

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in St Michael's Suite, Frank Jordan Centre,
Lichfield Street, Stone
on Tuesday 3 July 2018

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

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

GP19/037 **Apologies**

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

GP19/038 **Declarations of Interests**

Councillor J. Davies declared a personal interest in Minute Number GP19/049

GP19/039 **Requests for Dispensations**

None

GP19/040 **To receive the Report of the County Councillors**

County Councillor Mrs J. Hood

Potholes – Councillor Mrs Hood reported that County Highways are working hard to complete a large pothole repair program, but pavements remain a problem.

Libraries – Councillor Mrs Hood reported that Staffordshire County Council's Cabinet will be making a decision about libraries on 18 July 2018. She gave a very clear message about the need to use these facilities to prevent losing them as new lenders and visitor numbers to libraries are falling. The pressure on County budgets has never been greater as resources are focussed on social care. A range of new initiatives are being introduced to encourage greater use of libraries which include: a broad schedule of activities, making rooms available for hire, self-service technology and an extension of opening hours.

County Councillor I. Parry

Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting.

GP19/041 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP19/042 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee held on 19 June 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 Numbers TTP19/004 and TTP19/005 be adopted.
- b) Mayor' Charities Sub-Committee held on 19 June 2018, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record and that the resolutions contained in Minute Numbers MC19/003 and MC19/004 be noted.

GP19/043 Bollards at the Top of the High Street

The Committee considered the future operation of the bollards at the top of the High Street following the withdrawal of funding (for their installation and removal at set times during the day) by Staffordshire County Council. An email dated 8 June 2018 from the Neighbourhood Services Group Manager was noted.

RESOLVED: That Stone Town Council writes to Stafford Borough Council to ask that arrangements are made to resume the daily bollard placement and removal services for the purpose of providing a safe pedestrianised High Street. The costs involved in doing this should be shared equally between Stone Town Council and Stafford Borough Council.

GP19/044 National Pay Award 2018-19 and 2019-20

The Committee considered the report* of the Town Clerk which provided information on the outcomes of the 2018-19 national pay award negotiations for local government staff and its impact on the Council.

RESOLVED: To adopt the new National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay scales for staff for 2018-19 and 2019-20 as set out in the Report.

GP19/045 Sale of Land at Tilling Drive by Stafford Borough Council

The Committee considered a consultation document from Stafford Borough Council on the proposed sale of land at Tilling Drive.

Councillor Osgathorpe issued a paper* which was read to the Committee, detailing the reasons the Town Council should object to the sale of the land at Tilling Drive.

It was requested that a named vote take place in response to the proposal that this paper should be submitted as Stone Town Council's response to the Consultation.

The results of the vote were as follows:

| | | |
|-------------|----------------|---------|
| Councillor: | J. Davies | For |
| | Mrs J. Farnham | Abstain |
| | I. Fordham | For |
| | Mrs M. Goodall | Abstain |
| | Mrs K. Green | For |
| | M. Green | For |

* 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.

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Mrs J. Hood | For |
| R. Kenney | For |
| P. Leason | For |
| Mrs E. Mowatt | For |
| A. Osgathorpe | For |
| Mrs J. Piggott | For |
| M. Shaw | Abstain |
| M. Williamson | For |

RESOLVED: That the circulated paper is submitted as Stone Town Council's response to the consultation on the sale of land in Tilling Drive.

GP19/046 Stafford Borough Council New Local Plan

The Committee considered the following Stafford Borough Council consultations:

1. Draft Statement of Community Involvement
2. Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability assessment – Draft Methodology

A copy of a letter from Stafford Borough Council had been circulated and copies of the 'Statement of Community Involvement 2018 Update' and 'Strategic Housing & Employment Land Availability Assessment 2018 Draft Methodology' included in the electronic version of this agenda.

RESOLVED: To consider the item at the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

GP19/047 Street Food Events

The Committee considered a proposal from the Stone Food and Drink Festival Committee who wish to hold Street Food events in the High Street on 8th August 2018 and 3rd October 2018.

RESOLVED: That a working group consisting of the: Chair of Estates Sub-Committee, and the Chair of Tourism & Town Promotion Sub Committee and the Town Clerk is established to consider this matter.

In view of the timescales, the Town Clerk is authorised to make a final decision on this issue, in consultation with the other Working Group Members, and report back to a future meeting.

GP19/048 Non-Cheque Payments

RESOLVED: To note the list* of non-cheque payments made by the Council during the period 1 April to 30 April 2018.

GP19/049 To consider the following request for a grant:

Royal Air Forces Association - £500

The Committee considered the grant application received from the Stone & District Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association, which has requested £500 to assist in the commemoration and celebration of the centenary year of the foundation of the Royal Air Force.

