to build an out of town supermarket, weakening the town centre even more.

RESOLVED: To write to Stafford Borough Council asking for guarantees that the use of the Co-op building will not change and that retail space is protected.

GP18/010 Members' Motions under Standing Order 4

Councillor Mrs J. Hood

'I have been contacted by a resident who has made me aware of the loss of a number of dog fouling bins in an around Stone

I would like to ask the Council to consider replacing some of those bins.'

A discussion took place about the demise of dog bins in Stone, the possible reasons and how vital they are to the community. Residents have been told that Stafford Borough Council are not obliged to provide them, when extra sites were suggested.

It was noted that a bin on Crown Meadow had been smashed.

RESOLVED: That a bin audit of the town be undertaken to identify missing and damaged bins. Stone Town Council should identify and replace its own bins as necessary and Stafford Borough Council contacted in respect of issues identified with Borough Council bins.

GP18/011 Update from Working Groups

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Councillor Mrs Hood provided an update on the work of the Steering Group. It had entered a period of consultation regarding Special Character Areas within the town. At the end of the consultation period (on 22 May 2017) the Working Group will be considering how to take into account comments received from residents.

RESOLVED: To note the update on the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

GP18/012 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 reported that he had attended the last Welfare Committee. Numbers were good and they are working very well. The Ministry of Defence used to provide a lot of support which included transport and mini bus facilities. This has now been withdrawn and the group has been left to its own devices.

Age Concern Stone & District

Councillor Mrs Collier advised that the financial report was good, the Car Scheme had made a surplus, 1000 leaflets had been produced, luncheon clubs were well supported and a Public-Address System had been purchased.

Stone Town Band

The Mayor advised there was nothing to report.

Walton Community Centre

Councillor M Shaw reported that the AGM had taken place yesterday (Monday). The Management Committee is working well and in good financial condition.

Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor Mrs Collier reported that a website had been launched (she is website manager) with good quality information. Eccleshall has been done with Stone still to be added. There are on-going issues with A boards. The Group is in talks with Marks and Spencer about signage.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

Councillor Mrs Hood reported that members attended its AGM. The bank balance is healthy. Hedgerows etc are all well. Farmers cows have been taken off due to TB. There are two vacancies for Trustees. She wished them all the best for next year.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

It was reported that no meeting had taken place

Town Mayor