

Stone Town Council

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

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

ABSENT: P. Leason and Mrs M. Goodall

Before the meeting began the Reverend Prebendary Cardinal gave prayers

C19/092 Apologies

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

C19/093 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None received

C19/094 Representations from Members of the Public

None received

The Town Clerk informed the Council that, due to the close proximity of the parish elections, this item is now suspended until after 2 May 2019.

C19/095 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on the 4 December 2018, copies having been circulated to the members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C19/096 Committee Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 4 December 2018, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by

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the Chairman as a correct record.

- b) That the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 4 December 2018, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- c) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 18 December 2018, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- d) That the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 18 December 2018, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Councillor M. Green informed the meeting that he and the Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Green, had been unable to attend the General Purposes and Planning Committee Meetings on 18 December 2018 due to a Mayoral engagement. He asked that reasons for absence are in future recorded in the minutes when Councillors are absent as a result of other Town Council commitments.

- e) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 8 January 2019, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- f) That the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 8 January 2019, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- g) That the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 22 January 2019, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- h) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 22 January 2019, copies having been circulated to members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C19/097 To Consider the Council's Budget for 2019-20 and to set the Council Tax for the Year

The Council considered the Town Clerk's budget report*, which was based on the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee on 22 January 2019. The Clerk confirmed that this budget represented a sustainable position given the Town Council's expenditure plans.

RESOLVED:

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1. The Budget recommended by the General Purposes Committee on 22nd January 2019, and set out in the Clerk's report to this meeting, is agreed.
2. The Council Tax for this Council's purposes should be £50.10 for a Band D property, which would result in a precept on Stafford Borough Council for 2019-20 of £297,860. Local Council Tax Support Grant of £18,399 will be added to this.
3. The wording for the 2019-20 Council Tax leaflet should be:

"Stone Town Council provides services for the people and town of Stone.

These services include the provision of community facilities, such as the Frank Jordan and Stone Station community centres, free car parks, allotment sites at Newcastle Road and Mount Road, Station Road Conveniences, and the Crown Meadow Nature Reserve and amphitheatre

Investing in and working to promote a vibrant town and encourage visitors is a key Town Council priority. In order to support this, the Council organises regular events such as the summer Music Festival, the Town Market, the monthly Craft Market and a number of late night shopping evenings. Christmas lights are provided in the High Street and at Walton, with the Council's annual switch-on event becoming one of highlights of the town year. The High Street environment is enhanced by the Council's provision of hanging baskets along the High Street, and newly refurbished noticeboards and fingerposts throughout the town.

The Council provides bus shelters, benches and dog bins throughout the area and takes responsibility for the upkeep of many local amenities and planted areas. It also provides grants to help charitable and community organisations such as the Stone Community Hub, supports various festivals, and the office supplies daily support and advice to local residents.

By considering the impact of every planning application, the Council seeks to develop and conserve the town, and is currently preparing a Neighbourhood Plan that will help to shape and protect the future of Stone for years to come.

This year, provision has been made for the setup and running costs

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of the new Heritage Centre, which will form part of the exciting redevelopment of Crown Wharf.

At its monthly meetings the Council welcomes questions from the public and sets aside time to listen and respond. Assistance with public questions will gladly be given by the Council's staff."

4. The Clerk is authorised to seek tenders/quotations, place orders and make payments in accordance with this budget, the Council's policies, and Financial Regulations.

**C19/098 Local Government Transparency Code 2015
Openness of Public Bodies Regulations 2014**

The information* for Quarter ending 31 December 2018 was noted.

C19/099 Civic Announcements

The Civic Announcements, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

C19/100 Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Reports of Engagements

The Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Announcements, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor Davies advised that he had also attended a Carol Service at Ashbourne Town Council on 16 December 2018.

Councillor Mrs Hood asked that a record of appreciation be noted for the Town Mayor who has worked extremely hard for both the Town Council and Stone town.

The meeting was suspended to enable the General Purposes Committee and Planning Committee Meetings to take place. The Town Council was then reconvened for the confidential items on the agenda.

C19/101 To resolve, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to 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.

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C19/102 **Confidential Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the confidential minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 4 December 2018, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.

C19/103 **Confidential Committee Minutes**

- a) That the Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 4 December 2018, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.
- b) That the Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 22 January 2019, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.

TOWN MAYOR

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