

# Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

## Minutes of the meeting held in Stone Station Community Centre, Station Approach, Stone on Tuesday 4 July, 2017

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

**ABSENT:** Councillors Mrs C. Collier and G. Collier

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**GP18/024**    **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: Mrs C. Collier and G. Collier

**GP18/025**    **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

Councillor Mrs K. Green and M. Green declared personal interests in item 12: Stone Lions Club

**GP18/026**    **To receive the Report of the County Councillors**

**County Councillor Mrs J. Hood**

Councillor Mrs Hood advised that there is a good program of Highway repairs in progress currently. The A34 has been resurfaced this week and Staffordshire County Council is also taking remedial action on large numbers of jobbing repairs.

**County Councillor I. Parry**

Councillor Parry was not present at the meeting.

Councillor M. Green pointed out that Councillor Parry had not attended the meeting again. The Town Clerk advised that a letter had been sent to both Councillor Parry and the Leader of Staffordshire County Council. No response had as yet been received.

Councillor Green asked that yet another letter be issued if Councillor Parry fails to respond or attend future meetings.

**GP18/027**    **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

**GP18/028**     **Minutes**

**RESOLVED:**

Estates Sub-Committee held on 20 June, 2017, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record and that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in Minute Numbers: EST18/004, EST18/005 and EST/18/006 be adopted.

Management Sub-Committee held on 20 June, 2017, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record and that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in Minute Number MAN/18/004 be adopted.

**GP18/029**     **Stone Town Council Representative on Walton Community Association (Stone) Ltd**

The Committee considered a letter received from the Association stating that there is no further requirement for a representative from Stone Town Council to attend its meetings.

No further explanation was provided and Town Council Members were unable to offer any information on the reasons for this decision. Attendance at meetings by representatives of both Stafford Borough Council and Stone Town Council was thought to be included in the Associations constitution.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council write to Walton Community Association to ask the date when its constitution was changed.

**GP18/030**     **Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day**

The Committee considered a letter from Seafarers UK inviting the Town Council to support its nationwide campaign to raise public awareness of our nations ongoing reliance on seafarers and shipping, and suggests this be done through the flying of a Red Ensign flag on Merchant Navy Day – 3 September 2017.

**RESOLVED:** That a Red Ensign flag be purchased for commemoration of the British Merchant Navy on 3 September 2017.

**GP18/031**     **Police and Fire Consultation**

The Committee considered a letter from Matthew Ellis, Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), who has been asked by Government (along with all other PCC's) to investigate amalgamating the governance of Staffordshire fire and rescue services with that of policing. He advised that combining the support and administration functions of the fire service and police service would free up at least £3 million every year to support frontline services and provide consistency in working better together.

The Town Clerk advised that the full report (referred to in the letter) had been requested, but had as yet, not been supplied.

After a discussion on the implications of the merging of services, Members decided that the full report should be obtained before consideration is given to making a formal consultation response.

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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 the Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner for a copy of the full report, and that the item be carried forward to a future meeting.

**GP18/032**    **Staffordshire County Council Consultation: Updated Planning Application Validation Requirements**

The Committee considered an email message from the County Planning Department advising that (in accordance with the Governments' Planning Practice Guidance), a valid planning application must comply with national and local information requirements and that the County must review and consult on any changes every two years.

The Town Council is invited to comment on the updates to the County planning application validation requirements contained in an A to Z Guide and accompanying validation checklists. A link had been provided to an electronic copy of the full report.

**RESOLVED:** To note the updates in the A to Z Guide, with no comments determined for forwarding to Staffordshire County Council.

**GP18/033**    **Stafford Borough Council Consultation: Public Space Protection Order**

The Committee considered a request for its views on changes to rules that can help stop people causing problems in areas of Stafford Borough. The changes have been developed following legislation changes which come into force in October 2017.

A draft Public Spaces Protection Order 2017 (supplied) imposes prohibitions and/or requirements in Restricted Areas in relation to alcohol consumption, dog fouling, dogs on leads, dogs on leads by direction, dog exclusion areas and dog walking.

