

# Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

## Minutes of the meeting held in Christchurch Suite, Frank Jordan Centre, Lichfield Street, Stone on Tuesday 26 February 2019

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

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

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### **GP19/182**    **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: Mrs J. Farnham, Mrs M. Goodall,  
T. Jackson, P. Leason, Mrs J. Piggott and M. Williamson

### **GP19/183**    **Declarations of Interests**

None

### **GP19/184**    **Requests for Dispensations**

None

### **GP19/185**    **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Committee considered the Neighbourhood Plan and local green spaces in light of planning application 19/29876/FUL submitted to Stafford Borough Council by LNT Care Developments, for the erection of a sixty six bedroom, two storey care home for older people, on a playing field adjacent to The Fillybrooks (A34), Walton.

The development site is identified as a Local Green Space in the draft Stone Neighbourhood Plan (Green Space 40) and Members expressed their strong concerns about the impact of Stafford Borough Council awarding planning approval. Such a decision would put the draft Stone Neighbourhood Plan (which has taken a number of years to produce at a cost of £25,000) and all other green spaces identified therein, at risk.

The Committee also expressed concern that national planning policy guidance had been disregarded. The Stone draft Neighbourhood Plan is at an advanced stage in its development (Regulation 16 and in the hands of the Examiner), and its content should now be given weight. This point is detailed in Paragraph 48 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The Committee believed that Stone draft Neighbourhood Plan had conformed with Stafford Borough Council's Development Framework but the development of a care home on the site of a community playing field would not. Sport England have also objected to the development proposal.

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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.

The Chairman advised the Committee that a sum of £9,000 remained in the Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan budget. He proposed that an estimated £1,500 of the figure is committed to appointing No5 Chambers (Fountain Court, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham) for consideration of the case and potentially writing to the Secretary of State to ask for the planning application to be called in for his own determination.

After the proposal was seconded, a named vote was requested and everyone in attendance was in favour of the motion.

RESOLVED: To authorise the Town Clerk to appoint No5 Chambers to consider the case, provide advice, and write to the Secretary of State requesting that planning application 19/29876/FUL is called in.

**TOWN MAYOR**