

Stone Town Council – Annual Public Meeting

**Minutes of the meeting held in St Michael's Suite,
Frank Jordan Centre, Lichfield Street, stone, on Tuesday 17 April 2018**

PRESENT: Councillor J. Davies in the Chair and
Councillors I. Fordham, Mrs K. Green, M. Green, Mrs J. Hood, R. Kenney,
Mrs E. Mowatt, A. Osgathorpe, Mrs J. Piggott, M. Shaw, Mrs J. Farnham and
P. Leason,
Also present were 24 members of public.

ABSENT: Councillors Mrs C. Collier, G. Collier, Mrs M. Goodall, G. Neagus, T. Jackson and
M. Williamson

APM18/001 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs C. Collier, G. Collier,
Mrs M. Goodall, G. Neagus, T. Jackson and M Williamson

24 members of the public were in attendance.

The Town Clerk provided a short briefing on the purpose and format of an Annual
Public Meeting.

APM18/002 Declarations of Interest

None received

APM18/003 Minutes

RESOLVED

- a) that the Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting held on the 25 April 2017,
copies having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct
record.

APM18/004 Annual Report of Stone Town Council

The Town Mayor, Councillor Davies, welcomed everyone to the meeting and
offered a reminder that the Town Council represented the tier of local
government that was closest to the people/electors and was directly answerable
them.

The Annual Report of Stone Town Council was presented by the Town Mayor.
(Appendix 1)

APM18/005 Reports from Town, County, Borough Councillors and Members of Other Organisations

County Councillor Mrs J. Hood reported on the work of Staffordshire County Council and talked about the issues she has been involved with since becoming a County Member in 2017.

Councillor I. Fordham reported on the Development Strategy which had been approved by the Town Council in July 2017. The objectives of the strategy are to improve Stone's attractiveness and to make it a destination for both residents and visitors from further afield.

Councillor R. Kenney reported on the work he had been doing to bring back a post office in the town. He advised that two applicants were currently being considered to take on the running of a facility in Stone. There is a diligent application and training process, but he was hopeful that a Post Office would be reinstated in the town by the end of the year.

Councillor Mrs J. Farnham informed the meeting of work she had done to relocate the defibrillator to the Market Square, outside the library. She stated that the new proposed location outside the Library would be much more suitable than the previous one and is central to the town. Although within the conservation area, she was able to secure the agreement of the library.

Councillor Mrs Hood said the selling of the Tilling Drive playing field by Stafford Borough Council had come as a great shock. The Borough Council has confirmed that it needs the money to improve the sporting facilities in Stone.

She confirmed that the playing field had been allocated as a Green Space within the Stone Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

APM18/006 Questions or Matters Raised by Residents

Issues were raised by various members of the public in respect of:

- The sale of Tilling Drive playing fields by Stafford Borough Council
- Trees growing out of pavements in Pirehill Lane
- Potholes on pavements
- Blocked drains in Manor Rise
- Cyclists travelling through the High Street
- The Council's Neighbourhood Plan
- HS2 and the proposed railhead
- On-street parking in Friars Avenue due to use by school staff
- The cost of the Westbridge Park development

Town Mayor