RESOLVED: To award £500 to the Royal Air Forces Association.

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GP19/050 Members Motion under Standing Order 4

Councillor Mrs Hood

'The D&G bus service to Walton, Cherryfields, Stonefield and Aston Lodge is to be withdrawn from 22nd July. I have been contacted by a large number of residents who are worried about being stranded in their homes. Those who rely on the bus service tell me they go in to Stone on the bus to shop, get their hair done and for health care visits etc, but most importantly of all to meet up with friends and enjoy a social occasion. A lack of a bus service taking people to and from the town can cause social isolation; loneliness can have a massive impact on mental and physical well-being which in turn will add to the heavy economic burden on an already struggling NHS. It's not just the elderly who will be affected by bus service cuts, but also those with physical and learning disabilities and those on benefits.

We have been working in conjunction with some of the traders in the High Street with a view to supporting finding ways to boost the economy of the High Street. No bus to the surrounding estates means less people coming into the town. I urge Stone Town Council to try to find a solution to the planned cuts; we have a duty of care to our residents. I therefore propose that:

- 1. The Council appoints representatives to meet with D&G Bus Company as soon as possible, and,*
- 2. Potential solutions to the planned cuts are explored'.*

RESOLVED: That a working group be formed to consider this issue, and other approaches such as 'Arriva Click' and report back to this Committee. The working group members were confirmed as Councillors: R. Kenney, Mrs J. Farnham, Mrs J. Hood, J. Davies and Mrs K. Green.

GP19/051 Members Motion under Standing Order 4

Councillor I. Fordham

'An increasing number of residents are concerned at the way in which vehicles are being parked on Oulton Road in the vicinity of Alleyne's Academy both during the school day and at school drop off times.

The situation is causing danger for vehicles negotiating the road, schoolchildren crossing the road to reach or leave the school - and for residents entering and leaving their driveways. I propose that the Council approaches SCC, SBC and the Police and asks them to review the situation and find an acceptable solution."

RESOLVED: To write to Staffordshire County Council asking for parking restrictions during school hours on the residential side of Oulton Road, extending into Elmhurst Way, to allow two-way traffic to flow and to remove line of sight issues for residents when entering and exiting their homes.

GP19/052 Update from Working Groups:

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Councillor Mrs Hood advised that a Regulation 14 consultation was currently in progress.

RESOLVED: To note the update on the work of the neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Project Headstone (Protocol for Marking the Death of the Sovereign or other members of the Royal Family)

The Chairman of the working group, Councillor J. Davies confirmed that the plan has been approved by the Town Council and is now with the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: This Working Group is now disbanded, and the item no longer needs to be listed on the General Purposes Committee agenda.

Stone Area Parish Liaison Group

Councillor Davies reported that the next meeting of the Group would be taking place in two weeks' time where a number of common issues between parishes would be discussed. The notes of the last meeting on 25 April 2018 were circulated for information.

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

At this point in the meeting it was RESOLVED to suspend Standing Order 4.25 to enable the meeting to continue beyond a 1.5 hour time limit.

GP19/053 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

Cllr J. Davies hadn't been able to attend the last meeting.

Age Concern Stone & District

Councillor Mrs Green reported that new volunteers were going through training. One volunteer was taking the lead in assisting people with form filling on line. A new trustee was present at the AGM. Councillor Mrs Hood is Chairman. The lunch club is going from strength to strength. It was reported that Age Concern has been chosen as one of the Mayor's Charities.

Stone Town Band

No meeting had taken place.

Walton Community Centre

No report. The item will be removed from future agendas as the Community Centre no longer require a Town Council member.

Stafford & Stone Access Group

No report was available on this occasion.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

Cllr Mrs Hood informed the Committee that there had been no meeting.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

Cllr Mrs Farnham reported that there had been no meeting.

SPCA Executive Committee

Councillor Williamson reported that he had attended a meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee last night (2 July 2018).

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The main topics were:

- Annual Liaison Meeting with Staffordshire County Council – It was a cordial meeting where Staffordshire County Council explained their medium term financial strategy. They explained that they have a funding deficit of £30 million for the next 2 years. They advised that 70% of their budget is spent on just 2% of the population. They made a commitment to help parish councils to pay for insurance for volunteers working on local highways. An update was given on the Dementia outreach programme. They also advised that no planning applications have been submitted for fracking in Staffordshire.
- NALC has produced a national strategy document which Councillor Williamson suggested is issued to all town and parish councils for their comments.
- The Chief Executive asked whether the Data Protection Officer service had been taken up and advised that NALC will be bringing forward a Guide to Information Governance by the end of the year. He also spoke about the implications of the Ledbury Judicial Review.

Town Mayor