

Stone Town Council

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 4 February 2020

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

ABSENT: Councillors: T. Adamson, K. Argyle, Mrs A. Burgess, J. Hickling and J. Powell

Before the meeting began Councillor Mrs Lin Davies lead prayers

C20/098 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: T. Adamson, K. Argyle, Mrs A. Burgess,
J. Hickling and J. Powell

C20/099 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None received

C20/100 Representations from Members of the Public

None

C20/101 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on the 3 December 2019
(Minute Numbers C20/088 – C20/097), be approved as a correct record.

C20/102 Draft Committee Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) The minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 3
December 2019 (Minute Numbers GP20/132 – GP20/149), were noted.
- b) The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 3 December
2019 (Minute Numbers P20/073 – P20/078), were noted.

* 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.

- c) The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 17 December 2019 (Minute Numbers P20/079 – P20/084), were noted.
- d) The draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 7 January 2020 (Minute Numbers P20/085 – P20/090), were noted.
- e) The draft minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 21 January 2020 (Minute Numbers GP20/150 – GP20/166), were noted.

C20/103 To Consider the Council’s Budget for 2020-21 and to set the Council Tax for the Year

The Council considered the Town Clerk’s budget report*, which was based on the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee on 21 January 2020. The Clerk confirmed that this budget represented a sustainable position given the Town Council’s expenditure plans.

RESOLVED:

In respect of the Town Council’s budget for 2020-21 to 2022-23, it was resolved that:

1. The Budget recommended by the General Purposes Committee on 21st January 2020, and set out in the Clerk’s report to this meeting, is agreed.
2. The Council Tax for this Council’s purposes should be £50.65 for a Band D property, an increase of 55p for the year. This would result in a precept on Stafford Borough Council for 2019-20 of £310,649. Local Council Tax Support Grant of £18,399 will be added to this.
3. The wording for the 2020-21 Council Tax leaflet should be:

“Stone Town Council provides services for the people and town of Stone.

These services include the provision of community facilities, such as the Frank Jordan and Stone Station community centres, allotment sites at Newcastle Road and Mount Road, Station Road Conveniences, and the Crown Meadow Nature Reserve and amphitheatre.

The 2020-21 budget includes additional funding to enable the improvement of Christmas Lights in Walton, extra environmental work at the Crown Meadow and investment in the Council’s

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commitment to tackle climate change. This is in addition to the development and operation of a new Heritage Centre within the exciting redevelopment at Crown Wharf.

Investing in and working to promote a vibrant town and encourage visitors is a key Town Council priority. In order to support this, the Council organises regular events such as the Town Market and monthly Craft Market together with town centre events such as the Music Festival, Stone by the Sea, the Classic Car event and the St Georges Day celebration. Christmas lights are provided in the High Street and at Walton, with the Council's annual switch-on event being one of highlights of the town year. The High Street environment is enhanced by the Council's provision of hanging baskets along the High Street, and newly refurbished noticeboards and fingerposts throughout the town.

The Council provides bus shelters, benches and dog bins throughout the area and takes responsibility for the upkeep of many local amenities and planted areas. It also provides grants to help charitable and community organisations such as the Stone Community Hub, supports various festivals, and the office supplies daily support and advice to local residents.

By considering the impact of every planning application, the Council seeks to develop and conserve the town, and is currently preparing a Neighbourhood Plan that will help to shape and protect the future of Stone for years to come.

At its monthly meetings the Council welcomes questions from the public and sets aside time to listen and respond. Assistance with public questions will gladly be given by the Council's staff."

4. The Clerk is authorised to seek tenders/quotations, place orders and make payments in accordance with this budget, the Council's policies, and Financial Regulations.

**C20/104 Local Government Transparency Code 2015
Openness of Public Bodies Regulations 2014**

The Information* for Quarter ending 31 December 2019 was noted.

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C20/105 **Civic Announcements**

The Civic Announcements, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

C20/106 **Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Reports of Engagements**

The Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Announcements, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

The meeting was suspended at this point to enable the General Purposes Committee and Planning Committee Meetings to take place.

The Town Council was then reconvened for the confidential items on the agenda.

C20/107 **To resolve, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting whilst the next item of business is 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.

C20/108 **Confidential Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Confidential Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on the 3 December 2019, Minute Numbers C20/088, C20/096 and C20/097, be approved as a correct record.

C20/109 **Confidential Committee Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) The Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 3 December 2019 (Minute Numbers GP20/132 and GP20/149), were noted.
- b) The draft Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 21 January 2020 (Minute Numbers GP20/150 and GP20/166), were noted.

TOWN MAYOR

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