The Restricted Areas shown on a series of maps (also supplied) were discussed and consideration was given to any areas that had been omitted.

**RESOLVED:** To ask Stafford Borough Council to add two additional sites to the designated Restricted Areas list. These are: Adies Alley and Workhouse Lane, off Crown Street, Stone.

**GP18/034**    **Trade Union Pay Claim for 2018 – 19**

The Committee considered a paper on the Local Government Trade Union pay claim for 2018-19. The pay claim includes a 5% increase on all NJC pay points (including the deletion of NJC pay points 6, 7, 8 & 9 and GLPC pay spine).

**RESOLVED:** To note the content of the paper and confirm the view that a 5% public sector pay increase is excessive.

**GP18/035**    **To consider the following requests for grants from local organisations**

**Stafford Samaritans - £100**

The Committee considered the grant application received from Stafford Samaritans who request £100 to assist in increasing publicity on the work of the group for the benefit of people living in the rural community.

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**RESOLVED:** to award £100

**STING - £500**

The Committee considered the grant application for £500 from Staffordshire Therapeutic Independent Neurological Group (STING) which has lost its major sponsor resulting in the year's expenditure exceeding levels of income.

**RESOLVED:** to award £500

**Stone Air Training Corps 2352 Squadron - £484.98**

The Committee considered a grant application received from Stone Air Training Corps which is requested for the purpose of supporting the wide range of activities undertaken by the Squadron, and in particular the replacement of its event shelter.

**RESOLVED:** to award a grant, and to round up the value requested to £500

**Stone Lions - £500**

The Committee considered a grant application received from Stone Lions to support the purchase of prostate cancer screening services and PSA blood tests.

**RESOLVED:** to award £500

**The Burma Star Association - £300**

The Committee considered a grant application received from the Burma Star Association to support the annual gathering of relatives of servicemen (who fought in Burma during WWII) to commemorate the ending of the War in the Far East and Victory over Japan.

**RESOLVED:** to award £300 and to make the event part of the Town Council's budget during 2018-19 and onwards.

**Revitalise Respite Holidays - £354.00**

The Committee considered a grant application received from Revitalise holidays which is seeking a donation of £354 to help a disabled person from Stone access a respite break, helping to alleviate the challenge caused by their disability.

The Town Clerk advised that providing financial support to individuals would be beyond the powers of the Town Council.

**RESOLVED:** to refuse the grant application on the grounds that the award does not fall within the legal framework of a local council.

**GP18/036 Update from Working Groups**

**Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

Councillor Mrs Hood provided an update on the work of the Steering Group. She advised that the group had depleted and was struggling with live planning applications (Westbridge Park and Blackies Lane). Neighbourhood plans are not treated as seriously as would be expected, by the Borough Council.

A meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan steering Group is to be held tomorrow evening (5 July 2017) and advice will be available from the Neighbourhood Planning Consultant.

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

**Protocol for Marking the Death of the Sovereign or other member of the Royal Family Group**

No meeting has taken place

**GP18/037** **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 advised that he had attended a welfare meeting on 26 June 2017. The organisation is short of money and the biggest challenge is transport and in particular the minibus.

**Age Concern Stone & District**

Councillor Mrs Green reported that she had attended the AGM and that everything is going well. A scheme is being operated where volunteers take people to hospital. The luncheon club is going well as is the running of the office.

**Stone Town Band**

The Mayor advised that he had attended rehearsals on 16 June. The band had not been invited to take part in the music festival and urged that the community make use of the band as much as possible.

**Walton Community Centre**

Councillor M. Green reported that no meeting dates had been forwarded to him.

**Stafford & Stone Access Group**

No report

**Stone Common Plot Trustees**

No report

**Stone Community Hub Liaison Group**

Councillor M. Green advised that there had been a meeting where an update on the work of the Group had been given. He reported that a good job is being done and that the environment in which the Group work will be more pleasant when the Frank Jordan refurbishments are finished.

**SPCA Executive Meeting**

Councillor Williamson advised that he would be attending a meeting next Monday (10 July 2017). The item should feature on the next agenda.

**Town Mayor**