

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 4 June 2019

PRESENT: Councillor R. Kenney in the Chair, and
Councillors: T. Adamson, K. Argyle, A. Best, Mrs A. Burgess, J. Davies, Mrs L. Davies,
Mrs K. Dawson, M. Green M. Hatton, J. Hickling, Mrs J. Hood, T. Kelt, P. Leason,
J. Powell, C. Thornicroft and R. Townsend

ABSENT: Councillor: I. Fordham

GP20/021 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor I. Fordham

GP20/022 **Declarations of Interests**

Councillor P. Leason declared a personal interest in item 10 (Minute Number GP19/030) - Members Motion under Standing Order 4

GP20/023 **Requests for Dispensations**

None

GP20/024 **To receive the report of the County Councillors**

County Councillor Mrs J. Hood

Councillor Mrs Hood informed the Committee that she was delighted to be able to support, through her Staffordshire Local Community Fund allocation, an event that the Stafford Branch of SSAFA (originally the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, the oldest military charity in the UK), will be holding in September, at the Crown Hotel. The event will bring military organisations together to showcase their work and publicise the services available to ex-military personnel who need assistance. She said this will be a special day for us all and urged people to go along to show their support.

County Councillor I. Parry

Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting.

GP20/025 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP20/026 **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 21 May 2019 (Minute Numbers GP20/001 – GP20/020), be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

* 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.

GP20/027 **Minutes of Sub-Committees**

There were no minutes for consideration

GP20/028 **Review of Standing Orders**

The Committee undertook to review the Council's Standing Orders* which had been presented to the previous meeting of the Committee and circulated electronically with the agenda for the meeting. The document had been reviewed by the Town Clerk, who had proposed changes to section 13 to reflect changes in the consideration of meeting minutes.

RESOLVED: That the circulated Standing Orders for 2019-20 be approved without amendment.

GP20/029 **Review of Financial Regulations**

The Committee undertook to review the Council's Financial Regulations* which had been presented to the previous meeting of the Committee and circulated electronically with the agenda for the meeting. The document had been reviewed by the Town Clerk, who proposed changes to section 5 to reflect the move to setting up direct debits online, rather than by paper. Consideration had also been given to any changes which may be needed as a result of the recent decision to accept debit and credit cards for payments to the Council, but none were required.

RESOLVED: That the circulated Financial Regulations for 2019-20 be approved without amendment.

GP20/030 **Members Motion under Standing Order 4**

Councillor Davies

At the General Purposes Meeting held on 4 July 2017 it was resolved at Minute 18/035 to award a grant of £300 to The Burma Star Association and to make the event part of the Town Council's budget during 2019-20 and onwards.

There is currently a lack of clarity around the responsibility for arranging this event following the demise of the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion. I propose that the Council revokes the above decision and considers the matter of grant payment again once it is clear which organisation is officially responsible for the VJ-Day Commemoration arrangements.

Councillor Davies amended his proposal at the meeting to replace the final sentence with 'I propose that for 2019 the Town Clerk is authorised to use his discretion as to who the recipient of the payment should be'.

RESOLVED: That the amended proposal be supported.

GP20/031 **Non-Cheque Payments**

RESOLVED: To note the list* of non-cheque payments made by the Council during the period 1 April to 30 April 2019.

* 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.

GP20/032 Update from Working Groups:

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Councillor Mrs Hood, informed the Committee that the Examiner had agreed to look at all Green Spaces designated within the Draft Stone Neighbourhood Plan and would report back to Stafford Borough Council and Stone Town Council his observations.

Stone Area Parish Liaison Group

Councillor Davies advised the Committee that a meeting of Stone Area Parish Liaison Group would be held this month.

Traffic Management in High Street Working Group

Councillor Kenney reported that traffic and parking issues in the High Street are ongoing and that assistance had been requested from the County and Borough Councils. The Highway's Department is considering enforcement measures against motorists using the High Street as a through route, and at changing the sequencing of the traffic lights at its exit point. These courses of action haven't yet been implemented.

GP20/033 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 Davies advised that a meeting of Stone ATC would be taking place tomorrow.

Age Concern Stone & District

It was reported that no meeting had taken place.

Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor T. Kelt advised that a meeting would be taking place in two weeks.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

It was reported that a meeting was coming up soon.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

It was reported that no meeting had taken place.

SPCA Executive Committee

Councillor M. Green advised that the next meeting was in September.

The meeting was suspended to enable the Planning Committee and Confidential item on the Town Council meeting to take place. The Committee was then reconvened for the confidential item on the agenda.

GP20/034 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

To resolve, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting whilst the next items of business are 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.

GP20/035 **Confidential Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 9 April 2019 (Minute Numbers C19/203 and C19/218), be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

TOWN MAYOR