

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 3 September 2019

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

ABSENT: Councillors: Mrs L. Davies, M. Green, I. Fordham and J. Hickling

GP20/079 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: Mrs L. Davies, M. Green, I. Fordham and J. Hickling

GP20/080 **Declarations of Interests**

None

GP20/081 **Requests for Dispensations**

None

GP20/082 **To receive the report of the County Councillors**

County Councillor Mrs J. Hood

Councillor Mrs Hood informed the Committee that she had received many enquiries from residents about the road works in the town, although plenty of advance notice of the work had been given. She said she understood peoples frustrations but asked that they be patient as the work will improve the town in the long term.

Councillor Mrs Hood confirmed that she will be meeting with officers of Staffordshire County Council on 20 September to discuss highway issues which will include all matters discussed over the last few weeks.

County Councillor I. Parry

Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting.

GP20/083 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP20/084 **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 30 July 2019 (Minute Numbers GP20/057 – GP20/072), be approved as a correct record.
- b) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 13 August 2019 (Minute Numbers GP20/073 – GP20/078), be approved as a correct record.

GP20/085 **Minutes of Sub-Committees**

- a) Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee held on 13 August 2019 (Minute Numbers TTP20/012 – TTP20/020), that the draft minutes be noted and the recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in Minute Number TTP20/019 be adopted.
- b) Environmental Sub-Committee held on 13 August 2019 (Minute Numbers ENV20/009 – ENV20/016), that the draft minutes be noted and the recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in Minute Number ENV20/013 be adopted.
- c) Estates Sub-Committee held on 13 August 2019 (Minute Numbers EST20/001 – EST20/008), that the draft minutes be noted and the recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in Minute Number EST20/006 be adopted.

GP20/086 **To consider the following request for a grant:**

STONE & DISTRICT STROKE CLUB - £500

The Committee considered the grant application from Stone & District Stroke Club requesting £500 for the hire of specialist transport (through the year) to take members on days out and to places of interests.

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

GP20/087 **Street Names**

The Committee considered an invitation from Stafford Borough Council to make comment on the suggested street name of 'Ancestry Close' for use at a new development off Whitebridge Lane.

An email from Stafford Borough Council, a Location Plan and a Planning Layout map had been distributed with the agenda for the meeting.

The Committee acknowledged that it would like street names to have a local connection with Stone and that it should consider preparing a reserve list of names that could be held for future use. A list of names from the War Memorial have been used as suggestions on previous occasions.

Councillor Leason confirmed that 'Ancestry' was the name of a local company that had previously been in business in the town.

* 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.

RESOLVED: To note the suggested street name of 'Ancestry Close' for use on the new development off Whitebridge Lane.

GP20/088 **Polling District and Polling Place Review**

The Committee considered a Stafford Borough Council consultation on its Polling District and Polling Places Review 2019 which is assessing suitability of all existing and proposed polling districts and polling places in current use.

A letter from the Acting Returning Officer and a guidance note had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting.

RESOLVED: That Stafford Borough Council is asked to consider whether residents of Granville Terrace, The Avenue, Bromfield Court and the right side of Longton Road, could be allocated the closer polling station of Lotus Court (Oulton Road, Stone), as an alternative to the Stone Lawn Tennis & Squash Club (Newcastle Road, Stone).

GP20/089 **Civic Sunday**

The Committee considered changing the set day/date for Civic Sunday, from the first weekend in July each year to the second or third weekend in July.

RESOLVED: That the set date for Stone Town Council's Civic Sunday is changed to the second weekend/Sunday in July each year.

GP20/090 **Members Motion**

Councillor R. Kenney

' I propose that Stone Town Council supports both Staffordshire County Council and Stafford Borough Council in their recent declarations of Climate Emergency and in doing so will, through its recently formed Environmental Working Group, report to the General Purposes Committee what actions Stone Town Council can also take to achieve carbon neutrality'.

Councillor Adamson proposed an amendment to the motion to add the words 'also declare its own Climate Emergency and' following the words 'and in doing so will' in Councillor Kenney's motion. It was emphasised that this was a statement only, with no immediate resource implications, as actions would only be determined following the report of the Environment Working Group.

Both the mover and seconder of the original motion accepted the proposed amendment, so it became the substantive motion.

RESOLVED: That Stone Town Council supports both Staffordshire County Council and Stafford Borough Council in their recent declarations of Climate Emergency, and in doing so will also declare its own Climate Emergency, and through its recently formed Environmental Working Group, report to the General Purposes Committee what actions Stone Town Council can also take to achieve carbon neutrality.

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GP20/091 Non-Cheque Payments

RESOLVED: To note the list* of non-cheque payments made by the Council during the period 1 July to 31 July 2019.

GP20/092 Update from Working Groups:

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Councillor Mrs Hood, informed the Committee that the Draft Neighbourhood Plan was moving along at reasonable speed. The Examiner has submitted his report to the Town Council with a number of changes suggested including removal of some Open Green Spaces, which included Tilling Drive and Blackies Lane.

A meeting of the Steering Group and the Council's Planning Consultant has been arranged for 23 September 2019 to consider the examiner's report and make recommendations to the General Purposes Committee.

Stone Area Parish Liaison Group

Councillor Davies advised the Committee that Stone Area Parish Liaison Group was ever growing and successful in developing its working relationships with neighbouring councils and sharing its mutual interests in Stone and the surrounding areas. He referred the Committee to note number L20/006 – Purpose of the Group, and note number L20/008 – Planning Application Processing, which is a topic many local councils are concerned about.

The next meeting will be held on 18 September and Town Councillors are very welcome to attend.

Traffic Management in High Street Working Group

Councillor Kenney said he would like the Committee to review membership of the Working Group as it was difficult to arrange meetings with officers of Stafford Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council.

VE Day 2020 Commemoration Working Group

Councillor Kenney advised that a meeting was scheduled to take place next week.

GP20/093 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 he had attended a Civilian Welfare meeting of the ATC on 21 August 2019. He said the Squadron's membership consisted of 30 Cadets (not 13 as had been previously recorded). Its Annual General Meeting would be held on 8 October 2019.

2352 (Stone) Squadron ATC would be fundraising for the Royal Air Forces Association's Wings Appeal in the High Street on Saturday.

Age Concern Stone & District

Councillor Adamson advised that a meeting of Age Concern Stone & District was scheduled to take place on Friday.

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Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor T. Kelt advised that the next meeting of the Access Group would be held in October.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

It was reported that no meeting of the Trustees had taken place.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

It was reported that a meeting of the Liaison Group would be taking place on Tuesday.

SPCA Executive Committee

Councillor Green was not in attendance to provide a report.

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.

GP20/094 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.

GP20/095 Confidential Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 30 July 2019 (Minute Numbers GP20/057, GP20/071 and GP20/072), be approved as a correct record.
- b) That the Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 13 August 2019 (Minute Numbers GP20/073 and GP20/078), be approved as a correct record.

GP20/096 Stone Heritage Centre

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk* which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

The Committee considered the Council's position with regard to the proposed Stone Heritage Centre and whether it wished to enter into an agreement with Joules Brewery for the operation of the Centre.

RESOLVED: To proceed to enter into an agreement with Joules Brewery for the operation of Stone Heritage Centre along the lines set out in the report.

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 19.7 related to the tendering of contracts is suspended in respect of this item.

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