

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in St Michael's Suite, Frank Jordan Centre,
Lichfield Street, Stone
on Tuesday 4 September 2018

- PRESENT:** Councillor R. Kenney in the Chair and
Councillors: M. Green, Mrs J. Hood, J. Davies, M. Shaw, A. Osgathorpe,
Mrs K. Green, T. Jackson, G. Neagus, Mrs J. Piggott and Mrs E. Mowatt
- ABSENT:** Councillors: Mrs M Goodall, M. Williamson, P. Leason, I. Fordham, Mrs J. Farnham,
Mrs C. Collier and G. Collier
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GP19/084 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: Mrs M. Goodall, M. Williamson,
P. Leason, Mrs J. Farnham, I. Fordham, Mrs C. Collier and G. Collier

GP19/085 **Declarations of Interests**

None

GP19/086 **Requests for Dispensations**

None

GP19/087 **To Receive the report of the County Councillors**

County Councillor Mrs J. Hood

Peer Challenge – Councillor Mrs Hood advised that she had attended a Peer Challenge Review Members' Briefing. Staffordshire County Council agreed to take up the challenge along with other councils throughout the UK. The Peer Challenge process provides an honest appraisal of how the Council is doing and is a proven tool for improvement. It involves a small peer team spending time at the Council, using their experience and knowledge of local government to reflect on information presented to them.

The topics dealt with have included economic growth and health. 21% of a population of 870,000 are over 65 years of age. The NHS will struggle until the demands on social care services are resolved.

Bus Services – Councillor Mrs Hood expressed her disappointment at the loss of bus services in Stone and the very concerning knock on effect that social isolation has on mental health issues.

One Way Traffic System – Councillor Mrs Hood and Councillor Kenney have met with community representatives and residents to look at the one way system in Stone . The original proposal had not been the correct one and a revised proposal, on which a consultation is now in progress, has included changes that appear to be for the better.

* 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.

Splinter Island – Councillor Mrs Hood advised that she would be meeting officers from Staffordshire County Council to discuss the splinter island next week.

Staffordshire County Council's view is that the splinter island should stay and Councillor Mrs Hood urged people to email their views to her on its impact which she will take to the meeting.

Councillor Mrs Hood was thanked for arranging to have the 'Keep Clear' signs painted by the church.

Information was provided on closure of the M6 for the purposes of demolishing a bridge, the new phase of roadworks at the Fillybrooks and the latest developments at Meaford Power Station.

County Councillor Parry

Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting

GP19/088 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP19/089 **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee held on 14 August 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 TTP19/012 and TTP19/013 be adopted.

GP19/090 **Notes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

RESOLVED:

- a) That the notes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting dated 8 August 2018, are noted.
- b) That the notes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting dated 22 August 2018, are noted.

Councillor Mrs Hood reported that the Draft neighbourhood Plan was heading towards Regulation 16.

Councillor Mrs Hood was thanked on behalf of both the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the Town Council, for her work leading on this project.

GP19/091 **Draft Stone Neighbourhood Plan**

The Committee considered the latest Draft Stone Neighbourhood Plan and associated documentation, for approval and submission to Stafford Borough Council under 'Regulation 16'.

The Draft Plan and Basic Conditions Statement* had been attached to the electronic version of the agenda for the meeting and copies of the Consultation

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Statement* and updated versions of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan* had been issued electronically prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Draft Stone Neighbourhood Plan is submitted to Stafford Borough Council in preparation for Regulation 16 and that the Town Clerk be authorised to make any minor changes that may be necessary prior to final submission in consultation with the Chairmen of the General Purposes Committee and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

GP19/092 Review of Scheme of Public Participation

The Committee considered a review of its Scheme of Public Participation* in accordance with its regular review programme.

RESOLVED: To accept the updated Scheme of Public Participation as presented to the meeting, and note that the scheme would be suspended for a period of three months prior to the upcoming Council elections.

GP19/093 Stafford Borough Council New Local Plan

To consider the following Stafford Borough Council consultations:

1. New Local Plan: Scoping the Issues Report
2. New Local Plan: Settlement Assessment with Settlement Profiles

A copy of an email from Stafford Borough Council had been attached to the agenda for the meeting and copies of the 'New Local Plan: Scoping the Issues' and 'New Local Plan: Settlement Assessment with Settlement Profiles' had been included in the electronic version of the agenda.

RESOLVED: To submit the following comments to Stafford Borough Council in respect of both consultations:

- Concern was expressed that any attempt to change the current policy regarding allocation of housing within the Settlement Boundary could remove any method of containing development in and around Stone in the future. The Settlement Boundaries currently define where development is or is not appropriate and also define the edge of the countryside.

In the case of Stone town, bearing in mind minimum housing targets for the current plan period have already been exceeded, there is no evidence that Settlement Boundaries aren't working; evidence is to the contrary. This might also be true for Stafford i.e. towns in the settlement Hierarchy in positions 1 and 2 could retain Settlement Boundaries and other methods of choosing site sustainability could be applied to Key Service Villages and others.

- Whilst Stafford Borough Council appear to have targets for housing and business development there appears to be no such target for green spaces.
- Members would like to have seen the evidence for the assumptions regarding future housing demand.

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- There was concern that a new Plan for Stafford Borough, being more current than the town's Neighbourhood Plan, could undermine the work being done preparing the town's plan.
- A copy of Stone Draft Neighbourhood Plan is submitted to Stafford Borough Council to illustrate the Town's view of land usage and green spaces in Stone.

GP19/094 Proposed Parking Restrictions in Stone

The committee considered a proposal by Staffordshire County Council to introduce parking restrictions in the following locations around Stone:

- Trinity Drive
- Diamond Way, Brooms Road
- Newcastle Road, outside the Depot
- Newcastle Road
- Opal Way, Jaspers Way

A copy of an email from Staffordshire County Council, Statement of Reasons and plans for each location had been attached to the agenda for the meeting. An extension to the timeframe for comments had been awarded to enable Stone Town Council to respond to this consultation.

RESOLVED: To raise no objections to Staffordshire Council Council's proposed parking restrictions.

GP19/095 Non-Cheque Payments

RESOLVED: To note the list* of non-cheque payments made by the Council during the period 1 July to 31 July 2018.

GP19/096 Update from Working Groups

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Councillor Mrs Hood advised that there was no further report (as the item had been discussed in full earlier in the meeting).

RESOLVED: To note the update of the Working Group.

Stone Area Parish Liaison Group

Councillor Davies reported that the next meeting of the Liaison Group would be taking place in October 2018.

RESOLVED: To note the update of the Working Group.

GP19/097 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

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Cllr J. Davies reported that he had attended a meeting of the Welfare Committee. He advised that a recruitment drive was taking place and that the next meeting would be the AGM.

Age Concern Stone & District

No meeting had taken place.

Stone Town Band

A meeting date had not been given.

Stafford & Stone Access Group

There was no report.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

No meeting had taken place.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

No meeting had taken place.

SPCA Executive Committee

There was no report.

Town Mayor