

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in St Michael's Suite, Frank Jordan Centre, Lichfield Street, Stone on Tuesday 31 July 2018

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

ABSENT: Councillors: Mrs J. Piggott, Mrs E. Mowatt and Mrs M Goodall

GP19/060 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: Mrs J. Piggott, Mrs E. Mowatt and Mrs M. Goodall

GP19/061 **Declarations of Interests**

Councillors Mrs K. Green and M. Green declared a personal interest in Item 8 (Minute Number GP19/067) – Stone Lions

Councillors T. Jackson and M. Green declared a personal interest in Item 8 (Minute Number GP19/067) – Little Stoke Cricket and Bowling Club

Councillor P. Leason declared a personal interest in Item 14 (Minute Number GP 19/073) – Members Motions under Standing Order 4

Councillor Mrs J. Farnham declared a personal interest in Item 8 (Minute Number GP19/067) – STING

GP19/062 **Requests for Dispensations**

None

GP19/063 **To Receive the report of the County Councillors**

- County Councillor Mrs J. Hood had no report
- County Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting

GP19/064 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP19/065 **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) Estates Sub-Committee held on 17 July 2018 copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record and that the

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recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in Minute Numbers EST19/004 and EST19/005 be adopted.

- b) Management Sub-Committee held on 17 July 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 MAN19/004, MAN19/005, MAN19/006 and MAN19/007 be adopted.

GP19/066 Budget Monitoring Report – June 2018

The Committee received the quarterly report* of the Town Clerk with information on the Council's current financial position compared with its budget for the year.

RESOLVED:

- To approve the adjustments to the Council's budget as set out in Appendix A of the report.
- To note the Council's performance against budget at the end of June 2018 and details of the Council's spending since the last budget monitoring report.
- To take no further action.

GP19/067 To consider the following requests for a grant:

STING - £500

The Committee considered the grant application received from STING requesting £500 which would either cover the cost of one month's rent of their premises or contribute towards physio costs.

RESOLVED: That no grant be awarded to STING

STONE LIONS - £500

The Committee considered the grant application received from STONE LIONS requesting £500 towards covering the costs of Prostate Screening PSA Blood Tests.

RESOLVED: To award £500 to Stone Lions.

LITTLE STOKE CRICKET AND BOWLING CLUB - £500

The Committee considered the grant application from Little Stoke Cricket and Bowling Club requesting £500 towards the cost of purchasing a new petrol flymo and strimmer to aid keeping the green in pristine condition.

RESOLVED: To award £250 to Little Stoke Cricket and Bowling Club, to be paid once confirmation that the other funding is in place and has been received.

BLYTHE BRIDGE, FORSBROOK AND DILHORNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY - £100

The Committee considered the grant application from Blythe Bridge, Forsbrook and Dilhorne Historical Society requesting £100 to cover the shortfall of the cost of producing 10 Historical Volumes.

RESOLVED: To award £100 to Blythe Bridge, Forsbrook and Dilhorne Historical Society.

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GP19/068 **Stafford Borough Council New Local Plan**

This item was deferred until the next meeting of the General Purposes on 4th September, 2018

GP19/069 **Westbridge Park Public Consultation**

Further to the meeting with Red Kite Network Ltd and Officers of Stafford Borough Council on 17th July, regarding the Westbridge Park Consultation Phase 2, the Councillors raised the following concerns:

- The security & surveillance of the play areas and MUGA with particular concern regarding lighting. Members requested the addition of CCTV.
- Inadequate toilet facilities especially when events are being held in the park i.e. Food & Drink Festival
- Road safety concerns along the main entrance; there will be a lot of cars on the M & S Car Park and the young need safeguarding with the correct barriers
- Assurance is sought regarding the future maintenance and cleaning of the play equipment
- A firm phased timetable is essential along with detailed proposals of what is going where, to include mitigation for football pitches
- Members would like to see a breakdown of funding and the sources of the funding

RESOLVED: That the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, formulate a response to Stafford Borough Council highlighting the above concerns/ comments.

GP19/070 **Proposed One-Way Traffic Management Changes – Church Street, Stone**

Councillor Kenney reported that he had received several e-mails regarding Staffordshire County Council's proposal to introduce a new one-way system within Church Street, Stone. Although all but one was in favour of the alterations, other members had received concerns from residents in the Hempbutts area.

Councillor Kenney proposed that the Town Council reply to the consultation asking the County Council to consider making only part of Church Street one-way, from the junction of Lichfield Street by the entrance to St Michael's Church as far as the Railway lines in an upward direction.

Although this would cause some issues with hearses and wedding cars exiting the Churchyard there were alternatives which Councillor Kenney was going to discuss at a meeting with the County the following day.

RESOLVED: To reply to the County Council Consultation asking them to consider making only part of Church Street one-way. This being from the junction of Lichfield Street, by the entrance to St Michael's Church, as far as the Railway lines in an upward direction.

GP19/071 **Non-Cheque Payments**

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

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GP19/072 Members Motion under Standing Order 4

Councillor Mrs J Farnham

'Due to increasing difficulty in parking at 15 Station Road to visit the Town Council offices, could the Council consider investigating whether the parking facilities could be extended by utilising the grassed area which would, after the initial cost, save money on grass cutting and maintenance'.

RESOLVED: To write to Stafford Borough Council to ask if they will consider extending the parking facilities to the rear of 15 Station Road by utilising the grassed area.

RESOLVED: To write to Matthew Ellis requesting that the Police Officers working from 15 Station Road Offices park their private cars on the large, empty Police Car Park in Station Road until such times that it is sold.

GP19/073 Members Motion under Standing Order 4

Councillor Mrs J. Farnham

'Would the Town Council consider relocating the Rotary cement trough at the front of the library in order to expose the dedication plaque which is infinitely more preferable and enhances the library in a conservation area'.

The Motion was withdrawn by Councillor Mrs J. Farnham

GP19/074 Update from Working Groups

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Councillor Mrs Hood reported that the consultation period for the Draft Stone Neighbourhood Plan had finished at noon that day (31 July 2018). In the week following a small group of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group were to meet to go through the responses, the findings of which would go to a further meeting of the full Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for consideration.

RESOLVED: To note the update of the Working Group

Stone Area Parish Liaison Group

Councillor Davies reported that there had been another meeting on 11 July where there had again been a lot of useful discussion and exchange of ideas amongst the Parishes in attendance.

RESOLVED: To note the update of the Working Group

GP19/075 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 reported that he had attended a meeting two weeks previously at which he was delighted to have been able to present a cheque for over £500 from his Mayor's Charity proceeds; the ATC have just purchased a new mini-bus so are grateful for any contributions.

Cllr J. Davies said that the cadets were working closely with the Royal Air Force and are playing a major role in the celebrations for the centenary of RAF on

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2nd September.

Age Concern Stone & District

No meeting had taken place.

Stone Town Band

No meeting had taken place.

Stafford & Stone Access Group

No meeting had taken place.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

There was no report.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

No meeting had taken place.

SPCA Executive Committee

No meeting had taken place.

The meeting was suspended at this point to enable the Planning Committee meeting to take place. The General Purposes Committee meeting was then reconvened for the confidential items on the agenda.

GP19/076 **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.

GP19/077 **Support for Bus Services in Stone**

The Committee received an update from the Town Clerk on the current situation relating to Minute number GP19/050.

Town Mayor

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