



Town Clerk

Les Trigg

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STONE
ST15 8JP

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1 February 2022

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** will be held in the **Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone**, on **TUESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2022 at 7:00pm** for consideration of the matters itemised in the following agenda.

Les Trigg
Town Clerk

Agenda

1. **To receive apologies for absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest, Requests for Dispensations, and Declarations under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992**
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 7 December 2021, Minute Numbers C22/063 – C22/069 (attached)**
5. **To receive the draft minutes and decisions of the under mentioned Committees:**
 - a) General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7 December 2021, Minute Numbers GP22/123 – GP22/138 (attached)

- b) Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 7 December 2021, Minute Numbers PC22/031 – PC22/036 (attached)
 - c) Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 4 January 2022, Minute Numbers PC22/037 – PC22/042 (attached)
 - d) General Purposes Committee meeting held on 25 January 2022, Minute Numbers GP22/139 – GP22/146 (attached)
6. **To consider the Council's Budget for 2022-23 and to set the Council Tax for the Year**
- To consider the report of the Town Clerk (attached)
7. **Local government Transparency Code 2015
Openness of Public Bodies Regulations 2014**
- Information for Quarter ending 31 December 2021 (attached).
8. **To receive the forthcoming Civic Announcements** (attached)
9. **To receive the Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Reports of Engagements** (attached)
10. **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.**
11. **To receive the draft Confidential Minutes and decisions of the undermentioned Committees:**
- a) General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7 December 2021, Minute Numbers GP22/0123, GP22/136 and GP22/137 (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.

Stone Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 7 December 2021

PRESENT: Councillor J. Powell in the Chair and
Councillors: K. Argyle, Mrs A. Burgess, J. Davies, Mrs L. Davies, Mrs K. Dawson,
I. Fordham, T. Kelt, R. Kenney, P. Leason, C. Thornicroft, R. Townsend and
S. Walley.

Officers: Mr L. Trigg and Mrs T. Williams

ABSENT: Councillors: A. Best, M. Green, M. Hatton, J. Hickling and Mrs J. Hood

Before the meeting began Reverend Prebendary Ian Cardinal led prayers.

C22/063 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: A. Best, M. Green, J. Hickling and
Mrs J. Hood

C22/064 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None received

C22/065 Representations from Members of the Public

None

C22/066 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 2
November 2021 (Minute Numbers C22/053 – C22/062), be approved as a
correct record.

C22/067 Draft Committee Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) The minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 2
November 2021 (Minute Numbers GP22/101 – GP22/117), 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.

- b) The minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 16 November 2021 (Minute Numbers GP22/118 – GP22/122), were noted.
- c) The minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 2 November 2021 (Minute Numbers PC22/025 – PC22/030), were noted.

C22/068 Civic Announcements

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

C22/069 Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Reports of Engagements

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

The Town Mayor informed the Town Council that he and the Deputy Mayor had been busy over the last month. He said the Remembrance Sunday event had been a wonderful, well attended commemoration and it was an honour to be part of the Stone community.

The Town Mayor informed the Town Council that he had attended the Christmas Lights Switch-On on Thursday 25 November 2021 which had been very successful and well attended. He said that it had been wonderful to see a large number of children present including the winners of the Christmas Card Competition.

The Town Mayor reported on the other engagements he had attended during the month.

TOWN MAYOR

* 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 – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 7 December 2021

PRESENT: Councillor R. Kenney in the Chair, and
Councillors: K. Argyle, Mrs A. Burgess J. Davies, Mrs L. Davies, Mrs K. Dawson,
I. Fordham, T. Kelt, P. Leason, J. Powell, C. Thornicroft, R. Townsend and S. Walley

Officers: Mr L. Trigg and Mrs T. Williams

ABSENT: Councillors: A. Best, M. Green, M. Hatton, J. Hickling and Mrs J. Hood

GP22/123 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: A. Best, M. Green, J. Hickling and Mrs J. Hood.

