

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in St Michael's Suite, Frank Jordan Centre, Lichfield Street, Stone on Tuesday 6 November 2018

PRESENT: Councillor R. Kenney in the Chair and
Councillors: M. Green, Mrs J. Hood, J. Davies, Mrs K. Green, Mrs J. Piggott,
Mrs E. Mowatt, I. Fordham, Mrs C. Collier, G. Collier and M. Shaw

ABSENT: Councillors: T. Jackson, G. Neagus, A. Osgathorpe, Mrs M Goodall,
M. Williamson, P. Leason and Mrs J. Farnham

GP19/113 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: T. Jackson, G. Neagus, A. Osgathorpe,
Mrs M. Goodall, M. Williamson, P. Leason and Mrs J. Farnham

GP19/114 Declarations of Interests

None

GP19/115 Requests for Dispensations

None

GP19/116 Presentation by Stone Railhead Crisis Group

Representatives of Stone Railhead Crisis Group (SRCG) delivered a presentation on the work of the Group in relation to the building of Phase 2a of the high speed rail line (Birmingham to Manchester via Crewe) located to the west of Stone. HS2 Ltd is proposing to site a major Railhead facility between HS2 and the M6, covering a large area of land running parallel for 2 miles between Stafford Services and ½ mile north of Yarnfield Lane.

The key themes of the House of Commons Select Committee hearing on 25 April 2018 which considered the Aldersey's Rough alternative to the Stone Infrastructure Maintenance Base-Railhead, and the decision to reject the proposal, were explained.

A summary of the Group's second appearance in the Select Committee (on 16 July) was also explained together with the Groups ongoing work to demonstrate the reasons the proposal to construct the Railhead/IMB-R will be unachievable and how the Group will be working with technical experts and national politicians in the future.

At the end of the presentation the three representatives were thanked for their attendance at the meeting.

The representatives also thanked Stone Town Council for its support.

The Committee was adjourned for five minutes while the representatives packed away their projector equipment and left the meeting.

GP19/117 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

GP19/118 Representations from Members of the Public

None

GP19/119 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) Estates Sub-Committee held on 25 September 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 EST19/009, EST19/010, EST19/011 and EST19/012 be adopted.
- b) Management Sub-Committee held on 25 September 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 Number MAN19/012 be adopted.
- c) Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee held on 16 October 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 TTP19/018 and TTP19/019 be adopted.
- d) Environment Sub-Committee held on 16 October 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 ENV19/004 and ENV19/005, ENV19/006 and ENV19/007 be adopted, subject to the further resolution below:

RESOLVED: That the brief for the Working Group to consider the Plastic Free Community Initiative be extended to include all other environmental initiatives that might require consideration (reference: Minute Number ENV19/006).

GP19/120 To Appoint a Member to fill a vacancy on each of the following Sub-Committees:

- Management
- Environment

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor I. Fordham as a Member of the Management Sub-Committee for the remainder of the Municipal year.

* 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: To appoint Councillor M. Green as a Member of the Environment Sub-Committee for the remainder of the Municipal year.

GP19/121 Budget Monitoring Report – September 2018

The report of the Town Clerk* was noted.

GP19/122 Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Principles 2019 – 2021

The Committee considered a Stafford Borough Council consultation seeking views on the statement of the principles it proposes to apply when exercising the functions of those principles under the Gambling Act 2005.

An email from Stafford Borough Council had been attached to the hard copy agenda and the Gambling Act 2005 Draft Statement of Principles 2019 – 2021 had been attached to the electronic version of the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council do not make any comments to Stafford Borough Council.

GP19/123 Open Spaces Society Draft Strategic Plan 2019-2024

The Committee considered comments in response to the Open Spaces Society's consultation on the Open Spaces Society Draft Strategic Plan 2019-2024.

An email from the Open Spaces Society had been attached to the agenda together with the Draft Strategic Plan 2019-2024.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council do not make any comments to the Open Spaces Society.

GP19/124 Non-Cheque Payments

The list of non-cheque payments* made by the Council during the period 1 September to 30 September 2018 were noted.

GP19/125 Update from Working Groups

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Councillor Mrs Hood advised that the Draft Stone Neighbourhood Plan was now at Regulation 16 and that the consultation closes on 19 December 2018.

Stone Area Parish Liaison Group

Councillor Davies reported that a useful meeting had taken place last week which was well attended. The Group had been interested in considering the way in which the Borough Council uses and communicates town and parish council planning comments. It had also considered the successful initiative regarding the provision of replacement bus services in Stone.

Bus Services Working Group

Councillor Mrs Hood reported that the new bus services were going well and were well used. The service was now incorporating Morrisons Supermarket as one of its stops. No statistics have as yet been provided on usage.

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Traffic Management in High Street Working Group

The working group had not yet met but a meeting would be arranged as soon as possible. Replacement of the bollards at the top of the High Street by Staffordshire County Council is still awaited.

GP19/126 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 no meeting had taken place.

Age Concern Stone & District

Cllr Mrs K. Green and Cllr Mrs C. Collier reported that no meeting had taken place.

Stone Town Band

A meeting date had not been given.

Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor Mrs C. Collier reported that no meeting had taken place.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

Cllr Mr J. Hood reported that the Common Plot Trustees had been approached about use of a play plot for leisure purposes.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

It was reported that the AGM had recently taken place.

SPCA Executive Committee

Councillor Williamson was not present at the meeting to give a report.

The meeting was suspended at this point to enable the open session of the Planning Committee Meeting and confidential item of the Council Meeting to take place.

GP19/127 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.

GP19/128 Confidential Minutes

- a) That the Confidential minutes of the Estates Sub-Committee held on 25 September 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 at Minute EST19/015 be adopted.

TOWN MAYOR