

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 3 March 2020

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

ABSENT: Councillors: M. Green and Mrs J. Hood

GP20/185 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: M. Green and Mrs J. Hood

GP20/186 **Declarations of Interests**

Councillor I. Fordham declared a personal interest in item 15 (Minute Number GP20/199) Stone Community Hub

Councillor M. Hatton declared a personal interest in item 15 (Minute Number GP20/199) Stone Community Hub

GP20/187 **Requests for Dispensations**

None

GP20/188 **To receive the report of the County Councillors**

County Councillor Mrs J. Hood

Councillor Mrs Hood was not in attendance at the meeting.

County Councillor I. Parry

Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting.

GP20/189 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP20/190 **Minutes**

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that he had changed the way confidential minutes are dealt with on the agenda. Where the public summary of the confidential minute is exactly the same as the confidential minute itself, the minute will be considered in the main body of the meeting. Where the confidential minute is different, or where there are any questions and issues raised, the minute will be referred for consideration in the confidential section of the agenda. The changed format will be monitored.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 4 February (Minute Numbers GP20/167 – GP20/184), be approved as a correct record.

GP20/191 Minutes of Sub-Committees

There were no minutes for consideration.

GP20/192 Meeting Schedule for 2020-21

The Committee considered a revised programme of meetings and events for the period May 2020 to April 2021 following the changes agreed at the last meeting.

The revised programme of meetings and events were approved.

GP20/193 Local Plan for Stafford Borough

The Committee considered the following Stafford Borough Council consultations inviting views on:

- a) A new Stafford Borough Local Plan 2020-2040: Issues & Options Consultation – seeking views on the approach to future development of Stafford Borough over the next 20 years.

A copy of an email from Stafford Borough Council had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting along with a link to a range of documentation and information supporting the consultation.

RESOLVED: That a separate General Purposes Committee meeting is arranged for consideration of the consultation on Tuesday 24 March 2020.

- b) Draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Consultation – which expands upon policies in the adopted Plan for Stafford Borough, guiding developers through the ecological mitigation hierarchy of information, avoidance, mitigation, compensation, and new benefits detailing when, what and how to survey.

An email from Stafford Borough Council and an electronic copy of the Biodiversity draft SPD had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the sites of nature conservation at Stone Meadows and Crown Meadows (identified by the red hashed area on the map in Appendix 4 (page 50 of the Biodiversity draft SPD)) be further expanded to include the additional area identified on the enclosed plan (Appendix A*).

GP20/194 Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service Consultation

The Committee considered a Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Safety Plan 2020-2024 Consultation.

An email from the Chief Fire Officer and an electronic copy of 'Our Draft Safety Plan' had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting.

* 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: That the Town Council requests that Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service provides Stone with its fair share of community fire prevention resources as detailed in the draft safety plan.

GP20/195 **BT Payphones**

The Committee considered a letter from British Telecom which is consulting on a proposal to remove payphones in Stone parish.

An email from Stafford Borough Council, a letter from British Telecom and a comments form stating the locations of the telephone boxes (which are outside number 19 PC01 Queens Square and outside Meakin House PC01 Newcastle Road) had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting.

RESOLVED: That due to the marked fall in demand for public payphones, the Town Council would make no comment in response to the consultation.

GP20/196 **Members Motions**

Councillor J. Davies

"It was resolved under GP17/113 to fly the Lone Star State Flag on the flag pole at the top of the High Street on specific dates each year. I now ask the Council to amend that resolution by resolving to fly the Lone Star State Flag on the first Saturday of March (to commemorate the anniversary of Texas gaining its independence from Mexico on 2 March 1836), on the first Saturday of July (American Independence Day on 4th July) and on 29th December (the anniversary of Texas gaining admission as the 28th state of the Union in 1845). I also ask the council to make such reasonable financial provision as may be deemed necessary to ensure these events are carried out in an appropriate public manner".

Councillor Davies accepted a proposed amendment at the meeting to delete the last sentence of this motion and replace it with 'I also ask the Council to procure a portable PA system for use at these and other appropriate occasions'.

RESOLVED: That the Lone Star State Flag be flown on the first Saturday in March, the first Saturday in July (to coincide with Farmers' Market days) and on 29 December each year.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk is authorised to purchase a suitable portable PA system for use at flag raising and other Town Council events.

RESOLVED: That a notice is put up in advance of the flying of each flag, explaining to members of the public the reason for the flags being flown.

GP20/197 **Non-Cheque Payments**

RESOLVED: To note the list* of non-cheque payments made by the Council during the period 1 January to 31 January 2020.

GP20/198 **Update from Working Groups:**

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The Chairman reported that the Stone Draft Neighbourhood Plan would be considered by Stafford Borough Cabinet on Thursday 5 March 2020.

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Stone Area Parish Liaison Group

Councillor Davies advised the Committee that no meeting had taken place.

Traffic Management in Stone Working Group

Councillor Kenney advised the Committee that no meeting had taken place.

VE Day 2020 Commemoration Working Group

Councillor Kenney advised the Committee that meetings of the working group had taken place and the following arrangements had been made for the VE Day 2020 Commemoration in Stone:

Friday 8 May, daytime – the booking of various acts/performers and the ordering of 50 tables and 300 chairs for a 1940's style street party in the high street, with a town band and piped music (along the whole length of the high street).

Friday 8 May, evening – a church service including the ringing of the church bell, the setting up of a screen showing VE Day footage in the church and a reading.

Saturday 8 May, daytime – a plant fair and market with 1940's themed entertainment.

Sunday 9 May, daytime – a procession from Station Road to St Michael & St Wulfad's Church with wreath laying followed by a church service and refreshments.

GP20/199 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 reported that he had attended a meeting of ATC Welfare Committee and the Squadron was in good health with the Acting Officer Commanding having recently received a promotion to Flight Lieutenant.

Age Concern Stone & District

Councillor Thornicroft advised the Committee that no meeting of Age Concern Stone & District had taken place.

Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor T. Kelt advised that no meeting of the Access Group had taken place.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

Councillor Kenney advised that no meeting of the Stone Common Plot Trustees had taken place.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

Councillor Powell reported that he had attended a productive meeting of Stone Community Hub Liaison Group. A good overview had been given on the activities and services offered to the people of Stone which include: two drop in sessions (Monday and Friday morning), assisted job search and IT assistance, debt management support (Tuesday), Knit and Natter with crafts (Wednesday afternoon). The service is closed on Thursdays.

Councillor Powell advised that attendance numbers at the Hub have been increasing greatly and the space available has not always been big enough for their

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needs. The biggest challenge however is maintaining a continuous income stream for day to day running costs. Income comes from membership subscriptions, grants and fundraising. He appealed to Members to take up membership.

Councillor Powell concluded that the Hub was very healthy and doing great work for the people who are using and benefiting from the services.

SPCA Executive Committee

Councillor Green was not present at the meeting and no report was available.

CHAIRMAN