

Stone Town Council – Estates Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held virtually on Tuesday 27 April 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 I. Fordham in the Chair and
Councillors: A. Best, Mrs L. Davies, Mrs J. Hood, C. Thornicroft and R. Townsend

By Chairman's invitation: Councillors: J. Davies, T. Kelt, P. Leason and J. Powell

ABSENT: Councillors: M. Green, M. Hatton and R. Kenney

EST20/041 **Apologies**

Councillors: M. Green and R. Kenney

EST20/042 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None received

EST20/043 **Representations from Members of the Public**

The Sub-Committee noted that the Town Council's Public Participation Scheme had been suspended until after the by-election for the Stonefield and Christchurch Ward.

EST20/044 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

That the minutes of the Estates Sub-Committee meeting held on the 5 January 2021 (Minute Numbers EST20/030 – EST20/040), be approved as a correct record.

EST20/045 **Baskets on the Railings at Stone Station**

The Sub-Committee considered a proposal for the installation of flower baskets on the railings at Stone Station. The item had been brought forward from the previous Estates Sub-Committee meeting after further information had been requested.

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

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that the group applying for

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permission to install the flower baskets was London Northwestern Railway Estates Team in conjunction with volunteers which Councillor Kelt confirmed were from the North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership.

The Estates team and volunteers had indicated that (although not confirmed) their proposal involved use of the Blacksmith Hayrack basket design which would be in keeping with the railings. They also indicated that if the Town Council was willing to support the project all necessary permissions would be obtained. The Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council has confirmed that planning permission would not be required.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that the Caretaker at Stone Station had agreed to water the plants if supplied with the necessary vessel that would enable the task to be undertaken.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Council supports the London Northwestern Railway Estates Team proposal to install and maintain flower baskets on the railings at Stone Station.

EST20/046 Update on Frank Jordan Centre

The Chairman provided the Sub-Committee with an update on the Frank Jordan Centre.

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the Town Council had been busy during the pandemic ensuring that the Frank Jordan Centre was in the best possible shape for room hire. The planned internal refurbishment works were complete and bookings were now being taken in line with current Covid-19 restrictions.

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that exterior signage had been improved and repairs to brickwork and fencing completed. The car park has been swept clean and arrangements made to mark out parking bays that will maximise the availability of spaces. This work is planned as soon as possible with the intention of completing before relaxation of the Government's Covid-19 restrictions on 21 June 2021.

EST20/047 Reports of Working Groups

Market Strategy (Market Pricing & Strategy)

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the Market Strategy Working Group had not met due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Use of Frank Jordan Centre and Stone Station

The Chairman advised the Committee that no meeting of the Community

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Centres Working Group had taken place due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chairman

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