



Town Clerk

Les Trigg

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15 Station Road
Stone
ST15 8JP

7 January 2025

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **ESTATES SUB COMMITTEE** will be held in the **Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone**, on **Tuesday 14 JANUARY 2025 at 7:15pm**, or on the rising of the Environment Sub-Committee, if later.

The agenda is set out below and I trust you will be able to attend.

Les Trigg
Town Clerk

Councillors: A. Best (Chairman), J. Powell (Vice Chairman), J. Battrick, L. Davies,
I. Fordham, J. Hood, A. Mottershead, N. Powell and C. Thornicroft

AGENDA

1. **To receive apologies for absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest and declarations under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992**
3. **Requests for Dispensations**
4. **Representations from Members of the Public**

To consider representations from members of the public on items to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with the Council's scheme of public participation.

5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Estates Sub-Committee held on 19 November 2024, Minute Numbers EST25/009 – EST25/016 (attached).

6. **Flooring at Stone Station**

To consider replacement flooring at Stone Station.

7. **Budget 2025-26 – 2027-28**

To consider the report of the Town Clerk (attached).

8. **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.

9. **Confidential Minutes**

To confirm as a correct record the Confidential Minutes of the Estates Sub-Committee, held on 19 November 2024, Minute Numbers EST25/009, EST25/015 and EST25/016 (attached).

10. **Stone Station Update**

To consider an update from the Town Clerk.

Will any Councillors who wish to speak at this meeting, but are not members of the Sub-Committee, please inform the Chairman before the start of the meeting.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Estates Sub-Committee Meeting as observers and/or to make representations to the committee in accordance with the Council's scheme of public participation. Details of this scheme are displayed on the Council's noticeboards and website.

Please access the Council Chamber from the rear of the building.

Stone Town Council – Estates Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 19 November 2024

PRESENT: Councillor A. Best in the Chair and
Councillors: J. Battrick, L. Davies, I. Fordham, J. Hood, P. Leason and C. Thornicroft

Officers: L. Trigg, R. Edwards, G. Hodson and T. Williams

By Chairman's invitation:

ABSENT: Councillors: R. Kenney, A. Mottershead and N. Powell

EST25/009 **Apologies**

Councillor: R. Kenney

EST25/010 **Declarations of Interest**

None received.

EST25/011 **Requests for Dispensations**

None received.

EST25/012 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None received.

EST25/013 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Estates Sub-Committee meeting held on the 17 September 2024 (Minute Numbers EST25/001 – EST25/008), be approved as a correct record.

EST25/014 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

RESOLVED: 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.

* 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 exclude the Press and Public from the next item of business.

EST25/015 **Confidential Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Confidential Minutes of the Estates Sub-Committee meeting held on the 17 September 2024 (Minute Numbers EST25/001, EST25/007 and EST25/008), be approved as a correct record.

EST25/016 **Update on Stone Station**

The Town Clerk provided an update on Stone Station in respect of the extended use of the lease.

Chairman

* 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.

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to determine the level of budget for services under its control that the Sub-Committee wishes to recommend to the General Purposes Committee.

Background

2. The General Purposes Committee on 10th December 2024 considered the standstill budget for 2025-26 and indicative figures for the next two years based on a number of assumptions contained within the report.
3. The standstill budget was prepared on the basis that all Council services will continue at broadly their current level. Inflation has not, however, been included in Sub-Committee budgets beyond 2024-25. A separate estimate of inflation beyond this date has been made across the whole of the Council and will be considered by the General Purposes Committee.
4. The figures for this Sub-Committee on the above basis are:

Actual		Budget	Forecast	Budget	Budget	Budget
2023-24		2024-25	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
£		£	£	£	£	£
-9,897	Frank Jordan Centre	-14,880	-29,750	-23,100	-13,100	-13,100
9,769	Stone Station	43,080	30,400	17,800	17,800	17,800
2,078	Bus Shelters & Street Furniture	7,500	4,720	5,150	5,150	5,150
1,039	Street Lighting	1,000	940	1,000	1,000	1,000
839	Dog & Litter Bins	900	860	900	900	900
-	Joules Clock	-	-	-	-	-
703	Town Electricity Supply	700	650	650	650	650
-	Building Maintenance	20,000	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
4,531	TOTAL	58,300	27,820	12,400	22,400	22,400

5. In respect of the figures above, Members should note:
 - a. The Frank Jordan Centre budget has benefitted from an income boost in both the current and next financial years from the agreement with the Banking Hub to occupy the Walton Suite. Other costs and income are expected to be broadly in line with current figures.

- b. The Stone Station budget for future years has also been projected at around current levels. The current year's forecast includes the cost of roof repairs, which have largely been completed. A provision of £5,000 has been retained for work still outstanding..
 - c. The Bus Shelters and Street Furniture budget for 2025-26 and subsequent years includes £1,850 for bench maintenance, £1,300 for bus shelter maintenance £2,000 for the Council's contribution to removing and installing the High Street bollards.
 - d. The Street Lighting, Dog and Litter Bin, Joules Clock and Town Electricity Supply budgets assume that expenditure will continue at broadly the current levels.
 - e. No spending has yet been made in the current year against the Building Maintenance provision. Any underspending will be rolled forward into next year. An annual provision of £10,000 has been included for 2025-26 and subsequent years.
6. As reported to the meeting of the General Purposes Committee on 10th December 2024, the standstill budget is just the starting point for the budget process. Members of the Sub-Committee will want to review this standstill budget and the amounts provisionally included. In addition, there are likely to be other areas where the Sub-Committee will want to undertake new developments or stop/change the things that they are doing now.
7. The Sub-Committee is asked to consider the standstill budget and any areas of growth or savings which they would want to be taken into account in setting the budget for 2025-26 and future years.

Recommendations

8. The Sub-Committee is asked to recommend their proposed budget for consideration by the General Purposes Committee.