GP22/124 Declarations of Interests and Declarations under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

None

GP22/125 Requests for Dispensations

None

GP22/126 To receive the report of the County Councillors

County Councillor Mrs J. Hood

Councillor Mrs Hood had given her apologies for the meeting.

County Councillor I. Parry

Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting.

GP22/127 To receive the report of Borough Councillors

The Chairman invited Councillor Fordham to address the Committee.

Councillor Fordham advised the Committee that following presentations at the last General Purposes Committee meeting by members of the public and discussion with the Stafford Borough Council Cabinet Member for Leisure and Head of Operations about the development proposals for Westbridge Park and impact on Alleyne's Academy, Borough Councillors had asked Officers to meet with stakeholders and those organising the town's festivals to find a mutually acceptable solution to any issues.

Councillor Fordham understands from both stakeholders and Officers that constructive meetings have taken place and that more meetings will follow.

Councillor Fordham advised the Committee that a meeting had taken place between Town Councillors (himself and Councillor Kenney), Staffordshire Highways representatives, Stafford Borough Safety Officers and Staffordshire Police to discuss traffic movements in the High Street and the dangers presented to pedestrians.

As a result of the meetings plans have been devised to roll out a number of initiatives to improve the situation. The interventions (which will happen regularly and not be one offs) will be co-ordinated between Borough Council officers, Highways officers and the Police.

The Chairman invited Councillor Leason to address the Committee.

Councillor Leason advised the Committee that the Economic and Planning Committee at its last meeting had discussed the Planning Department and various problems it was encountering. He will submit a report to the Town Council with the details.

Councillor Leason said that following a meeting with Borough Officers the Food and Drink Festival Committee will be moving the Food and Drink Festival forward to July in 2022 due to the work beginning in Westbridge Park in the autumn.

The Chairman informed the Committee that he wished to change the order of the agenda so that budget overview (agenda item 9) followed Stone Heritage Centre (agenda item 16). The budget overview item would remain a public report.

GP22/128 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP22/129 **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 2 November 2021 (Minute Numbers GP22/101 – GP22/117), be approved as a correct record.
- b) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 16 November 2021 (Minute Numbers GP22/118 – GP22/122), be approved as a correct record.

GP22/130 **Minutes of Sub-Committees**

- a) Estates Sub-Committee held on 16 November 2021 (Minute Numbers EST22/009 – EST22/017), that the draft minutes be noted, and the recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in Minute Numbers EST22/013 and EST22/017 be adopted.
- b) Management Sub-Committee held on 16 November 2021 (Minute Numbers MAN22/015 – MAN22/023), that the draft minutes be 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.

GP22/131 Provision of Hot Drinks

The Committee considered the provision of hot drinks at Council and Committee meetings and concluded that it would like to have hot drinks to be available in the Council Chamber for attendees of meetings.

RESOLVED: That the Committee asks the Town Clerk to make the necessary arrangements to make hot drinks available in the Council Chamber.

GP22/132 Town Council Payments

RESOLVED: To note the list* of Town Council payments made during the period 1 to 31 October 2021.

GP22/133 Update from Working Groups:

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

It was reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had not met.

Heritage Centre Steering Committee

Councillor Kenney advised the Committee that the Heritage Centre Steering Committee had not met but a full report would be given on the Heritage Centre later in the meeting.

Engagement with Young People

Councillor Mrs Davies advised the Committee that the Engagement with Young People Working Group would be arranging a meeting at the beginning of the New Year.

GP22/134 To receive reports from Town Councillors on attendance at meetings of local organisations and outside bodies as a representative of the Town Council

Stone Area Parish Liaison Group

Councillor Davies advised the Committee that the next meeting would be held in the New Year.

Stone ATC

Councillor Davies advised the Committee that a new committee of Stone ATC had been elected at the Annual General Meeting on 9 November 2021.

Councillor Davies said that at a meeting on 30 November 2021 Stone ATC was reported to be in good shape with new members and a strong Civilian Welfare Committee that was better able to support the Squadron.

The Squadron's usual needs are money for the minibus etc, and they have various ideas for raising cash to support that.

