

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 28 February, 2017

PRESENT: Councillor R Kenney in the Chair and
Councillors Mrs C Collier, G Collier, J Davies, I Fordham, M Green, Mrs M Goodall,
Mrs J Hood, Mrs E Mowatt, G Neagus, A Osgathorpe and M Williamson

Absent: Councillors Mrs J Farnham, Mrs K Green, T Jackson, P Leason, Mrs J Piggott and
M Shaw

GP17/149 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs J Farnham, Mrs K Green, T Jackson,
P Leason, Mrs J Piggott and M Shaw

GP17/150 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None received

GP17/151 **To receive the reports of the County Councillors**

County Councillor P Jones had tended his apologies.

County Councillor I Parry was absent.

Councillor M Green requested it be minuted that Councillor I Parry was absent.

GP17/152 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP17/153 **Meeting Dates 2017-18**

The meeting dates were agreed with one amendment; the addition of Trafalgar
Dinner on Saturday 21st October 2017.

GP17/154 **To consider the following request for grant from local organisations**

Young Enterprise (Mid & North Staffordshire Area) - £250

The Committee considered the grant application received from Young Enterprise
who requested £250 towards the running of the trade fair.

RESOLVED: to award £250

Stone Gang Show - £500

The Committee considered the grant application received from Stone Gang Show
who requested £500 for neckerchiefs for the cast.

RESOLVED: to award £500

GP17/155 **Closure of High Street Co-op and Post Office**

The Committee considered a press release produced by the Co-op which had been circulated with the agenda, stating that the High Street Co-op and Post Office is scheduled to close. A date hasn't been given but it will be no sooner than October 2017.

Members discussed possible causes and effects of the closure, and noted that a new location for the Post Office should be sought for the people of Stone. The general downturn in the High Street was also discussed.

RESOLVED: to invite traders to a special General Purposes meeting to allow them to discuss potential ways forward for their businesses.

GP17/156 **Westbridge Park**

The Clerk referred Members to Minute Number GP17/093, 1st November 2016, Transfer of Services from Stafford Borough Council. Negotiations had started with the Chief Executive of Stafford Borough Council regarding Stone Town Council taking over the running of the green area of Westbridge Park. The new Chief Executive of Stafford Borough Council, however, appears to be reluctant to continue these negotiations until Stafford Borough's plans for the whole of Westbridge Park are clear.

Members were concerned that there currently appears to be no location identified for the MUGA and skateboard park.

RESOLVED: To write to Stafford Borough re-confirming that the Town Council wishes to take over the management of the green area of Westbridge Park in accordance with the Borough Council's previous offer. In addition, to propose that a full and detailed leisure plan is drawn up, and full consultation is undertaken, before further work progresses on the previously developed area of the Park.

GP17/157 **Stafford & Stoke Sustainability and Transformation Plan**

This item was referred from Minute Number GP17/131, 7th February 2017, County Councillor Reports. The Stafford & Stoke Sustainability and Transformation Plan was circulated to Members by email and an extract from the report relating to cancer care with the agendas.

RESOLVED: to support County Councillor Jones by asking for an external review of the cancer care as part of the Plan.

GP17/158 **Consultation – Safer, Fairer, United Communities Strategy 2016 – 2020**

The Committee considered the consultation document circulated with the agenda. Members noted that 11 Safer Neighbourhood Panels had been established across Staffordshire, but expressed concern that a community as large as Stone has no direct representation.

RESOLVED: to request that Stafford Borough consult with the Town Council regarding the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Panel for the area.

GP17/159 **Great British Spring Clean**

Councillor Mrs J Hood reported that the Great British Spring Clean week is this week. Streetscene has contacted her and Stone in Bloom. There will be a litter pick on Friday 3rd March from 10am, meeting outside of Mayfair Cleaners.

RESOLVED: to allow Stone in Bloom the use of Stone Town Council's litter pickers and refuse bags.

GP17/160 **Members' Motions under Standing Order 4**

Councillor R Kenney

"Having seen a recent social media story from Nicola Atkinson, a Stone Resident, regarding Boston Borough Council introducing from February 1 those walking dogs could face a £100 fine if they cannot demonstrate their intention to clean up after their pet. If challenged they will have to produce a bag to show they are equipped to pick up. I seek the support of Stone Town Council to ask Stafford Borough Council to introduce the same legislation. The idea has received much support from local residents."

RESOLVED: to ask Stafford Borough Council to introduce the same legislation.

GP17/161 **Members' Motions under Standing Order 4**

Councillor Mrs J Hood

"Parking tickets have recently been issued in Stone High Street by a company employed by Staffordshire County Council. Unfortunately, Traders have been targeted too at times when they thought they were permitted to park. I ask that Stone Town Council immediately addresses the problem of traders receiving parking tickets and investigates once and for all what jurisdiction the parking enforcement officers have. We have always been led to believe that Traders have the right to park up to 10am and then after 4pm to load and unload stock or to transport takings from their premises. It would also be helpful if areas were identified where parking enforcement officers could issue tickets in the High Street.

It is my opinion Stone Town Council has a duty to help and encourage businesses thrive and not allow unnecessary obstructions caused to the traders who need to trade daily as easily as possible."

The Clerk reported that the Traffic Order for High Street states that anyone loading or unloading during the specified times should be exempt from prosecution provided that they act reasonably.

RESOLVED: to give Traders a copy of the Traffic Order so that they are aware of the rules regarding loading and unloading outside of their premises.

GP17/162 **Update from Working Groups**

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Councillor Mrs J Hood reported that the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would be Wednesday 15th March at 6:30pm.

GP17/163 **To receive reports from Town Councillors on attendance at meetings of local**

* 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.

organisations and outside bodies as a representative of the Town Council

Stone ATC – Councillor J Davies attended the most recent meeting where they discussed replacing the minibus

Age Concern Stone & District – No meetings have taken place

Stone Town Band – Councillor J Davies attended a rehearsal. The Band will be performing on Thursday 2nd March at the raising of the Lonestar State Flag

Walton Community Centre – Councillor M Shaw was not present

Stafford District & Stone Access Group – Councillor Mrs C Collier reported that no meetings have taken place but progress is being made with the website

Stone Common Plot Trustees – Councillor G Collier reported that the issues raised were dog fouling and the removal of a damaged tree

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group – Councillor R Kenney had attended a catch-up meeting

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association – Councillor M Williamson reported on a forum chaired by County Councillor I Parry and also attended by Councillors R Kenney and Mrs J Hood and the Town Clerk. The forum considered environmental services that the County may no longer be able to afford to provide, and whether parishes may want to provide, and pay for, those services themselves.

Town Mayor