



Town Clerk
Les Trigg

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22 February 2021

Dear Councillor,

A **VIRTUAL** meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** will be held on **TUESDAY 2 MARCH 2021** at **7:00pm** for consideration of the matters itemised in the following agenda.

The meeting will be streamed live on YouTube and members of the public are welcome to observe.

View Meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXHye7pCvT-mVBouN3IUTWQ>

Les Trigg
Town Clerk

Agenda

1. **To receive apologies for absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**
3. **Representations from Members of the Public**
4. **To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 2 February 2021, Minute Numbers C20/154 – C20/164 (attached)**
5. **To receive the draft minutes and decisions of the under mentioned Committees:**
 - a) General Purposes Committee meeting held on 2 February 2021, Minute

Numbers GP20/328 – GP20/346 (attached)

- b) Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 2 February 2021, Minute Numbers P20/139 – P20/144 (attached)

6. **To receive the forthcoming Civic Announcements**

There are no civic announcements.

7. **To receive the Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Reports of Engagements**

There are no reports from the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor on this occasion due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Government requirements on social distancing and mass gatherings.

8. **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.

9. **To receive the draft confidential minutes and decisions of the undermentioned Committees:**

- a) General Purposes Committee meeting held on 2 February 2021, Minute Numbers GP20/328 and GP20/346 (attached).

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Town Council meeting as observers and/or to make representations to the committee in accordance with the Council's scheme of public participation. Details of the scheme are displayed in the Council's notice boards and website.

NOTE: Due to the pending by-election for the Stonefield and Christchurch Ward, the Town Council's Public Participation Scheme is currently suspended.

Stone Town Council

Minutes of the meeting held virtually on Tuesday 2 February 2021

NOTE: Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) and Government Guidelines on public gatherings, the meeting was held virtually on Zoom. Members of the public were invited to observe the meeting streamed live on YouTube.

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

ABSENT: Councillors: K. Argyle and I. Fordham

Before the meeting began Reverend Prebendary Cardinal led prayers

The Town Mayor informed Council Members that Tom Adamson had resigned from the Council and his position as a Councillor for the Stonefield and Christchurch Ward was now vacant.

The Town Mayor advised Members that the Town Council had followed the legal procedures required following the resignation of a Councillor. He said the Town Clerk had been told informally by Stafford Borough Council that the required number of residents had requested that an election be held to fill the vacancy, but formal confirmation was awaited.

A by-election is therefore expected to be held for the Stonefield and Christchurch Ward. Under current legislation, that election cannot be held before the 6th May 2021.

The Town Mayor extended his thanks to Tom Adamson on behalf of the Town Council, whose enthusiasm and strong views on climate change had helped shape Stone Town Council policy.

C20/154 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: K. Argyle and I. Fordham

C20/155 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None

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C20/156 **Representations from Members of the Public**

There were no representations from members of the public.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council's Public Participation Scheme was now suspended until after the by-election for the Stonefield and Christchurch Ward.

C20/157 **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on the 1 December 2020 (Minute Numbers C20/145 – C20/153), be approved as a correct record.

C20/158 **Committee Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) The minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 1 December 2020 (Minute Numbers GP20/295 – GP20/311), were noted.
- b) The minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on the 1 December 2020 (Minute Numbers P20/127 – P20/132), were noted.
- c) The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 5 January 2021 (Minute Numbers P20/133 – P20/138), were noted.
- d) The minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 19 January 2021 (Minute Numbers GP20/312 – GP20/327), were noted.

C20/159 **To Consider the Council's Budget for 2021-22 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 19 January 2021. The Clerk confirmed in his report that the budget represented a sustainable position given the Town Council's expenditure plans.

Councillors expressed disappointment that it will now be necessary to increase the budget to cover the costs of a by-election when co-option could have been a possibility and just two years of the term was remaining.

Members acknowledged that the calling of an election was a democratic right afforded to all, but said they would be interested to know the identity of the individuals who had imposed the financial consequences on the town (which are set by Stafford Borough Council and estimated to be £9,000 to £9,500) at a time

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when everyone was struggling.

The Chairman advised the Committee that under S.228 of the Local Government Act 1972 the names of people supporting a request for an election are subject to public inspection. The Town Clerk confirmed that he was in discussion with the Borough Council's Legal Department and had requested further information.