Age Concern Stone & District

Councillor Thornicroft advised the Committee that there had been no meeting.

Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor Kelt advised the Committee that no formal meeting had taken place but there had been an informal meeting between officers and the Newsletter who is

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suggesting they can write an article to promote the Group and recruit some new members.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

Councillor Kenney and Councillor Mrs Davies advised the Committee that they had attended a meeting with Trustees where a discussion had taken place on repairs to the lock keeper's house.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

Councillor Mrs Davies advised the Committee that she and Councillor Mrs Hood had attended a meeting of the Stone Community Hub Liaison Group where a progress update had been given and the Hub seemed to be doing very well.

SPCA Executive Committee

Councillor Green was not available to provide a report.

The meeting was adjourned and then reconvened after the open session of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting had taken place.

GP22/135 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 items of business covered by minutes GP22/136 and GP22/137 below.

GP22/136 Confidential Minutes and Recommendations of Sub-Committee

- a) Estates Sub-Committee meeting held on 16 November 2021, Minute Numbers EST22/009, EST22/016 and EST22/017.

RESOLVED:

- i. To note the draft minutes
- ii. To approve the recommendations contained in Minute Number EST22/017.

GP22/137 Stone Heritage Centre

The Committee considered the report* of the Town Clerk (distributed with the agenda for the meeting) detailing the current position on the proposed Stone Heritage Centre.

RESOLVED: That the Committee directs the Steering Committee to retain the first floor of the Heritage Centre and asks that it gives due consideration to the effects of the layout of the building.

RESOLVED: That the Committee supports the costs for the Heritage Centre contained in the Town Clerk's report for inclusion in the budget recommendations to the Council.

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The open session of the meeting recommenced for the next item on the agenda.

GP22/138 **Budget 2021-22 to 2023-24 Overview**

The Committee considered the report* of the Town Clerk (which was distributed with the agenda for the meeting).

RESOLVED: To note the standstill budget position for 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 and the issues related to setting the precept.

RESOLVED: That each sub-committee considers its financial needs for the next three years and reports back to the General Purposes Committee on 25th January 2022 with its budget proposals.

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 in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 7 December 2021

PRESENT: Councillor T. Kelt in the Chair, and
Councillors: K. Argyle, Mrs A. Burgess, J. Davies, Mrs K. Dawson, Mrs L. Davies,
I. Fordham, R. Kenney, P. Leason, J. Powell, C. Thornicroft, R. Townsend and
S. Walley

Officers: Mr L. Trigg and Mrs T. Williams

ABSENT: Councillors: A. Best, M. Green, M. Hatton, J. Hickling and Mrs J. Hood

PC22/031 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: A. Best, M. Green J. Hickling and
Mrs J. Hood

PC22/032 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None received

PC22/033 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None received

PC22/034 **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held
on 2 November 2021 (Minute Numbers PC22/025 – PC22/030), be
approved as a correct record.

PC22/035 **Planning Applications**

Application Number – 21/34694/ADV

Applicant – Dr A. Jilka

Location – 15 Lichfield Street, Stone

Development – signage

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 21/34752/COU

Applicant – Mrs M. A. Jones (Jaguar Land Rover)

Location – Land at Jasper Way, Walton

Development – Change of use of part of the site for storage purposes (use class B8)

Observations: The Town Council objects to the development proposal on the grounds that the applicant is proposing to extend use of the site beyond the use that was originally agreed.

The original planning approval related to the parking of motor vehicles and not use as a storage area which would be detrimental to neighbourhood amenity and cause harm to the view of the residents of Stone.

This motion was carried after a vote and Councillor R. Kenney asked that his abstention be recorded in the minutes.

Application Number – 21/34696/FUL

Applicant – Mr P. Wyatt

Location – Canal Cruising Company Limited, Crown Street, Stone

Development – Erection of brick and tile building to house pump facility extracting effluent from holding tanks on narrow boats

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 21/34657/HOU

Applicant – Mr & Mrs Wainwright

Location – 35 The Avenue, Stone

Development – Single storey rear/side extension and conversion of existing single garage to WC and utility room including extending existing front boundary wall and reinstating railings.

