

Stone Town Council – Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber on Thursday 16 July, 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs J Hood in the Chair and
Councillors Mrs C Collier, R Kenney, O Leason, G Neagus and M Shaw
By Chairman's invitation: Mr Jon Heal and Councillors J Davies and M Green

ABSENT: Councillor Mrs M Goodall, Mrs K Green and M Williamson

TTP16/001 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs M Goodall, Mrs K Green and M Williamson

TTP16/002 **Declarations of Interest**

None received

TTP16/003 **Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth 14th March 2016**

The Clerk reported that the last Commonwealth Day was not well supported. The Commonwealth Flag has been purchased and there is a cost of approximately £100 for the PA system.

Councillor P Leason proposed that a permanent flag pole be purchased and erected in a prominent place in the Town, and that relevant flags are flown throughout the year on ceremonial occasions.

Councillor M Green asked that the appropriate Sub-Committee discuss the possibility of moving the flag pole from outside the old police station rather than buying a new one.

Councillor M Shaw suggested that the flag pole in Stonefield Park be used. There were concerns that this location would not be central enough.

Councillor Mrs J Hood stated that the current flag pole was given to the Town eight years ago by ABB, and it may be possible to fix this permanently in the Town.

RECOMMENDED: to take part in the Commonwealth event and to publicise the event. Also to look in to erecting a permanent flag pole in the Town.

TTP16/004 **Update on Puppet Festival**

Councillor Mrs J Hood reported that the road closures and grant had been issued to the Puppet Festival as requested.

TTP16/005 **Potential Town Events**

The following events were suggested as future Town events:

- Commemoration to mark 100 years since the end of World War 1 in 2018
- Football World Cup
- Rio Olympics
- Queen's 90th Birthday 2016

It was agreed that it is important to mark the end of World War 1 and to do it properly it should be organised now.

Councillor R Kenney proposed that a small committee be formed to organise it.

RECOMMENDED: to form a working group to organise the event and to start work and budgeting straight away. Members of the working group are Councillors P Leason, R Kenney, Mrs C Collier, Mrs K Green and Mrs J Hood.

TTP16/006 **Preparation of the Town Guide**

Councillor Mrs J Hood proposed that a working group be formed to start work on the Town Guide and to start as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDED: to form a working group consisting of Councillors P Leason, G Neagus, M Shaw, R Kenney and Mrs J Hood.

TTP16/007 **Stone Rail Service** (brought forward from General Purposes Committee 2nd July)

Mr Jon Heal was invited to the meeting to discuss potential improvements to the Rail Service at Stone. Tendering for the rail franchise will open from October 2017.

Mr Heal reported that he had been contacted with a request for initial comments, which will need to be with him by 7th August. A public consultation will be in place from December 2015 to February 2016.

Councillor Mrs J Hood reported that Stone in Bloom provide the plants for the Station but was not able to obtain planters that are heavy enough to be non-removable.

RECOMMENDED: that Mr Heal be co-opted on to the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee.

TTP16/008 **Member's Motions under Standing Order 4** (brought forward from General Purposes Committee 2nd July)

Councillor Mrs J Hood

"It is becoming an increasingly alarming problem in Stone High Street with what are commonly known as "Chuggers" their slang title comes from charity muggers!

I often sit in the High Street and watch chuggers (sometimes as many as 5 or 6) stop members of the public to try and get them to sign up to and donate to the charity they are fund raising for. When a "no" is given they follow the person in the High Street trying to persuade them to change their mind. People feel threatened and intimidated which could put them and others from coming to shop in our High Street.

I would like to ask the Town Clerk to contact Public Fundraising Regulatory Association Chief Executive to see how to prevent the chuggers operating the stop and sign up methods used by them in our High Street".

Councillor Mrs J Hood reported that it had been announced by the Government last week that it would be more difficult for this type of charity collection in the future.

RECOMMENDED: for the Town Clerk to write to the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association to see how Stone can prevent chuggers from operating on the High Street.

TTP16/009 **Members Motions under Standing Order 4**

Councillor J Davies

"I propose that the Stone International Friendship Association (SIFA) be given recognition by Stone Town Council and that the aims of SIFS as set out in its Constitution (attached) are supported by Stone Town Council".

Councillor J Davies answered questions raised by Members.

RECOMMENDED: that Stone Town Council recognises the Stone International Friendship Association and its aims providing at no time is there a cost to the Council.

TTP16/010 **Town Promotion – an approach for general promotion of the Town**

Councillor Mrs J Hood proposed that the Queen's 90th birthday be celebrated in 2016 and that a budget to organise a street party be agreed.

Councillor R Kenney proposed that a working group be set up with immediate effect to have input into the Council's website. The working group will consist of Councillors R Kenney, Mrs C Collier, Mrs J Hood and P Leason.

Councillor P Leason suggested that a joint meeting with Stone traders be set up to see how the Town can be best promoted.

RECOMMENDED: that a meeting be set up with Stone traders.

TTP16/011 **Items for next meeting**

RECOMMENDED: Any items in addition to those highlighted for future discussion to be emailed to the office.

Town Mayor