

Stone Town Council – Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held virtually on Tuesday 16 March 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 Mrs J. Hood in the Chair and
Councillors: A. Best, J. Davies, M. Green, R. Kenney, P. Leason and J. Powell

By Chairman's invitation: No Councillors

ABSENT: Councillors: I. Fordham and C. Thornicroft

TTP20/058 Apologies

Councillors: I. Fordham and C. Thornicroft

TTP20/059 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None received

TTP20/060 Representations from Members of the Public

None

TTP20/061 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee meeting held on the 15 December 2020 (Minute Numbers TTP20/047 – TTP20/057), were approved as a correct record.

TTP20/062 Calendar of Events 2021

The Chairman invited the Sub-Committee to consider the arrangements for Stone Town Council events through 2021 when it was hoped the Covid-19 crisis would be easing.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Hood, expressed her view that putting events in the calendar, and making plans as soon as circumstances allow, would offer everyone something to look forward to and a glimmer of optimism for the town.

The Sub-Committee agreed that the Town Council events which could provisionally be added to the calendar now were Civic Sunday on 11 July, Civic Carols Service on 12 December 2021 and possibly Trafalgar Dinner in October.

* 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.

The Sub-Committee acknowledged that many other events held in the town relied upon a large number of participants from outside of the Council and in respect of the annual Music Festival, a complex and lengthy planning process. As the legal limits on social distancing are not ending until 21 June, it was agreed that High Street events could not feasibly be arranged until this date had arrived.

The Sub-Committee agreed that the Music Festival be postponed for a further review after the Government's phased easing of lockdown measures had concluded and a successful outcome was hopefully emerging.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Council sets a provisional date on the second Saturday in September (Saturday 11 September 2021) for a Music Festival, which should be confirmed along with other High Street event dates, after 21 June 2021.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Clerk is asked to contact the participants usually involved in the Music Festival to seek their support for an event in September when it is hoped the circumstances (relating to Covid-19) will be favourable.

TTP20/063 **Christmas Lights**

The Sub-Committee reviewed the 2020 Christmas lighting provision and considered any improvements that could be introduced in 2021.

The Chairman informed the Sub-Committee that she had attended a productive meeting on 8 March 2021 with the Town Clerk and Christmas lighting contractor. The topics discussed had included the anchor point and catenary wire breakage in the 2020 High Street display and potential options for lighting displays in 2021 around the Plane tree and at Walton shops.

Councillor Mrs Hood said that she would like 2021 to be the year when a good display of lights is installed at the Walton shops as she considered local people had been short changed over a number of years. However, an existing project to install new lights hadn't been without its difficulties – in respect of the means by which new lights could be mounted and supported and in obtaining the necessary permissions – which were explained in detail by the Town Clerk.

The Sub-Committee expressed its disappointment that the project had not come to fruition and asked the Town Clerk in consultation with the Christmas lighting contractor to do their very best to ensure the challenges are resolved and the project completed in time for the Christmas season.

TTP20/064 **Bunting**

The Chairman informed the Sub-Committee that the Christmas Lighting contractor would be in town very early on 11 April to install the bunting. She said it was an important task because it will give hope to the residents and businesses in the town and ensure the High Street looks and hopefully feels festive.

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TTP20/065 **Reports from Working Groups**

To receive reports from Working Groups:

Town Centre Appearance and Environment Working Group

No report was available from the Working Group.

Town Centre Events and Attractions Working Group

No report was available from the Working Group.

Councillor Kenney pointed out to the Sub-Committee that the Town Centre Appearance and Environment Working Group and the Town Centre Events and Attractions Working Group had been superseded by other working groups and should be removed from the agenda.

Remembrance Plaques Working Group

Councillor Davies advised the Sub-Committee that he was pleased the recommendation from the last meeting had been approved by the General Purposes Committee. He said the working group hadn't physically met yet (as this hadn't been possible) but he had sketched out an idea for the plaque which will be circulated to members of the group.

Councillor Davies said that Oak Tree Farm had agreed in principle to work with the Working Group to produce the plaques but the current circumstances make it impossible to take the project any further.

He said the project would prove a useful tie in with preparations for the 70th Anniversary of the Assession of Her Majesty next year, when it was hoped all in the town would be involved.

Chairman

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