RESOLVED:

In respect of the Town Council's budget for 2021-22 to 2023-24, it was resolved that:

1. The Budget recommended by the General Purposes Committee on 19th January 2021, and set out in the Clerk's report to this meeting, is agreed, with the addition of a £9,000 budget in 2021-22 to cover the cost of the by-election recently called by a number of Stone residents to fill the current Council vacancy.
2. The 2021-22 Council Tax for this Council's purposes should thus be £53.06 for a Band D property, rather than the £51.61 proposed by the General Purposes Committee, an increase of 4.8% over the current year, rather than 1.9%, with no change to the proposed indicative precept levels the following two years. This would result in a precept on Stafford Borough Council for 2021-22 of £328,803. Local Council Tax Support Grant of £20,509 will be added to this.
3. The wording for the 2021-22 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, and the Crown Meadow Nature Reserve and amphitheatre.

The 2021-22 budget includes additional funding to support the re-invigoration of our High Street following the pandemic, provide additional dog bin facilities and increase investment in the Council's 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. A sum of £9,000 has also been added to cover the cost of the by-election called by a number of Stone residents to fill the current Council vacancy.

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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 Council staff supply regular support and advice to local residents.

Whilst the pandemic has restricted a number of these activities in the last year, the Council is looking forward to being in a position to resume them all as soon as possible, and will continue with its financial backing of the Stone Helpline for as long as the current situation continues and the residents of the town need it.

By considering the impact of every planning application, the Council seeks to develop and conserve the town, and is currently awaiting the referendum on its Neighbourhood Plan so that it can 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.

**C20/160 Local Government Transparency Code 2015
Openness of Public Bodies Regulations 2014**

The Information* for Quarter ending 31 December 2020 was noted.

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C20/161 Civic Announcements

There were no Civic Announcements due to the Coronavirus pandemic and Government requirements on social distancing.

C20/162 Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Reports of Engagements

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

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

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

C20/163 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.

C20/164 Confidential Committee Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) The Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 1 December 2020 (Minute Numbers GP20/295 and GP20/311), were noted.

TOWN MAYOR

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Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held virtually, on Tuesday 2 February 2021

NOTE: Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) and Government Guidelines on public gatherings, the meeting was held virtually on Zoom. Members of the public were invited to observe the meeting streamed live on YouTube.

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

ABSENT: Councillors: K. Argyle and I. Fordham

GP20/328 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: K. Argyle and I. Fordham

GP20/329 Declarations of Interests

Councillor R. Townsend declared a personal interest in item 10 (Minute Number GP20/337) – Grant aid to local organisations: Aston Lodge Residents Association

GP20/330 Requests for Dispensations

None

GP20/331 To receive the report of the County Councillors

County Councillor Mrs J. Hood

Streetscene

Councillor Mrs Hood advised the Committee that the funeral of one of Streetscene's operatives who has sadly died from Covid-19, had taken place today (2 February 2021). She asked that everyone puts him in their thoughts as Streetscene are a tremendous team who do a lot for our town.

Vandalism in Town

Councillor Mrs Hood informed the Committee that over the previous year and to the present day, Stone had endured obscene graffiti, damage to business premises with stock stolen, staff being threatened, people high on drugs wondering around the town and drug dealing taking place in private residences.

She said that residents had seen evidence of people trying to break into their cars and properties, and last weekend crime had escalated to a very serious level when a fire had been started in a house in Granville terrace, with a further two fires in the old fire station owned by Joules Brewery. Many thousands of pounds worth of damage had resulted.

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Councillor Mrs Hood advised the Committee that Stone Police officers work long gruelling shifts to take these criminals off the streets and had achieved excellent results, working closely with the community and using intelligence passed to them.

Councillor Mrs Hood said that due to concerns that Stone was being viewed as an unsafe town, she undertook some research before writing to the Staffordshire Commissioner, Matthew Ellis, and was appalled to discover that his staffing bill in 2018-19 was £1,415,000 for 22 backroom staff.

Councillor Mrs Hood informed the Committee that she had written an open letter to Mr Ellis enquiring how the value would equate to police constable wages. Sir Bill Cash (who had been copied in) responded by writing to Matthew Ellis telling him how profoundly concerned he was, but didn't mention how Government funding for police forces throughout the UK had been squeezed.

Councillor Mrs Hood stated that Stone needed funds from the Staffordshire Commissioner's budget for more CCTV and police officers in Stone. She said that getting the town back to the friendly and safe town it has always been required the employment of more police officers.