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 21/35171/LBC

Applicant – Mr A. Howells (BHG Developments Ltd)

Location – Land at St Johns Church, Granville Terrace, Stone

Development – Retention of unauthorised works to include the repositioning of roof lights approved by listed building consent APP/Y3425/Y/16/3164144 and internal works to include the removal of a staircase, removal of internal walls within units 1 & 2 and other minor alterations.

Observations: No objections

This motion was carried after a vote and Councillor R. Kenney asked that his abstention be recorded in the minutes.

Application Number – 21/35049/FUL

Applicant – Mr A. Howells (BHG Developments Ltd)

Location – Land at St Johns Church, Granville Terrace, Stone

Development – Variation of Condition 2 (plans) on planning application 16/23671/FUL

Observations: No objections

This motion was carried after a vote and Councillor R. Kenney asked that his abstention be recorded in the minutes.

Application Number – 21/35101/LBC

Applicant – Mr A. Howells (BHG Stone Ltd)

Location – Land at St Johns Church, Granville Terrace, Stone

Development – Retention of unauthorised works to the church and erection of a two storey rear extension (following demolition of existing single storey extension) to convert the building into five residential units.

Observations: No objections

This motion was carried after a vote and Councillor R. Kenney asked that his abstention be recorded in the minutes.

Application Number – 21/34939/HOU

Applicant – Miss S. Mills & Mr D. Rowley

Location – 27 Saddler Avenue, Stone

Development – Single storey rear extension

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 21/34988/LBC

Applicant – Crown Property Services Limited

Location – The Maltings, Crown Street, Stone

Development – Conversion of former ‘The Maltings’ to Hotel Accommodation (use Class C1), Gym and Retail Unit (Use Class A1/A3)

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 21/34989/FUL

Applicant – Crown Property Services Limited

Location – The Maltings, Crown Street, Stone

Development – Conversion of former ‘The Maltings’ to Hotel Accommodation (use Class C1), Gym and Retail unit: Use Classes E(d) and E(a)

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 21/34938/FUL

Applicant – K. Hand

Location – 6 Radford Street, stone

Development – Change of use to add the Use Class A1 hairdressing to the existing Beauty Parlour (Sui Generis)

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 21/34196/FUL (amended plans)

Applicant – Mr M. Haines (Northgate Healthcare)

Location – Autumn House Nursing Home, 37 Stafford Road, Stone

Development – Works to include new glazing to existing porch, boundary fence with garden path, timber pergola and patio doors, rendered structure to house bed lift

Amendments – The size of the ambulance space has been increased and there are changes to the fencing at the frontage. The amendments are in response to the observations made by the County Highways Authority.

Further Amendments – Changes to the lift shafts and other external claddings etc, and also a smaller external enclosed garden area along the front

Observations: No objections

PC22/036

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 – 21/34455/HOU (amended plans)

Applicant – Mr G. Blundell

Location – 177 Lichfield Road, Stone

Development – Internal alterations including removal of and creation of openings to load bearing walls. Removal of load bearing wall between kitchen and lounge to connect both rooms, installation of new windows, doors and bi-folding doors both internally and externally. External alterations include creation of new extension towards the rear of the building overlooking the garden. The entire building is to be rendered externally, excluding a garage.

Amendments – The re-consultation has been issued as the plans have been corrected to include render as described within the proposals description.

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 21/34503/HOU (amended plans)

Applicant – Mr D. Craig

Location – 45 St Michaels Mount, Stone

Development – Removal of existing porch and side conservatory, new side extension and new front porch along with external works including relocation of front gate.

Amendments – changes include an extended dropped kerb to the existing access and a reduction in width to the proposed side extension.

