

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in St Michael's Suite, Frank Jordan Centre, Lichfield Street, Stone on Tuesday 5 February 2019

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

ABSENT: Councillors: P. Leason and Mrs M. Goodall.

GP19/170 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: P. Leason and Mrs M. Goodall

GP19/171 **Declarations of Interests**

Councillor Mrs J. Piggott declared a personal interest in item 8 (Minute Number GP19/177) – Stone Festival & Carnival Committee

Councillor M. Williamson declared personal interests in item 8 (Minute Number GP19/177) – Stone Festival & Carnival Committee and Stone & District Swimming Club

Councillor G. Neagus declared a personal interest in item 8 (Minute Number GP19/177) – Stone Festival & Carnival Committee

Councillor Mrs J. Farnham declared a personal interest in item 8 (Minute Number GP19/177) – STING

GP19/172 **Requests for Dispensations**

None

GP19/173 **To receive the report of the County Councillors**

County Councillor Mrs J. Hood

Councillor Mrs Hood had no report on this occasion.

County Councillor I. Parry

Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting.

GP19/174 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP19/175 **Minutes**

There were no minutes for consideration.

GP19/176 Meeting Schedule for 2019-20

The Committee considered a proposed programme of meetings and events for the period May 2019 to April 2020.

RESOLVED: To approve the schedule of meetings and events dates, with Mayor Making to take place on 14 May 2019.

GP19/177 To consider the following requests for a grant:

STONE & DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

The Committee considered the grant application received from Stone & District Scout Council requesting £500 to contribute towards the costs of Stone Gang Show and to provide a show necker to the young people involved as a personal memento for taking part.

RESOLVED: To award £500 to Stone & District Scout Council.

STING

The Committee considered the grant application received from STING requesting £500 to pay for the replacement of essential equipment used by the charity.

RESOLVED: To award £500 to STING.

STONE FESTIVAL & CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the grant application received from Stone Festival & Carnival Committee requesting £300 to pay for the road closure fees necessary for the Committee to organise a number of public summer events.

RESOLVED: To award £300 to Stone Festival & Carnival Committee.

STONE & DISTRICT SWIMMING CLUB

The Committee considered the grant application received from Stone & District Carnival Committee requesting £500 to contribute towards the unexpected costs incurred during a consultation period with Freedom Leisure.

RESOLVED: To award £500 to Stone & District Swimming Club.

GP19/178 Stafford Borough Safer Neighbourhood Panel

The Committee considered an email from the Stafford Borough Safer Neighbourhood Panel asking for the Town Council's support in recruiting Stone representatives to the Panel.

A copy of an email from Gerald D'Arcy, Safer Neighbourhood Panel member, had been distributed with the agenda for the meeting.

RESOLVED: That Councillor I. Fordham is nominated as the Town Council's representative on Stafford Borough Safer Neighbourhood Panel.

GP19/179 Speed Limit on the A51

The Committee considered whether the County Highways Department should be asked to take action to reduce the speed limit on the A51 between the A34 roundabout and Aston Lodge Marina.

The dangerous nature of the road, which has a sharp bend, a number of blind junctions and 60mph speed limit, had been drawn to the Town Council's attention by a local resident. The concerns had also been supported by many other local people who had since submitted observations on this highway issue.

The Committee raised the following points about the dangerous features of the road and associated safety concerns:

- Vehicles travel at appallingly high speeds in both directions.
- A treacherous bend restricts visibility to four junctions including concealed offset junctions at Aston Bridge Link Road and Aston Bridge Road. Visibility is particularly poor when pulling out of the junctions at Aston Bridge Link Road and Aston Bridge Road.
- Motorists do not see cars slowing/stopping to turn off the A51.
- The central no overtaking lines are disregarded by motorists – vehicles continue to overtake at high speed.
- The pavement/side strip is too narrow, presenting a risk to cyclists and pedestrians using the road.
- Crossing the A51 on foot is extremely dangerous (avoided by some people who use the tow path as an alternative route to Sandon). A children's play area and a wooded area (used by children) are located nearby.
- There is no pedestrian access along Aston Bridge Link Road.
- There has been many near misses/accidents along this section of road.
- Traffic has increased significantly since safety concerns were previously raised with Staffordshire County Council. The Marina has increased traffic and the Railhead will have a huge impact on both the quantity and type of vehicles using the road.
- The illumination of the speed limit sign is dazzling and hazardous to motorists.
- The length of road subject to a speed reduction should be between the railway bridge and the A34 roundabout.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, prepare a letter to Staffordshire County Council with a comprehensive list of reasons to justify a reduction in the speed limit on the A51 (between the Railway Bridge and A34 roundabout), to 40mph.

GP19/180 Update from Working Groups:

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Councillor Mrs Hood, informed the Committee that the Neighbourhood Plan is at Regulation 16 stage but had not moved forward.

Stone Area Parish Liaison Group

Councillor Davies reported that a meeting of the Stone Area Parish Liaison Group had taken place on 30 January and was very well attended by Group members. A wide range of common interests had been discussed and concerns shared about

* 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.

how town and parish council planning observations are dealt with by the Borough Council. A draft statement/proposal for the future submission to Stafford Borough Council was discussed and this will hopefully be brought back to the next meeting (in June 2019) after group members have consulted their respective parish councils for views.

Bus Services Working Group

It was concluded that the Bus Services Working Group would now close.

Traffic Management in High Street Working Group

Councillor Kenney reported that a meeting of the Traffic Management in the High Street Working Group would be held on 4 March 2019.

GP19/181 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

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had not been able to attend the meeting on 16 January 2019.

Age Concern Stone & District

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

Stone Town Band

The Mayor reported that she was not aware of the dates of meetings.

Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor Mrs C. Collier reported that the next meeting of the Access Group will be held on 25 February 2019.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

Members of the Stone Common Plot Trustees reported that no meeting had taken place.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

Members of the Stone Community Hub Liaison Group reported that no meeting had taken place.

SPCA Executive Committee

Councillor M. Green reported that the next meeting would be held on 5 March 2019.

TOWN MAYOR