Councillor Mrs Hood informed the Committee that she was saddened by what had been going on in the town but wants to get the message across that most of the criminals responsible had been caught, charged and imprisoned. She said the police are doing a good job and should receive all our thanks. She suggested others may wish to write to their Member of Parliament and the Staffordshire Commissioner themselves.

County Councillor I. Parry

Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting.

GP20/332 To receive the report of Borough Councillors

The Chairman invited Councillor Leason to address the Council.

Councillor Leason advised the Committee that he had received a number of complaints from members of the public about the rise in crime, graffiti and anti social behaviour in Stone.

Councillor Leason said Chief Inspector Parsons and his team are doing a good job but resources are stretched. He said he would like to see a review of policing in Stone and resources increased to include a full time sergeant based in the town rather than in Stafford. More police officers are needed not only to reduce the current crime levels but to give residents peace of mind and the knowledge that the money they pay for policing is well spent and good value.

The Chairman, Councillor Kenney, reported that he had attended a Task and Review of Stafford Borough Council's constitution as part of the Borough Council's Scrutiny Committee. Town/Borough Councillor Ian Fordham had put forward a request for the constitution to be changed to allow parish council representatives to speak at the Borough Council's planning committee as a right for three minutes.

Councillor Kenney advised the General Purposes Committee that there had been no support for the proposal, Members considering the rule to be unfair as some parts of the borough are unparished.

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Councillor Kenney reported that another item on the Borough Scrutiny Committee agenda had been a proposal to change the procedural rules relating to Members Motions and their cost implications. Where the cost implications of a Members Motion would likely increase the Borough Council's capital or revenue expenditure or reduce income to the Council, the Councillor's proposal should first be referred to the Chief Executive for referral to Cabinet.

Councillor Kenney informed the Committee that the effect of this procedural change would be to remove democracy as the Cabinet would be vetting almost all Members Motions. He said the item had currently been deferred for additional information.

The Chairman advised the Committee that he supported the comments made by Councillor Mrs Hood and Councillor Leason about crime in Stone and reassured residents that he and other Town Councillors were having regular meetings with the Chief Inspector.

GP20/333 Representations from Members of the Public

There were no representations from members of the public.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council's Public Participation Scheme was now suspended until after the by-election for the Stonefield and Christchurch Ward. The election cannot be held before 6 May 2021.

GP20/334 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 19 January 2021 (Minute No's GP20/312 – GP20/327), be approved as a correct record.

GP20/335 Minutes of Sub-Committees

There were no minutes for consideration.

GP20/336 Meeting Schedule for 2021-22

The Committee considered a proposed programme of meetings and events for the period May 2021 to April 2022.

RESOLVED: To approve the schedule of meetings and events dates.

GP20/337 Grant Aid to Local Organisations

The Committee considered the following requests for a grant:

AEDDONATE

The Committee considered the grant application received from AEDdonate requesting £500 to replace batteries and consumable pads in Stone defibrillators and supplement the loss of income incurred from the closure of shops during the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns.

RESOLVED: To award £500 to AEDdonate for use in Stone.

STONE CHORAL SOCIETY

The Committee considered the grant application received from Stone Choral Society requesting £500 to educate the public in the arts and sciences – particularly music, by the presentation of concerts and other activities.

RESOLVED: To award £500 to Stone Choral Society.

ASTON LODGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Committee considered the grant application received from Aston Lodge Residents Association requesting £250 to install advisory traffic calming signs in various locations around the estate to encourage motorists to slow down.

RESOLVED: To award £250 to Aston Lodge Residents Association.

OULTON FIRST SCHOOL

The Committee considered the grant application received from Oulton First School requesting £500 to assist in the purchase of tablet style devices. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions children, parents and school needs to adapt to different types of learning, becoming increasingly reliant on information technology resources.

RESOLVED: To award £500 to Oulton First School.

GP20/338 Stone Draft Neighbourhood Plan

The Committee considered the protection of green infrastructure offered by Neighbourhood Plan policy CAF5 and Plan for Stafford Borough policy N4. A description of the policies had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting.

The Chairman informed the Committee that the Neighbourhood Plan had been brought back to the meeting because of the sale of land in Heath Gardens (under private ownership) and its designation as local green infrastructure in the Draft Stone Neighbourhood Plan.

He said the Town Council and residents had worked hard over several years creating the plan (at a cost of almost £30,000) for the main purpose of recognising the value of green spaces in Stone and protecting them from future development.