Observations: No objections

CHAIRMAN

Stone Town Council – Planning Consultative Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in St Michael’s Suite at the Frank Jordan Centre, Lichfield Street, Stone, on Tuesday 4 January 2022

PRESENT: Councillor T. Kelt in the Chair, and
Councillors: K. Argyle, A. Best, J. Davies, Mrs K. Dawson, Mrs L. Davies,
Mrs J. Hood and C. Thornicroft

Officers: Mr L. Trigg and Mrs T. Williams

ABSENT: Councillors: Mrs A. Burgess, I. Fordham, M. Green, M. Hatton, J. Hickling,
R. Kenney, P. Leason, J. Powell, R. Townsend and S. Walley

PC22/037 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: Mrs A. Burgess, I. Fordham, M. Green
J. Hickling, R. Kenney, P. Leason, J. Powell and S. Walley

PC22/038 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 be commenting or voting on the planning
applications listed on the agenda apart from advising the Committee that she
had called in planning application 21/34338/FUL in response to concerns from
residents.

Councillor Best declared an interest in planning applications 21/35028/FUL and
21/35029/LBC.

Councillor Kelt declared an interest in planning application 21/34293/HOU.

PC22/039 Representations from Members of the Public

None received

PC22/040 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 7
December 2021 (Minute Numbers PC22/031 – PC22/036), be approved as a
correct record.

PC22/041 Planning Applications

Application Number – 21/35028/FUL

Applicant – Mrs A. Graham

Location – Christ Church, Church of England First School, Northesk Street, Stone
Development – Remedial works and repairs to existing boundary walls and replacement of existing boundary fencing. The proposed works will only affect the boundary treatments and will not impact upon the listed school building itself (see 21/35029/LBC)

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 21/35029/LBC

Applicant – Mrs A. Graham

Location – Christ Church, Church of England First School, Northesk Street, Stone

Development – Remedial works and repairs to existing boundary walls and replacement of existing boundary fencing. The proposed works will only affect the boundary treatments and not impact on the listed school building itself.

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 21/34927/FUL

Applicant – Wm Morrisons Supermarkets PLC

Location – Morrisons Supermarket, Mill Street, Stone

Development – Existing glazed gables to be replaced with cladded gables following vandalism

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 21/34835/HOU

Applicant – Mr and Mrs Burn and Coleman

Location – Marston House, Granville Court, Granville Terrace, Stone

Development – Replacement of existing open porch including hipped roof over with new 3.5m2 gable ended porch

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 21/34338/FUL (amended plans)

Applicant – Mr Burney (Burney Estates Ltd)

Location – Dan's Motorcycle Showroom, The Fillybrooks, Stone

Development – Alterations and refurbishment to convert existing showroom to a Starbucks Drive Through, including external layout alterations, new signage and landscaping. In conjunction with 21/34339/ADV

Amendments – Creation of additional footpath along the side of the A34 linking to the existing footpath. The parking layout and pedestrian access in the site has also been amended to address the Highways Authorities comments. An Arboricultural Impact Assessment has been submitted.

Observations: The Town Council resolved not to comment on this planning application.

Application Number – 21/34581/HOU

Applicant – Mr K. Turner

Location – 24 Kings Avenue, Stone

Development – Replacement garage

Observations: The Town Council has no objections subject to the Conservation Officer's approval of the proposed development.

Application Number – 21/34606/FUL

Applicant – Mr M. Sherratt

Location – Stafford Bus Centre Ltd, Unit 8 Walton Industrial Estate, Stone

Development – 1 bay garage extension

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 21/34251/FUL (amended plans)

Applicant – Dr A. Jilka

Location – 15 Lichfield Street, Stone

Development – Carry internal alterations to first and second floors forming existing domestic accommodation to dental practice. Provide additional car parking to rear, use existing rear access to existing car parking. Provide signage.

Amendments – Various amendments including wall taken down at the rear, changes to the parking area, window replacement with UPVC and plant and machinery (air source heat pump - possibly impacting neighbour amenity). The details are documented on the amended plans, additional information and photographs on the portal.

Observations: The Town Council advised Stafford Borough Council on 4 August and 20 September 2021 that it had no objections to the development proposal subject to the Borough Conservation Officer's approval of the scheme.

