

# Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

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

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

**ABSENT:** Councillors: Mrs M. Goodall, M. Shaw and A. Osgathorpe

---

**GP18/146**     **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: Mrs M. Goodall, M. Shaw and A. Osgathorpe

**GP18/147**     **Declarations of Interests**

None

**GP18/148**     **Requests for Dispensations**

None

**GP18/149**     **To receive the Report of the County Councillors**

**County Councillor Mrs J. Hood**

Councillor Mrs Hood provided updates on items raised with Councillor Parry and herself, at a previous General Purposes meeting.

Meaford Business Park – The first unit on the site is now ready for occupation and is being actively marketed by St. Modwen. It is understood that an end user is ready to take on this unit. No details are available on the intentions for bringing further floor space/units forward on the site.

Meaford Power Station – Councillor Mrs Hood has met with the promoters of the proposed Gas Power Station and their investment partners. It is understood that an application has been submitted to the UK energy auctions and they expect to hear whether they have been successful by the end of January 2018.

The current intention is to build out the power station (if successful in the auctions) from Spring 2019. The procurement process and discharge of planning requirements will take some time.

The size and scale of the power station will be smaller than the maximum parameters given within the planning consent but will still generate 299 MWe of power. The anticipated construction programme is around 18 months to 2 years and the power station may be operational by late 2020.

---

\* 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.

As well as generating electricity, the power station will create 800 construction jobs and provide 30 permanent local jobs.

Libraries Consultation – Councillor Mrs Hood reported that it was disappointing that the material issued for the libraries consultation is identical to that of the bus consultation booklet. A number of people have pointed this out.

Councillor Mrs Hood stressed that we have to encourage people to use the library facilities. She gave her assurances that there are no plans to close Stone Library.

Potholes – There are many deep potholes in Stone, some of which have been filled and reappeared again. The County Council is aware of potholes in Northesk Street, Radford Street and Walton area.

Councillor Mrs Hood informed Members that she will be having a meeting with the Community Traffic Management Officer on 21 February 2018 to survey the town, and will report back again afterwards.

Blocked grids in Northesk Street were reported to Councillor Mrs Hood.

#### **County Councillor I. Parry**

Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting.

#### **GP18/150 Representations from Members of the Public**

None

#### **GP18/151 Minutes**

##### **RESOLVED:**

- a) Estates Sub-Committee held on 23 January 2018, 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 EST18/028 be adopted.

#### **GP18/152 Staffordshire County Council Libraries Consultation**

The Committee considered a letter (dated 8 January 2018) from Gill Heath, Cabinet Member for Communities, with information about the Staffordshire County Council public consultation on 'Managed and Delivered Libraries and the Mobile and Travelling Library Service'.

**RESOLVED:** To note the consultation and content of Councillor Gill Heath's letter.

#### **GP18/153 HS2 Petitioning**

The Committee considered a proposal made by the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for the Town Council to consider petitioning against the HS2 Stone Railhead Compound.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council supports the principle of petitioning against the provision of the proposed railhead in Stone, and authorises the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman to:

---

\* 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.

1. Approach other affected parish councils locally to assess their interest in, and the value of, submitting a joint petition from a number of local Councils.
2. Approach the Stone Rail Head Group to represent and advise the Council (or group of Councils) in respect of the petition to the House of Commons Select Committee.
3. Agree to set aside the requirements of Financial Regulation 10.9 requiring competitive quotations for the purpose of employing the expertise of the Stone Rail Head Group as proposed above.
4. Present a final proposal for consideration by the Committee at a special meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018, to contain details of the proposed petition and the likely costs.

**GP18/154**     **Traffic on Stone Business Park**

The Committee discussed the highway congestion and traffic flow issues caused by the on street parking of vehicles on Stone Business Park. The situation is hazardous with vehicular parking on verges and bends and long stretches of the narrow roads through the park, particularly in Diamond Way. Parking provision does not appear to be a consideration when new businesses are opened on the Business Park.

The Jaguar Land Rover compound will exacerbate the problem as movements in and out of the site will be by articulated lorry.

**RESOLVED:** Councillor Mrs Hood will report back on the issue after her meeting with the Community Traffic Management Officer on 21 February 2018.

**GP18/155**     **Non Cheque Payments**

**RESOLVED:** To note the list\* of non-cheque payments made by the Council during the period 1 November 2017 to 31 December 2017.

**GP18/156**     **Update from Working Groups**

**Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

Councillor Mrs Hood gave an update on the Stone Neighbourhood Plan.

Some additional information must be incorporated into an updated version of the Neighbourhood Plan, following advice from the Planning Policy Manager.

More information will be available after a meeting of the Steering Group on 21 February 2018.

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

---

\* 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.

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

Councillor Davies advised that the group had still not seen sight of the condolence pages despite asking officers at Staffordshire County Council and Stafford Borough Council for an example.

A draft protocol is now available to work with, should a situation arise where it is called upon. A meeting of the group will be arranged in the near future.

**RESOLVED:** To note the update on the work of the Headstone/Marking the Death of the Sovereign or other member of the Royal Family Group.

### **Stone Area Parish Liaison Group**

Councillor Davies reported on the Liaison Group meeting held two weeks ago. He said that he would like to share a review of the work of the group with other parish councils in order to demonstrate its value and encourage greater involvement/attendance.

**RESOLVED:** To note the update on the work of the Stone Area Parish Liaison Group.

### **GP18/157 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 no meeting had taken place.

#### **Age Concern Stone & District**

Councillor Mrs Collier reported that the vice chairman, Gerry Etchells had sadly passed away and Jill Hood had been appointed as Vice Chairman. The theatre trip was a great success and thanks were given to the Lions for funding the coach. The coach trip made £168, and £37 was made on the raffle. A sum of £360 has been raised from raffles and tombola over the last year.

More hospital drivers are volunteering and this service is well used by people needing to attend hospital appointments. The lunch club continues to be well supported.

#### **Stone Town Band**

It was reported that the Pump House was out of action and meetings were being held at the guide Headquarters.

#### **Walton Community Centre**

Councillor Green has not been invited to any meetings and asked for another letter to be sent by the Town Council.

#### **Stafford & Stone Access Group**

Councillor Mrs Collier advised that a meeting scheduled for Monday 5 February had been cancelled and that the next meeting would be held in May.

#### **Stone Common Plot Trustees**

Councillor Mrs Hood advised that there had been no meeting.

---

\* 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.

### **Stone Community Hub Liaison Group**

No meeting has taken place but Councillor Mrs Farnham reported that a newsletter had been sent to all Councillors.

### **Canal & River Trust**

Councillor Kenney advised that there had been no meeting and suggested the item be taken off the agenda.

### **SPCA Executive Meeting**

Councillor Williamson reported that information is still awaited from NALC and Staffordshire County Council in respect of the requirement for parish and town councils to appoint a Data Protection Officer.

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

### **GP18/158 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**To resolve, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission of 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.

### **GP18/159 Debt Recovery**

The Committee received an update from the Town Clerk on the current situation relating to Minute number GP18/127.

**RESOLVED:** To authorise the Clerk to take appropriate action to recover the debt, including court action if necessary.

**Town Mayor**