

Stone Town Council – Management Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 19 October 2021

PRESENT: Councillor J. Davies in the Chair and
Councillors: I. Fordham, Mrs L. Davies, T. Kelt, and R. Kenney

By Chairman's invitation: Mrs J. Hood, P. Leason and R. Townsend

ABSENT: Councillor: K. Argyle, Mrs A. Burgess, M. Green and J. Powell

MAN22/011 Apologies

Councillors:, K. Argyle, M. Green, and J. Powell

MAN22/012 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None received

MAN22/013 Representations from Members of the Public

None received

MAN22/014 Community Involvement with Young People

The Sub-Committee considered the options for better representing young people and promoting youth engagement in the Town Council's activities.

A copy of Councillor Mrs Dawson's Youth Council Research Summary* had been attached to the agenda for the meeting.

A copy of the Protocol for the Appointment of Student Advisors in Association with Ringwood School and the NALC publication 'Whatever, yeah?' had been attached to the electronic version of the agenda.

The Chairman reminded the Sub-Committee that the item had been put forward to the General Purposes Committee by Councillor Mrs Dawson and the Management Sub-Committee had been asked to consider its recommendations on how to proceed.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Mrs Dawson for raising the issue, for her written paper and for the research she had undertaken in identifying the work done on youth engagement by other local councils around the country. The Sub-

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Committee expressed how helpful her paper had been.

The Chairman referred the Sub-Committee to some notes he had distributed outside of the meeting which were based on youth engagement being a good idea with many mutual benefits to the Town Council and young people personally.

The Sub-Committee considered the various models that could be used to achieve the aim and concluded that the best option would be for young people to be invited to act as specialist or 'student advisors' at Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee, Environment Sub-Committee and Estates Sub Committee meetings (particularly in respect of matters relating to civic pride). The Management Sub-Committee was considered to be less suitable because it deals primarily with internal council matters.

The Sub-Committee agreed that a working group should develop a protocol for implementing the engagement process which should address the following points:

- The process for the nomination of young people, their allocation to specific sub-committees and the length of the term of membership.
- The numbers of young people appointed at one time. It was suggested that two people are appointed for each Sub-Committee to begin with, although that number was also considered too narrow.
- The process for establishing how children would be approached to ensure inclusivity. This would include decisions on which school are contacted and consideration as to how appropriate representation is achieved from home schooled children, looked after children and children attending schools outside of town including Catholic schools.
- The personal development of children.
- Development of an induction and mentoring process.
- The process by which the input of young people is recorded and taken forward.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that the Town Council's Standing Orders would not need to be amended as the young people involved would be under 18 and will not be treated as co-opted members.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Council engage with the younger people of Stone through an invitation to attend relevant Sub-Committee meetings as Student Advisors (in the capacity similar to that of a council officer).

RECOMMENDED: That the General Purposes Committee appoint a working group to consider and implement the process by which young people are appointed as 'Student Advisors'.

Chairman

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