The Town Council raises objections to the newly installed uPVC windows which are detrimental to the appearance of this historic asset and inappropriate in the conservation area. The Town Council hopes the Conservation Officer will also reject the uPVC installation and request replacement with windows of suitable design and construction in natural wood material.

The installation of an air flow unit/air source heat pump should be installed in an unobtrusive position and the Borough Council be satisfied that there will be no impact on neighbour amenity.

Application Number – 21/34801/HOU

Applicant – Mr D. Haines

Location – 1 Stafford Close, Stone

Development – Two storey side extension

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 21/35017/HOU

Applicant – Mr T. Powell

Location – 209 Newcastle Road, Stone

Development – Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 21/34711/FUL

Applicant – Shell Oil UK Products Limited

Location – Shell Stone, Eccleshall Road, Stone

Development – Replacement sales building, removal of jet and car wash, removal of existing forecourt and replacement of pumps (domestic and HGV), new canopy, provision of car parking and electric vehicle charging and associated works.

Observations: The Town Council has no objections but asks that the safety of pedestrians walking along the Eccleshall Road is recognised. Concerns have been raised about the possibility that some traffic may attempt to exit onto the Eccleshall Road and the visibility of motorists and pedestrians may be obscured (by a fence and a hedge).

Application Number – 21/35101/LBC

Applicant – Mr A. Howells (BHG Stone Ltd)

Location – Land at St Johns Church, Granville Terrace, Stone

Development – Retention of unauthorised works to the church and erection of a two storey rear extension (following demolition of existing single storey extension) to convert the building into five residential units.

Observations: No objections

As the Chairman, Councillor Kelt, had declared an interest in planning application 21/34293/HOU, before leaving the room he invited the Vice Chairman, Councillor J. Davies, to take the chair for this item.

Application Number – 21/34293/HOU (amended plans)

Applicant – Mr & Mrs Capernaros

Location – 2 Mount Villas, Mount Road, Stone

Development – Single storey extension

Amendments – Omission of the first-floor element and door to the rear, with a reduction in depth regarding the single storey front extension. There has also been a change to the certificate signed which is now certificate B as the development crosses boundaries.

Observations: The Town Council has no objections to the development proposal in principle but asks that the Conservation Officer's comments are recognised, and appropriate action taken.

Councillor Kelt retook the Chair.

Application Number – 21/35003/HOU

Applicant – Mr & Mrs R. Jones

Location – 29 Granville Terrace, Stone

Development – Replacement of two windows with accurate copies of sash windows in a conservation area

Observations: No objections

PC22/042

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 – 21/34905/HOU (amended plans)

Applicant – Mr L. Barrett

Location – 24 Hawthorn Avenue, Stone

Development – Two storey extension to side and tiled canopy to front

Amendments – dropped kerb in front of driveway and reduction in ridge height.

Observations: No objections

CHAIRMAN

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 25 January 2022

PRESENT: Councillor I. Fordham in the Chair, and
Councillors: K. Argyle, J. Davies, Mrs L. Davies, Mrs J. Hood, T. Kelt, P. Leason,
J. Powell, C. Thornicroft, R. Townsend and S. Walley

Officers: L. Trigg and Mrs T. Williams

ABSENT: Councillors: A. Best, Mrs A. Burgess, Mrs K. Dawson, M. Green, M. Hatton,
J. Hickling and R. Kenney

GP22/139 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: A. Best, Mrs A. Burgess, Mrs K. Dawson,
M. Green, J. Hickling and R. Kenney

GP22/140 **Declarations of Interest, Requests for Dispensations, and Declarations under
Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992**

None

GP22/141 **Requests for Dispensations**

None

GP22/142 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP22/143 **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7
December 2021 (Minute Numbers GP22/123 – GP22/138), be approved as
a correct record.

GP22/144 **2022-23 Budget Recommendation to the Council**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk* (which had been
circulated with the agenda for the meeting) examining the budget and precept
level for the financial year 2022-23 for recommendation to the Council.

