

Stone Town Council

Minutes of the meeting held in St Michael's Suite, Frank Jordan Centre, Lichfield Street, Stone, on Tuesday 6 February 2018

PRESENT: Councillor J Davies in the Chair, and
Councillors: Mrs J. Farnham, Mrs J. Hood, R. Kenney, Mrs E. Mowatt, I. Fordham,
Mrs K. Green, M. Green, T. Jackson, G. Neagus, M. Williamson, Mrs J. Piggott,
Mrs C. Collier (from C18/079), G. Collier (from C18/079) and P. Leason

ABSENT: Councillors: Mrs M. Goodall, A. Osgathorpe, M. Shaw, Mrs C. Collier (to C18/078)
and G. Collier (to C18/078)

Before the meeting began Mrs Lin Davies gave prayers

C18/070 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: Mrs M. Goodall, A. Osgathorpe, M. Shaw
Mrs C. Collier (to C18/078) and G. Collier (to C18/078)

C18/071 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None received

C18/072 Representations from Members of the Public

None

C18/073 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 5 December 2017,
copies having been circulated to the members, be signed by the Chairman as a
correct record.

C18/074 Committee Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the
5 December 2017, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by

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the Chairman as a correct record.

- b) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 5 December 2017, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- c) That the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 12 December 2017, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- d) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 14 December 2017, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- e) That the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 9 January 2018, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- f) That the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 23 January 2018, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- g) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 23 January 2018, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C18/075 Budget for 2017-19 and Council Tax Setting for the Year 2018-19

The Council considered the Town Clerk's budget report*, which was based on the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee on 23 January 2018. The Clerk confirmed that this budget represented a sustainable position given the Town Council's expenditure plans.

RESOLVED:

1. The budget recommended by the General Purposes Committee on 23rd January 2018, and set out in the Clerk's report to this meeting, is agreed.
2. The precept on Stafford Borough Council should be £307,655 for 2018-19, made up of £289,489 from Council Tax and £18,166 from Local Council Tax Support Grant, and resulting in a Band D Council Tax of £49.55 for this Council's purposes.
3. The wording for the 2018-19 Council Tax leaflet should be:

"Stone Town Council provides services for the people and town of Stone.

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These services include the provision of community facilities, such as the Frank Jordan and Stone Station community centres, the free Northesk Street and Crown Wharf car parks, allotment sites at Newcastle Road and Mount Road, Station Road Conveniences, and the Crown Meadow Nature Reserve and amphitheatre.

Investing in and working to promote a vibrant town and encourage visitors is a key Town Council priority. In order to support this, the Council organises regular events such as the summer Music Festival, the Town Market, the monthly Craft Market and a number of late night shopping evenings. Christmas lights are provided in the High Street and at Walton, with the Council's annual switch-on event becoming one of highlights of the town year. The High Street environment is enhanced by the Council's provision of hanging baskets along the High Street, and the next year should see the full refurbishment of noticeboards and fingerposts throughout the town.

The Council provides bus shelters, benches and dog bins throughout the area and takes responsibility for the upkeep of many local amenities and planted areas. It also provides grants to help charitable and community organisations such as the Stone Community Hub, supports various festivals, and the office supplies daily support and advice to local residents. In the current absence of a town Post Office, the Council is providing a transport service to other local Post Offices to residents who might otherwise struggle to get to one.

By considering the impact of every planning application, the Council seeks to develop and conserve the town, and is currently preparing a Neighbourhood Plan that will help to shape and protect the future of Stone for years to come.

This year, additional provision has been made for the setup and running costs of the new Heritage Centre, which will form part of the exciting redevelopment of Crown Wharf.

At its monthly meetings the Council welcomes questions from the public and sets aside time to listen and respond. Assistance with public questions will gladly be given by the Council's staff."

4. The Clerk is authorised to seek tenders/quotations, place orders and make payments in accordance with this budget, the Council's policies, and Financial Regulations.

**C18/076 Local Government Transparency Code 2015
Openness of Public Bodies Regulations 2014**

The information was noted.

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C18/077 **Civic Announcements**

The Civic Announcements, which had been previously circulated, were noted. The Mayor informed Members that he and the Mayoress had today accompanied the High Sherriff on a tour of Stone which was successful and had been very positive for the town.

C18/078 **Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Reports of Engagements**

The Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Announcements, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

The Mayor reported that a great Christmas had been had in Stone this year with a number of festive events taking place in the High Street.

The Mayor thanked everyone for supporting a successful Civic Carol Service at St Michael's and St Wulfad's Church on Sunday 10 December 2017, despite the heavy snow and icy temperatures.

The Deputy Mayor reported on a very well attended annual Burn's Night hosted by Stone Community Hub. It proved to be the most successful event to date and raised several thousand pounds to support the charity's good work.

The meeting was suspended to enable the General Purposes Committee Meeting and Planning Committee Meeting to take place. The Town Council meeting was then reconvened for the confidential items on the agenda.

C18/079 **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 the Press and Public from the next item of business.

C18/080 **Confidential Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the confidential minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 5 December 2017, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the chairman as a correct record.

C18/081 **Confidential Committee Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on

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TOWN MAYOR

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