

# Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

## Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 2 July 2024

**PRESENT:** Councillor R. Kenney in the Chair, and  
Councillors: J. Battrick, A. Best, J. Davies, L. Davies, J. Hood, B. Kenney, J. Metters,  
A. Mottershead, and R. Townsend

Officers: L. Trigg and T. Williams

**ABSENT:** Councillors: A. Burgess, K. Dawson, I. Fordham, T. Kelt, P. Leason, J. Powell,  
N. Powell and C. Thornicroft

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### **GP25/023    Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: K. Dawson, I. Fordham, T. Kelt,  
P. Leason, J. Powell, N. Powell and C. Thornicroft

Where a reason for absence is given, this reason was approved for the purposes of  
Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **GP25/024    Declarations of Interest**

Councillor J. Davies declared a personal interest in agenda item 9d (Minute  
Reference: GP25/031) Grants to Local Organisations: Stone Scout & Guide Band.

Councillor A. Best declared a personal interest in agenda item 9a (Minute  
Reference: GP25/031) Grants to Local Organisations: Christ Church C of E First  
School PTFA.

### **GP25/025    Requests for Dispensations**

None

### **GP25/026    To receive the report of the County Councillors**

Due to this meeting taking place in the pre-election period for the UK  
Parliamentary elections, no reports were presented by County Councillors.

### **GP25/027    To receive the report of Borough Councillors**

Due to this meeting taking place in the pre-election period for the UK  
Parliamentary elections, no reports were presented by Borough Councillors.

### **GP25/028    Representations from Members of the Public**

Due to this meeting taking place in the pre-election period for the UK  
Parliamentary elections, the Town Council's Scheme of Public Participation had  
been suspended.

**GP25/029 Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 21 May 2024 (Minute Numbers GP25/001 – GP25/022), be approved as a correct record.

**GP25/030 Minutes of Sub-Committees**

There were no sub-committee minutes.

**GP25/031 Grants to Local Organisations**

The Committee considered requests for grant aid from local organisations.

The following organisation met the eligibility criteria within the Council's grants policy:

- a. **Organisation: Christ Church C of E First School PTFA**  
**Amount Requested:** £500  
**Reason:** To cover the costs of insulating the school's 'Happiness Hub' (a small wooden building on the playground, used as a base to support the children's wellbeing and mental health) to mitigate temperature control issues.

RESOLVED: To award a grant of £500 to Christ Church C of E First School PTFA.

The following organisation did not meet the criteria within the Council's grants policy for the reasons stated and a proposer and seconder did not come forward to instigate a discussion about making an award of a grant:

- b. **Organisation: Pension Reinvention**  
**Amount Requested:** £1,500  
**Reason:** To fund the expansion of financial literacy programs within the Stone Community to include: the launch of additional drop-in clinics offering free financial advice, organise interactive workshops and talks for children and adults, distribute educational books to primary schools in Stone.
  - i. Applicant requests more than £500

The following organisation did not meet the criteria within the Council's grants policy for the reasons stated, but a proposer and seconder came forward to instigate a discussion about making an award of a grant:

- c. **Organisation: Stone Community Speed Watch Group**  
**Amount Requested:** £388.56  
**Reason:** To support the costs involved in installing CSW signs on every road into Stone to warn drivers that Speed Watch volunteers may be present and that speed limits should be adhered to.
  - i. No accounts available due to nature of organisation

RESOLVED: To award a grant of £388.56 to Stone Community Speed Watch Group.

The following organisation did not meet the criteria within the Council's grants policy for the reasons stated, but a proposer and seconder came forward to instigate a discussion about making an award of a grant:

- d. **Organisation: Stone Scout & Guide Band**  
**Amount Requested:** £500  
**Reason:** To cover the costs of essential ongoing maintenance of the Band's instruments.
- i. More than 12 months expenditure in reserves

RESOLVED: To award a grant of £500 to Stone Scout & Guide Band

The following organisation did not meet the criteria within the Council's grants policy for the reasons stated and a proposer and seconder did not come forward to instigate a discussion about making an award of a grant:

- e. **Organisation: Diamond Families**  
**Amount Requested:** £500  
**Reason:** To purchase supplies for the children to create an allotment area and greenhouse to support their learning about the health benefits that come from sustainability and recycling.
- i. Annual turnover greater than £100,000
  - ii. Not Stone based and grant request does not predominantly benefit Stone residents

#### **GP25/032 Working Group Co-ordinators**

The Committee considered the appointment of co-ordinators to the existing working groups.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that when the terms of reference were readopted at the last meeting it had proposed that there should be a nominated lead for each working group. The role of the nominated lead would be to call meetings and to report back on the working groups' activities to the respective parent committee.