In the original version of the draft Stone Neighbourhood Plan, as submitted to the independent examiner, the land in Heath Gardens had been designated as local green space (reference LGS29) but the examiner had not supported the proposal and asked that the land be designated local green infrastructure. The land is designated local green infrastructure in the latest version of the Plan.

Councillor Kenney advised the Committee that as local green infrastructure, the land was covered by Neighbourhood Plan policy CAF5 and Plan for Stafford Borough Council policy N4.

The Draft Stone Neighbourhood plan which is due to go to referendum in May 2021 after having been delayed by one year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, already carries great weight, and the Borough Council's policy on local green infrastructure should protect the land from future development.

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The Committee expressed its confidence in the Neighbourhood Plan, that it would protect listed local green space and green infrastructure and that it would be adopted by residents in May 2021. Assurances were given that the Town Council would challenge all proposals submitted by developers in respect of any of the sites in the future.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the impact of planning policies, whether Stafford Borough or Neighbourhood Plan policies, only come into effect when an application has been made for planning permission and do not prevent the sale and purchase land.

The Committee noted the protections afforded by Neighbourhood Plan policy CAF5 and Plan for Stafford Borough policy N4.

GP20/339 Road Safety Improvements – A34 Fillybooks and Yarnfield Lane

The Committee considered a Staffordshire County Council consultation outlining proposals for road safety improvements at the A34 Fillybrooks and Yarnfield Lane, Stone.

An email, a letter and a drawing (reference: D4274L-R01-01-P2) with details of the scheme, had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting.

The Committee agreed that safety improvements were needed at The Fillybrooks and Yarnfield lane and that the proposals involved low key works which did not raise obvious concerns, and appeared to have few negative impacts.

The Committee observed that quite a lot of cutting back of verges was proposed to improve visibility and prevent signage from getting obscured. It was pointed out that vegetation does have a beneficial presence in absorbing pollutants from the main road and the environmental impact of its removal had not been addressed.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council forwards the following comments to the County Council in response to the road safety consultation: ‘where vegetation is cut back to prevent obscuring the road signage, an environmental impact is considered to maintain low level vegetation and encourage biodiversity on those junctions’.

GP20/340 Staffordshire Pension Fund – Draft Exit Credit Policy

The Committee considered the Staffordshire Pension Fund Draft Exit Credit Policy which is open for consultation with its employers to 13 February 2021.

A copy of the policy had been issued with the agenda for the meeting.

The Town Clerk explained that the policy had little or no direct impact on the Town Council but had impact on the overall fund because of an agreement where organisations leaving the fund can take any profit they hold with them. This reduces the value of the fund for other members although the impact on parish councils is considered negligible.

The Committee noted the Draft Exit Credit Policy.

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GP20/341 **Staffordshire Police Survey - Your police. Your voice.**

The Chairman reminded Committee Members to complete the Staffordshire Police 'Your police. Your voice' survey by the deadline of 8th February 2021 to help the Police to get a better understanding of the issues that matter most to our communities, and ensure that services and resources are being delivered in the best way to address any concerns. The Police have also asked that the survey link is distributed as widely as possible.

A copy of the email from Staffordshire Police had been attached to the agenda for the meeting and the link to the survey provided.

GP20/342 **Non-Cheque Payments**

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

GP20/343 **Update from Working Groups:**

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Councillor Mrs Hood confirmed that there was no update.

Stone Area Parish Liaison Group

The Chairman of the Liaison Group, Councillor Davies, advised the Committee that a meeting had taken place on 20 January 2021 which had been very well attended by contiguous councils. The Group has a lot of common interests and is proving to be valuable for comparing notes and for parish councils in the northern part of the borough to join together with Stone. The feeling is sometimes that the area is overlooked by the Borough Council.

Councillor Davies advised the Committee that Chief Inspector Parsons had attended the meeting and it had been beneficial for him to be able to share information with a number of parish councils at the same time.

Councillor Davies reminded the Committee that the request for the Borough Council to amend its constitution to allow a parish council representative to speak at Planning Committee as a right had originated with the liaison group.

The Chairman advised the Committee that the next meeting would be held in April and Members would be very welcome to Zoom in to the virtual meeting.

Traffic Management in Stone Working Group

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

Promotion of Stone Working Group

Councillor Kenney advised the Committee that the Promotion of Stone Working Group was due to have a meeting soon and would be providing a report at the next meeting.

GP20/344 **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 the Committee that no meeting had taken place.

