

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in St Michael's Suite, Frank Jordan Centre, Lichfield Street, Stone on Tuesday 2 October 2018

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

ABSENT: Councillors: M. Shaw, G. Collier, T. Jackson and G. Neagus

GP19/098 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: M. Shaw, G. Collier, T. Jackson and G. Neagus

GP19/099 **Declarations of Interests**

None

GP19/100 **Requests for Dispensations**

None

GP19/101 **To Receive the report of the County Councillors**

County Councillor Mrs J. Hood

Councillor Mrs Hood had no report to give on this occasion

County Councillor Parry

Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting

GP19/102 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP19/103 **Minutes**

There were no sub-committee minutes for consideration.

GP19/104 **Proposed One-Way Traffic Management Changes – Church Street, Stone**

The Committee considered the following amendments to Staffordshire County Council's original design (issued on 23 August 2018) for a new reduced One-way system within Church Street, Stone:

1. Turn Church Street Oneway from its junction with B5027 Lichfield Road in a north easterly direction to its junction Redhill Road and then from its

junction with Redhill Road in a south easterly direction to its junction with B5027 Lichfield

2. Install new road traffic signage as required to enable the operation of a Oneway system
3. Remove any unnecessary existing signage, which will be facing the wrong direction once the Oneway system is in operation, such as Railway overhead cables signage.

A copy of an email from Staffordshire County Council, the consultation letter, a plan of the proposed works and a comments form were issued with the agenda. An extension to the timeframe for comments had been awarded to enable the Town Council to respond to this consultation.

RESOLVED: As the revised one way traffic management design is what the Town Council had requested, there were no further comments to make.

GP19/105 Development on Eccleshall Road, Stone

The Committee considered an email from Persimmon Homes West Midlands asking the Town Council to confirm that it does not wish to accept ownership and maintenance of a pond on land north of Eccleshall Road.

The email from Persimmon Homes had been attached to the agenda together with a plan of the development site.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council confirms to Persimmon Homes that, even if the developer paid a reasonable commuted sum, the Council will not accept ownership and maintenance of the pond.

GP19/106 Manor Hill First School, Manor Rise, Stone

The Committee considered a Staffordshire County Council consultation seeking views on a proposed expansion of the school to provide an additional 25 places per year group, an increase of 125 places across the school.

An email from Staffordshire County Council had been attached to the agenda along with a consultation letter to stakeholders and a copy of the consultation documentation.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council has no objections to the expansion of Manor Hill First School.

GP19/107 Public Enquiry – Application for Outline Planning Permission for up to 20 affordable dwellings: Land between Blackies Lane and Saddler Avenue, Aston Lodge

The Committee considered whether to send a representative to speak on behalf of the Council at the Public Enquiry, and if so, determine who will represent the Council.

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

* 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.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council would not nominate a representative to speak at the Public Enquiry to determine whether outline planning permission would be granted on land between Blackies Lane and Saddler Avenue, Aston Lodge.

GP19/108 Nominations for SPCA Executive and AGM arrangements

The Committee considered an invitation to nominate a representative to stand for election to Staffordshire Parish Councils Association's Executive. It was noted that the election will take place at the Association's AGM on the evening of 3rd December.

RESOLVED: To nominate Councillor Mark Green to stand for election as representative to the SPCA Executive Committee.

GP19/109 Non-Cheque Payments

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

GP19/110 Update from Working Groups

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Councillor Mrs Hood advised that there was no further report. The Draft Stone Neighbourhood Plan had been submitted to Stafford Borough Council and was progressing through Regulation 16.

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.

World War 1 Working Group

RESOLVED: To support the Royal British Legion with a grant of up to £500 to purchase Silent Soldiers. The Town Clerk is authorised to consider and determine a grant application for this purchase, in consultation with the World War 1 Working Group.

GP19/111 Members' Motions under Standing Order 4

Councillor Mrs Jill Hood

'Once again I raise serious concerns by members of the public regarding vehicles using Stone High Street after 4pm. The High Street has become a rat-run for vehicles travelling down at high speed trying to beat the traffic queues on Christchurch Way. There are also a large number of vehicles after 4pm parked in such a way that pedestrians are forced in to the path of moving cars. Signs on the High Street quite clearly state PEDESTRIAN ZONE NO VEHICLES 10 am to 4pm EXCEPT FOR PERMIT HOLDERS. MIDNIGHT 10am-4pm EXCEPT FOR ACCESS AT ANY TIME. Which allows for traders to arrange delivery and access, to their premises.

There are motorists ignorant of the traffic regulations imposed on Stone High Street who think they are entitled to use the High Street after 4pm to drive down

* 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.

and park. Pedestrians lives are at risk, we have a large elderly population who enjoy using the High Street some who may be slow moving and hard of hearing and are not expecting to encounter a speeding car. There is also a children's nursery in the middle of the High Street.

Stone Town Council has debated the issue on many occasions with nothing resolved to protect our residents and visitors in Stone High Street. It is time responsibility was taken to make sure that all those who are responsible for preventing unauthorised vehicles from entering the High Street carry out their legal duty in making sure the law is applied and all relevant signage clear and understandable.

I recommend that we invite the County and Borough Councils to join Stone Town Council in setting up a joint working group to deal with this issue and make sure that the High Street is safe for everyone.'

RESOLVED: That a Working Group be set up to consider the best solution to the issue of the High Street being used as a through route by motor vehicles. Councillors: Mrs J. Hood, R. Kenney and M. Green were nominated to the working group, with invitations to be made to the County and Borough Councils to nominate further members.

GP19/112 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 a successful AGM had been held last month, and after a successful recruitment drive, eleven new cadets had been appointed to the Corps.

Age Concern Stone & District

No meeting had taken place.

Stone Town Band

A meeting date had not been given.

Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor Mrs Collier reported that a meeting had been held two weeks ago. There are still problems with A boards being sited in inappropriate places despite shopkeepers having been told where to position them. The website is being developed with accessibility information to public facilities (shops, doctors, toilets etc) in local villages and towns. In a month a report on Stone should appear live on the website. This will follow a walkthrough of Stone.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

No meeting had taken place.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

No meeting had taken place.

SPCA Executive Committee

Councillor Williamson reported that a meeting of the Executive Committee (on 1 October 2018) had been abandoned due to members being held up in traffic on the M6.

Town Mayor