

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 7 June, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor M Williamson in the Chair and
Councillors Ms L Bakker-Collier, J Davies, Mrs J Farnham, Mrs M Goodall,
Mrs K Green, M Green, Mrs J Hood, T Jackson, G Neagus, A Osgathorpe,
Mrs J Piggott and M Shaw

Absent: Councillors Mrs C Collier, G Collier, R Kenney, P Leason and Mrs E Mowatt

GP17/014 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs C Collier, G Collier, R Kenney and P Leason

GP17/015 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

Councillors G Neagus, Mrs J Piggott, M Shaw and M Williamson declared an interest in Minute Number GP17/020, the Stone Festival.

GP17/016 To receive the reports of the County Councillors

County Councillor I Parry was absent.

County Councillor P Jones reported that the Highways Department will recommend that Stafford Borough Council refuse the planning application for warehouses next to Brooms Park.

He also reported that a planning application for a change of use from warehouse to recycling centre has been received by the County Council. He welcomed comments from Members regarding this application, to go with his concerns about noise. Councillor M Williamson stated that toxic waste would need to be considered. Councillor G Neagus asked for traffic flow to be looked at.

County Councillor P Jones reported on an investment programme at an innovation centre in Keele. This will give opportunities for well paid jobs for young people in the area.

Councillor G Neagus reported that a road accident had happened at the new roundabout at Meaford which he had alerted the County Councillor to at the last meeting. He asked for Highways to look at the design of the roundabout further.

Concerns were raised regarding the closure of the motorway bridge on the Stone to Eccleshall Road. This will result in a large diversion for the local farmers and residents, travelling through Yarnfield and Swynnerton. It was suggested that a traffic light system and one-way traffic would be a better alternative to stop heavy goods vehicles from travelling through the villages.

Councillor M Green asked for a “no u-turn” or “no right-turn” sign to be put up by the central reservation outside the fire station at The Fillybrooks.

* 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.

Councillor M Green asked County Councillor P Jones to notify County Councillor I Parry that Manor Rise in Walton is requiring resurfacing.

Councillor J Farnham stated that there is a dangerous, rotting metal fence on Coppice Road. County Councillor Jones will inform the Neighbourhood Highways team.

Councillor Mrs J Hood reported that the new roundabout at Meaford has visibility problems if drivers are travelling northbound and trying to turn right to Barlaston.

GP17/017 Representations from Members of the Public

None

GP17/018 Member's Motions under Standing Order 4

Councillor Mrs J Hood

"The Town is to host a number of events and currently borrows bunting to decorate the High Street. I ask that Councillors agree to purchase enough of our own bunting to festoon the Town and propose that the bunting is put out each year from May to the beginning of September when the Stone Food & Drink Festival will put up their own bunting."

RESOLVED: to purchase bunting which the Town Council will pay a contractor to put up and take down

GP17/019 Member's Motions under Standing Order 4

Councillor Mrs J Hood

"We have recently seen in the media including regional TV stating that Stafford Borough Council has announced the decision to make new businesses exempt from paying rates to Stafford Borough Council with the aim to encourage new trade to the town.

Under the initiative one hundred percent discount on business rates for up to a period of twelve months or a £10,000 contribution towards business rates (whichever is the lower) will be offered on a first come first served basis.

Stone would benefit hugely from the same scheme which would encourage new business into the town therefore creating a knock on effect to other established shops and businesses in Stone with a more vibrant town.

I ask my fellow Councillors to request that Stafford Borough Council extends the same scheme to Stone."

RESOLVED: to write to Councillor Beatty at Stafford Borough Council to ask for Stone to be considered within the current initiative.

GP17/020 Councillor J Davies took the Chair for this item as Councillor M Williamson had declared an interest in it.

Member's Motions under Standing Order 4

Councillor Mrs J Hood

“Stone Summer Festival volunteers work tirelessly all year to provide a week long programme of family fun and activities enjoyed by all ages and abilities. I ask that Stone Town Council agree to pay the total hire charge of Westbridge Park which they have to pay to Stafford Borough Council.”

RESOLVED: to pay the hire charge of £417.60 as a one-off payment to be reviewed for future years

GP17/021 **Update from Working Groups**

- a) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Councillor Mrs J Hood reported that the draft Plan will be submitted to Urban Vision on 10th June.

GP17/022 **To receive reports from Town Councillors on attendance at meetings of local organisations and outside bodies as a representative of the Town Council**

Councillor M Williamson attended a meeting of the North Staffs Railway Group and he will continue to share information from the meetings in the future.

Town Mayor