The Chairman advised the Committee that the budget was being considered
against the background of considerable recent investment made to improve the
town. Crown Wharf will soon house the Town Council's new heritage centre and
substantial improvements made to the Frank Jordan Centre and to town centre
street furniture with more planned. The Town Council is also seeking to upgrade

* 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.

Crown Meadow nature reserve, refresh the Christmas lighting and arrange a celebration of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

In contrast to positive investment, the Town Council has also been faced with substantial unexpected bills for the refurbishment of the Stone Station roof and the costs of a recent by-election.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that in considering the budget recommendations to Council it also needed to consider the level of general reserves held which, if accepted, would be much lower than in previous years.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that the Town Council normally aim to retain reserves that are about 6 months of annual spend but the budget proposal reduces the balance in the short term to the equivalent of three months spending. The reserves will however build back up again (to the equivalent of 4.5 to 5 months spending) at the end of the three-year period and continue to climb.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that, on the basis that plans were being made to replenish reserves, he would be happy to certify that, despite being much tighter than in previous years, the reserves were adequate for the Council's purposes.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that his report sets out the position as it stood prior to the recent round of sub-committee meetings.

The Chairman asked that hard copy documents entitled 'Revenue Budget 2022-23 to 2024-25 – Proposal to General Purposes Committee'* and 'Sub-Committee Budget Recommendations 2022-23'* be distributed at the meeting.

The Town Clerk referred the Committee to the 'Sub-Committee Budget Recommendations 2022-23' which contained a list of the recommendations (as extracts from the draft minutes) made by each of the sub-committees at the last round of meetings.

The Town Clerk also referred the Committee to the 'Revenue Budget 2022-23 to 2024-25' containing the Chairman's proposal that the Council adopt the standstill budget (summarised in paragraph 9 of the Town Clerk's report) with the amendments set out in the paper. Amendments a., b., and c. add to the budget all recommendations made by the sub committees.

Recommendation d. had not been discussed by the sub-committees and suggests making a one-off reduction to the Grants budget in the current year due to underspendings, without affecting the proposed Grants budget for future years.

The Town Clerk advised that a budget based on the recommendations outlined incorporating a reserves balance reduction to around three months spend (to thereafter be built back up) would result in a Council Tax for Town Council purposes of £56.51 in 2022-23 for a band D property.

After a motion, in favour of recommending to the Council on 8 February 2022 that the budget set out in the circulated paper be adopted by the Council, had been proposed and seconded a request was made for a named vote:

* 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.

Councillors:

K. Argyle	For
J. Davies	For
Mrs L. Davies	For
I. Fordham	For
Mrs J. Hood	For
T. Kelt	For
P. Leason	For
J. Powell	For
C. Thornicroft	For
R. Townsend	For
S. Walley	For

RESOLVED: To recommend to the Council that:

1. The Town Council's standstill budget for 2022-23 to 2024-25 should be as set out in the Clerk's report supplemented by the following additions/amendments:
 - a. Estates: Additional sums in 2022-23 of £500 for the provision of a new bench to be installed on the Uttoxeter Road and £500 for street furniture in the town are added. In addition, a provision of £28,000 is made in 2022-23 for repairs to the Station roof, and the Building Maintenance Reserve reduced by £30,000.
 - b. Environment: Additional budgetary provision in 2022-23 of £1,800 for Covid-19 commemoration, £1,500 for the provision of an additional information board by the bridge, £2,000 for the amphitheatre steps and accessibility ramp, and a contingency of £3,240 for the split tree at the amphitheatre, Walton roundabout lock gate, town border planting, refurbishment/replanting of Walton roundabout and improvements to the scrapes. This contingency would need to be the subject of further consideration by the Environment Sub-Committee before a recommendation is made to this Committee to go ahead with spending.
 - c. Tourism and Town Promotion: Additional budget of £5,000 in 2022-23 for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.
 - d. Management: Removal of unspent sum of £12,000 from the Grants budget in the current year.
2. As a consequence of the above, the 2022-23 Council Tax for this Council's purposes should be £56.51 for a Band D property, an increase for the year of £3.45, with indicative Council Tax levels of £58.15 and £59.84 for the following two years. This would result in a precept on Stafford Borough

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Council for 2022-23 of £355,843. Local Council Tax Support Grant of £21,419 would be added to this.

