

# 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 December 2018

**PRESENT:** Councillor R. Kenney in the Chair and  
Councillors: M. Green, Mrs J. Hood, J. Davies, Mrs K. Green, I. Fordham, G. Collier,  
M. Shaw, P. Leason and G. Neagus

**ABSENT:** Councillors: Mrs C. Collier, T. Jackson, A. Osgathorpe, Mrs M Goodall,  
M. Williamson, Mrs J. Farnham, Mrs J. Piggott and Mrs E. Mowatt

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**GP19/129**    **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: Mrs C. Collier, T. Jackson,  
A. Osgathorpe, Mrs M Goodall, M. Williamson, Mrs J. Farnham, Mrs J. Piggott and  
Mrs E. Mowatt

**GP19/130**    **Declarations of Interests**

Councillor Fordham declared a personal interest in GP19/134 a) and GP19/140

**GP19/131**    **Requests for Dispensations**

None

**GP19/132**    **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

**GP19/133**    **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

**GP19/134**    **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) Estates Sub-Committee held on 13 November 2018 copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record and that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in Minute Numbers EST19/019, EST19/021 and EST19/025 be adopted.
- b) Management Sub-Committee held on 13 November 2018 copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.

**GP19/135**     **Community Funded School Crossing Patrols**

The Committee considered a Staffordshire County Council consultation requesting views on supporting the funding of a local school crossing patrol.

A copy of an email from Staffordshire County Council along with a Community Fundraising Pack and a survey form had been issued with the agenda for the meeting.

The Committee expressed its disappointment at the loss of funding for this essential service which protects the safety of children and young families in Stone.

RESOLVED: That Staffordshire County Council be invited to make an application to Stone Town Council for grant aid to fund the maintenance of school crossing patrols in Stone.

**GP19/136**     **Non-Cheque Payments**

The list of non-cheque payments\* made by the Council during the period 1 October to 31 October 2018 was noted.

**GP19/137**     **Update from Working Groups**

**Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

Councillor Mrs Hood advised that the Draft Stone Neighbourhood Plan had been submitted to Stafford Borough Council under Regulation 16. The Town Council had met all requirements in relation to producing the necessary documentation, arranging public consultations and taking into account the views and wishes of residents.

She advised that Stafford Borough Council has informed the Town Council that too many Green Spaces have been incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan and that this will have a negative impact on future sustainable development in Stone.

Councillor Mrs Hood informed the Committee that the Town Council had followed all advice provided by its planning consultants and had identified 53 open spaces to protect them from future development and provide a legacy for future generations to enjoy.

The Committee suggested that the Town Council write to Stafford Borough Council asking that the Plan in its current form be submitted to an Examiner of the Town Council's choosing as soon as possible.

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that he had already written to Stafford Borough Council stating that the Examiner could be selected concurrently with Regulation 16, which will end on 19 December 2018, to allow for an earlier examination date.

**Stone Area Parish Liaison Group**

Councillor Davies reported that no meeting had taken place.

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\* 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.

#### **Bus Services Working Group**

Councillor Mrs Hood reported that there had been no meeting of the Working Group.

#### **Traffic Management in High Street Working Group**

Councillor Kenney advised that a representative from Stafford Borough Council had been appointed to the Working Group and notice of a representative from Staffordshire County Council is awaited.

#### **GP19/138 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**

Councillor J. Davies reported that no meeting had taken place.

##### **Age Concern Stone & District**

Councillor Mrs K. Green 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 was not available to provide a report.

##### **Stone Common Plot Trustees**

No meeting had taken place.

##### **Stone Community Hub Liaison Group**

No meeting had taken place.

##### **SPCA Executive Committee**

Councillor M. Green attended the AGM on 3 December 2018 and had been appointed to the Executive Committee.

Councillor Green asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Harry Brunt for his long and dedicated service to the town and parish council sector in Staffordshire. He has unfortunately decided to step down from the Executive after serving on the Committee since 1983. It was requested that an appreciation of Mr Brunt's hard work be recorded in the minutes, which was supported by the Committee.

#### **GP19/139 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.

#### **GP19/140 Confidential Minutes**

- a) That the Confidential minutes of the Estates Sub-Committee held on 13 November 2018 copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by

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the Town Mayor as a correct record and that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained at Minute EST19/025 be adopted.

**TOWN MAYOR**