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Age Concern Stone & District

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

Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor T. Kelt advised the Committee that no meeting had taken place. He also advised that the publicity for the website had been taken on by Mr Peter Jones.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

Councillor Mrs Hood confirmed that no meeting had taken place.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

Councillor Mrs Hood confirmed that she had attended the Hub's Annual General Meeting which was interesting. The finances are extremely healthy and the Hub is supporting a huge number of residents with the food bank.

SPCA Executive Committee

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

The meeting was suspended at this point to enable the Planning Committee meeting and confidential section of the Town Council meeting to take place.

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

GP20/345 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.

GP20/346 Stone Heritage Centre

The Committee considered the Town Clerk's report* on Stone Heritage Centre which had been attached to the agenda for the meeting.

The report considers the Council's position with regards to the proposed Stone Heritage Centre and asked the Committee to confirm that it wished to enter into an agreement with Joules Brewery for the operation of the Centre.

Resolved:

That the Committee:

- a. Asks the Town Clerk to confirm to Joules Brewery that the Town Council intends to continue with the Heritage Centre project and enter into a lease along the lines of the Heads of Terms previously considered by the Committee.
- b. Suspends standing order 19.7 relating to the tendering of contracts in respect of this project.

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CHAIRMAN

* 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 Town Council – Planning Consultative Committee

Minutes of the meeting held virtually on Tuesday 2 February 2021

NOTE: Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) and Government Guidelines on public gatherings, the meeting was held virtually on Zoom. Members of the public were invited to observe the meeting streamed live on YouTube.

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

ABSENT: Councillors: K. Argyle and I. Fordham

P20/139 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: K. Argyle and I. Fordham

P20/140 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

Councillor Mrs Hood confirmed that, as a member of Stafford Borough Council's Planning Committee, she would not comment on the planning applications listed and abstained from voting on all items.

P20/141 **Representations from Members of the Public**

There were no representations from members of the public.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council's Public Participation Scheme was now suspended until after the by-election for the Stonefield and Christchurch Ward. The election cannot be held before 6 May 2021.

P20/142 **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 5 January 2021 (Minute Numbers P20/133 – P20/138), be approved as a correct record.

P20/143 **Planning Applications**

Application Number – 20/33507/HOU

Applicant – Mr & Mrs R. Cullen

Location – 9 Kings Avenue, Stone

Development – Single storey rear extension to replace existing low grade conservatory

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 20/33462/COU

Applicant – Mr L. James

Location – 41A High Street, Stone

Development – Change of use from shops (F2) to drinking establishment (Sui Generis) to include outdoor seating to the front of the premises

Observations: The Town Council asks that the following points are considered by the Borough Council in relation to the installation of an outdoor seating area at the front of the premises:

- The presence of waste bins in the vicinity of the drinking establishment should remain accessible for use by the general public, and not be obstructed.
- If the applicant intends putting up temporary awnings, parasols, shades or similar, they should be mindful not to restrict surveillance by the High Street CCTV systems fixed to the building(s).

Application Number – 20/33526/HOU

Applicant – Mr & Mrs P. Hallam

Location – 138 Pirehill Lane, Walton

Development – Porch extension

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 20/33465/HOU

Applicant – Mr M. Blackburn

Location – Aston House, 4 Granville Court, Granville Terrace, Stone

Development – New garage including two bays for cars with gable ends, garage to consist of a timber and brick structure

Observations: No objections

P20/144

To note the following items considered under delegated powers where no objections were forwarded to Stafford Borough Council due to no Member asking for the item to be considered by a special meeting of the Committee.

Application Number – 20/33313/COU (amended plans)

Applicant – Mr H. Khadar

Location – 13 High Street, Stone

Development – Change of use to ground floor from two retail units to mixed Sui Generis use including sale of hot and cold food A5/A3 and including sale of hot and cold desserts

Amendments – External flue to the side, facing no. 11 High Street, has been added to the application for Environmental Health purposes. The amendment has altered the red edge and the description.

Observations: The Town Council wishes to repeat its observations made in response to the original plans, submitted in a letter to Stafford Borough Council on 4 November 2020:

The Town Council would welcome a daytime hot and cold food takeaway provision to add to the amenities of the town. However, it would not support evening takeaway services which could increase the flow of traffic in the High Street, on street parking and other consequential risks.

Please also note that the Town Council supports the Conservation Officer's recommendations.

CHAIRMAN