

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

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

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

ABSENT: Councillor: Mrs J. Farnham

GP19/054 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor: Mrs J. Farnham

GP19/055 Declarations of Interests

None

GP19/056 Requests for Dispensations

None

GP19/057 Representations from Members of the Public

None

GP19/058 Stafford Borough Council New Local Plan

The Committee considered the following Stafford Borough Council consultations:

1. Draft Statement of Community Involvement 2018 Update
2. Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment 2018 – Draft Methodology

A copy of a letter from Stafford Borough Council had been circulated with the agenda 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 the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the following comments be submitted to Stafford Borough Council as the Town Councils representations on the Draft Statement of Community Involvement 2018 Update:

- As a statutory consultee there is often a delay with the receipt of plans from the Borough Council making representations difficult to compile in the timeframe available.
- There should be an opportunity for parish and town councils to address the District Council's Planning Committee for the purpose of voicing concerns

* 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.

- Consideration should be given to inviting a parish/town council representative to attend Borough Planning Committee meetings.
- It appears that little notice is taken of the Town Council's planning representations by the Borough Council.
- The Town Council would like to see evidence/feedback that consultations are taken seriously, and are not dismissed. Information should be provided to monitor the decisions in accordance with or against the wishes of the parish/town council
- Reference is made to Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in the Statement. Town and parish councils should receive 15% of CIL from development in their areas and when a Neighbourhood Plan is in place the proportion is 25%. When is the Borough Council going to implement CIL as the Town Council is aware that it is missing out on payments?

RESOLVED: That the following comments be submitted to Stafford Borough Council as the Town Council's representation to the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability assessment 2018 – Draft Methodology:

'We have concerns regarding the statements:

"3.7 Through the New Local Plan process the development strategy set out in the adopted Plan for Stafford Borough 2011-2031 will be replaced with a new approach in order to accommodate the Council's future objectively assessed needs for housing and employment. New criteria for judging suitability for housing site suggestions are set out in further detail later in this paper. "

At the moment settlement boundaries clarify where development would be acceptable and provide protection for those areas outside of the boundary. If this is replaced by a character based approach, the threat to our existing green spaces will be increased; this is in a town which there is an acknowledged shortage in this respect.

We believe this is major change in approach and request the further clarification and investigations into possible options are considered. We request further information in the form of papers/meetings/forums be produced/setup on alternatives approaches and the matter be consulted upon again.

7.9 Density: Is this not a rather an academic exercise, due to the very limitation discussed. A much better approach might be to adopt the various open door space principles associated with a new development and in the context of the community at large. e.g. Fields in Trust, 6 Acre Standard.

7.10 Table 2 There appears to be no housing density for Urban Stone?'

GP19/059 Purchase of a Bench

The Committee considered a proposal of the Richard Vernon Trust to make easier the administrative process for the purchase of a bench.

The Trust at its meeting on 3 July 2018 asked the Council if it would purchase a bench on behalf of the Trust, with the Trust awarding a grant to the Town Council that is equivalent in value to the cost of the bench.

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RESOLVED: That the Town Council purchases a bench on behalf of the Richard Vernon Trust on the basis that a grant equivalent to its full cost, will be made to the Council.

Town Mayor