RESOLVED: That the following co-ordinators are appointed to existing work groups:

- Engagement with Young People Working Group  
Parent Committee: General Purposes Committee  
Membership: J. Battrick, A. Best, K. Dawson, J. Metters and J. Powell  
Co-ordinator: Councillor K. Dawson
- Environmental Working Group  
Parent Committee: Environment Sub-Committee  
Membership: All Members of the Environment Sub-Committee  
Co-ordinator: Councillor R. Townsend
- Remembrance Plaques Working Group  
Parent Committee: Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee  
Membership: J. Davies, L. Davies and P. Leason  
Co-ordinator: Councillor L. Davies

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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.

- Market Strategy Working Group  
Parent Committee: Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee  
Membership: J. Davies, J. Hood, R. Kenney, A. Mottershead, C. Thornicroft and J. Cook (Co-opted Member)  
Co-ordinator: Councillor J. Hood

#### **GP25/033 Heritage Centre**

The Committee considered an update on Stone Heritage Centre.

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that the first official activity of the Heritage Centre had taken place during Stone Festival Week (Monday 10 to Saturday 15 June 2024) when Stafford Photographic Society had held its photographic exhibition in the main exhibition hall. As a token of appreciation, the Society had very kindly donated the Town Mayor's choice of framed photograph towards a future charity fundraising auction or raffle.

He advised the Committee that the Town Council had received enquiries about hiring the room at the back of the building for meetings, but this was not possible due to the potential impact on the Council's partial exemption status for VAT.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that the Heritage Centre Manager had been working on awareness and had spoken to local schools and invited teachers (and in some cases classes of children) to visit the Centre to view the facility. He had also held discussions with people who had Stone artifacts with a view to arranging loan agreements with them.

The Heritage Centre Manager was looking to get a table at an upcoming Northern Staffordshire Community Partnership event at Stone Station to share information about the Heritage Centre and offer to show people around the facility. The Town Clerk showed the Committee a draft poster which had been designed for this purpose.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that CCTV and broadband was now up and running and orders had been placed for fixtures and fittings. The display cabinets were due to arrive in mid-August 2024.

Very good progress had been made in working towards meeting the grant conditions requiring 500 people to have gone through the doors by the end of the year. More than 200 people had viewed the Photographic Exhibition alone.

Councillor Davies advised the Committee that following on from the D-Day 80 commemorations in June, there would be a display in the Heritage Centre until the end of August about the six men of Stone who died during Operation Overlord.

#### **GP25/034 Town Council Payments**

RESOLVED: To note the list\* of Town Council payments made during the period 1 to 31 May 2024.

#### **GP25/035 Update from Working Groups:**

##### **Stone Heritage Centre Steering Group**

The Town Clerk had given an update on the Heritage Centre earlier in the meeting.

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### **Engagement with Young People**

Councillor Dawson was not available to give an update on the work of the working group.

## **GP25/036 To receive reports from Town Councillors on attendance at meetings of local organisations and outside bodies as a representative of the Town Council**

### **Stone Area Parish Liaison Group**

Councillor Davies advised the Committee that a useful meeting of the Liaison Group had taken place on 29 May when the Development Control Manager from Stafford Borough Council had joined attendees to share information about planning enforcement and the planning process in general.

Councillor Davies said the meetings were proving very useful educationally and consideration would be given to extending invitations to more speakers. He reinforced the point that Town Councillors were very welcome to attend.

### **Stone ATC**

Councillor Davies advised the Committee that the Annual General Meeting had taken place on 11 June 2024 when a new Civilian Welfare Committee had been appointed. A lot of the retired officers had stayed on the Committee which was good news. He reported that the Squadron was doing very well; it was at maximum numbers in respect of cadet membership and had lots of plans for the upcoming year.

### **Age Concern Stone & District**

Councillor Davies advised the Committee that a meeting was planned for the near future.

### **Stafford & Stone Access Group**

Councillor Kelt was not available to give a report.

### **Stone Common Plot Trustees**

There was no report on the most recent meeting held.

### **Stone Community Hub Liaison Group**

Councillor Hood advised the Committee that no meeting of the Hub Liaison Group had taken place.

### **SPCA Executive Committee**

Councillor Kelt was not available to provide a report.

### **Stone Traders Group Directors' Meeting**

Councillor Hood advised the Committee that no meeting had taken place.

### **West Midlands Railway and other rail matters**

Councillor Kelt was not available to provide a report.

**The meeting was suspended and reconvened after the Planning Consultative Committee and the Confidential section of the Town Council meeting had taken place.**

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**GP25/037**    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 items of business.

**GP25/038**    Confidential Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 21 May 2024, Minute Numbers GP25/001, GP25/020, GP25/021 and GP25/022 be approved.

**CHAIRMAN**