

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 3 December 2019

PRESENT: Councillor R. Kenney in the Chair, and
Councillors: K. Argyle, A. Best, Mrs A. Burgess, J. Davies, Mrs L. Davies,
Mrs K. Dawson, M. Green, Mrs J. Hood, T. Kelt, P. Leason, J. Powell, C. Thornicroft
and R. Townsend

ABSENT: Councillors: T. Adamson, I. Fordham, M. Hatton and J. Hickling

GP20/132 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: T. Adamson, I. Fordham, M. Hatton and J. Hickling

GP20/133 **Declarations of Interests**

None

GP20/134 **Requests for Dispensations**

None

GP20/135 **To receive the report of the County Councillors**

County Councillor Mrs J. Hood

Councillor Mrs Hood gave no report on this occasion and wished everyone a very merry Christmas.

County Councillor I. Parry

Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting.

GP20/136 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP20/137 **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 5 November (Minute Numbers GP20/114 – GP20/131), be approved as a correct record.

GP20/138 **Minutes of Sub-Committees**

- a) Management Sub-Committee held on 12 November 2019 (Minute Numbers MAN20/015 – MAN20/021), that the draft minutes be noted and

the recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in Minute Numbers MAN20/019 and MAN20/020 be adopted.

- b) Estates Sub-Committee held on 12 November 2019 (Minute Numbers EST20/009 – EST20/015), that the draft minutes be noted and the recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in Minute Number EST20/015 be adopted.

GP20/139 Budget Monitoring Report – October 2019

The report of the Town Clerk* was noted.

GP20/140 Budget 2020-21 to 2022-23 Overview

The Committee received the report* of the Town Clerk setting out the prospects for the Council's 2020-21 to 2022-23 budget. The report considers the overall position of the Council, the context in which the budget needs to be set and the standstill budget, which is the starting point for determination of the precept for 2020-21.

RESOLVED: To note the standstill budget position for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 and the issues related to setting the precept.

RESOLVED: That each sub-committee considers its financial needs for the next three years and reports back to the General Purposes Committee on 21 January 2020 with its budget proposals.

GP20/141 Grant Application Process

The Committee considered minor revisions to the Town Council's Grant Aid application process which had been forwarded by the Management Sub-Committee (Minute Number: MAN20/021)).

A revised application form had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the proposed revisions to the Town Council's Grant Aid application form are accepted.

GP20/142 Plan Headstone

The Committee considered the draft Plan Headstone protocol which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the draft Plan Headstone protocol is accepted.

GP20/143 Stafford Safer Neighbourhood Panel

The Committee considered the appointment of Councillors to provide input into a scrutiny review being undertaken by the Stafford Safer Neighbourhood Panel. The terms of reference of the review had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

No Councillors were nominated and no volunteers came forward to take on the task.

* 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.

GP20/144 Meeting Between HS2 and Stone Railhead Crisis Group

The Committee considered the appointment of a Councillor to represent the Council at meetings between HS2 and the Stone Railhead Crisis Group.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs J. Hood represents the Town Council at meetings between HS2 Ltd and the Stone Railhead Crisis Group.

GP20/145 Non-Cheque Payments

RESOLVED: To note the list* of non-cheque payments made by the Council during the period 1 October to 31 October 2019.

GP20/146 Update from Working Groups:

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Councillor Mrs Hood, advised the Committee that there was no new information to report.

Stone Area Parish Liaison Group

Councillor Davies advised the Committee that the next meeting of the Stone Area Parish Liaison Group would be taking place in January 2020.

Traffic Management in Stone Working Group

Councillor Kenney advised that the next meeting of the working group would be held in the New Year.

VE Day 2020 Commemoration Working Group

Councillor Kenney advised the Committee that a meeting of the working group would be held in the New year.

GP20/147 To receive reports from Town Councillors on attendance at meetings of local organisations and outside bodies as a representative of the Town Council

Stone ATC

Councillor Davies advised that Stone ATC was continuing successfully and that he would be attending a meeting on Wednesday 4 December 2019.

Age Concern Stone & District

Councillor Thornicroft advised that a meeting of Age Concern Stone & District was scheduled to take place on Friday 6 December 2019.

Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor T. Kelt advised that a meeting of the Access Group would be held in January 2020. He said that a meeting had taken place with representatives from the Stone Traders Group and traders' views were being taken forward.

Councillor Kelt said that he was considering taking on the task of maintaining and updating the Access Group's website.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

Councillor Kenney and Councillor Mrs Hood were not aware that any meetings of the Stone Common Plot Trustees had taken place.

* 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.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

Councillor Mrs Hood reported that no meetings had been held since the recent Annual General Meeting.

SPCA Executive Committee

Councillor Green advised that he had attended the Annual General Meeting of Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association on 2 December. There had not been a quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee which had resulted in a rescheduling of the date to 6 January 2020.

The meeting was adjourned to enable the Planning Committee meeting and confidential items on the Council Meeting agenda to take place.

The General Purposes Committee was then reconvened for the confidential items on the agenda.

GP20/148 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 item of business.

GP20/149 Confidential Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 5 November 2019 (Minute Numbers GP20/114 and GP20/131), be approved as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN