

Stone Town Council – Planning Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in Stone Station Community Centre on Tuesday 30 May 2017

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

ABSENT: I. Fordham, G. Collier, Mrs. C. Collier, Mrs J. Piggott and P. Leason

P18/016 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: G. Collier, Mrs C. Collier, Mrs. J. Piggott and P. Leason

P18/017 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None received

P18/018 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None received

P18/019 **Planning Applications**

Application Number – 17/26207/FUL

Location – Westbridge Park, Stafford Street

Development – Erection of new Leisure Centre and associated car parking facilities. Demolition of an existing Fitness Centre building.

The Committee noted that Stafford Borough Council had agreed to an extension of the published deadline to allow the Council to submit a response following today's meeting.

Members considered a note* prepared by the Committee Chairman and circulated in advance of the meeting.

Discussion centred around the need for leisure facilities in Stone as weighed against the damage to the towns heritage due to the proposed location of the centre and its style of construction. Concern was also expressed regarding the location of the community facilities proposed for the site, such as the multi-use games area, skate park and children's play area.

On balance, members considered that the town would obtain most overall benefit from the siting of the community facilities within Westbridge Park, at the location currently proposed for the leisure centre, and building a leisure centre which met the town's needs at another, more suitable, location.

* 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: That the following comments be forwarded to Stafford Borough Council alongside the note considered by the Committee.

‘The Council is supportive of the need to build a new Leisure Centre in Stone, but the benefits of the current proposal do not outweigh the harm to the heritage assets of the town.

It is the Council’s view that the town would be better served by the inclusion of community facilities such as the proposed play area, skate park and multi-use games area on Westbridge Park in the area currently proposed for the leisure centre, with a leisure facility which meets Stone’s needs on an alternative site’.

P18/020

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

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