The Committee thanked the Town Clerk for his work on the budget recommendations.

GP22/145 **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 items of business.

GP22/146 **Confidential Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7 December 2021, Minute Numbers GP22/123, GP22/136 and GP22/137 (attached).

CHAIRMAN

Introduction

1. This report considers the setting of the Town Council's Budget for 2022-23, with indicative figures for the following two years.

Background

2. At a series of meetings during January 2022, the General Purposes Committee and its Sub-Committees considered their potential budgets for 2022-23 to 2024-25. As a result of this consideration, the General Purposes Committee on 25th January 2022 recommended a budget for approval by the Council.
3. The budget proposed by the General Purposes Committee is set out at Appendix A. It can be summarised as follows:

Actual		Budget	Forecast	Budget	Budget	Budget
2020-21		2021-22	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£		£	£	£	£	£
30,275	Estates	59,250	24,080	59,300	31,170	31,350
18,307	Environment	28,725	28,700	26,810	18,780	19,320
27,760	Tourism & Town Promotion	32,800	30,800	44,500	35,350	34,800
190,538	Management	231,627	199,067	232,690	280,350	257,940
-	Neighbourhood Plan	7,900	525	-	-	-
-	General Purposes	225,950	185,000	175,000	40,000	41,200
18,377	Earmarked Reserves	-167,152	-159,777	-	-	-
285,257	TOTAL	419,100	308,395	538,300	405,650	384,610
	Planned Contribution to (from) Balances			-161,038	-9,164	31,753
	Precept Required (including LCTSG)			377,262	396,487	416,363
	Band D Council Tax Equivalent			56.51	58.15	59.84

4. The Council is not required to accept the above budget, and is free to set the Council Tax at whatever level it thinks appropriate. The rest of this report does, however, assume the acceptance of the proposed budget, and a number of the comments made below may need to be reconsidered if the budget changes.

Robustness of Budget

5. In setting its budget and precept, the Council must determine:
- The estimated expenditure for the year.
 - Such allowances as it considers appropriate for contingencies.
 - Such financial reserves as the Council considers appropriate to raise or utilise in the year.
 - Such reserves as are sufficient to meet any revenue account deficit from any earlier year.
6. These issues have been considered as part of the budget setting process so far, and have resulted in the proposed budget under consideration today.
7. The Clerk's role, as Responsible Financial Officer, is to advise members on the robustness of their plans, and in particular the adequacy of their reserves to meet possible future issues.
8. Excluding the reserves earmarked for the Neighbourhood Plan and rollovers, the Council held a general reserve of £256,260 at the beginning of 2021-22. This is forecast to increase to around £297,117 by the end of the current year as follows:

	£
Opening Balances – 1 st April 2021	256,260
Planned Contribution to 2021-22 Budget from Balances	-69,188
Budget Adjustments (Mayor's Heroes Awards)	-600
Forecast Underspending 2021-22	<u>+110,705</u>
	<u>+40,917</u>
Forecast Balances – 31 st March 2022	<u>297,177</u>

9. As can be seen from the table in paragraph 3 above, the three-year budget proposed by the General Purposes Committee would result in movements in these balances as follows:

	Budgeted Contribution to (from) Balances £	Estimated General Fund Balance £	Number of Months Net Expenditure
31 March 2022	-	297,177	-
31 March 2023	-161,038	136,140	3.24
31 March 2024	-9,164	126,976	3.66
31 March 2025	+31,753	158,729	4.80

10. I would normally recommend that a Council the size of Stone Town Council should hold balances equivalent of around six months' net expenditure, unless there is a good, financially sound reason not to do so. Where balances are lower than this amount, there

should be a plan to return them to this level as soon as possible, and an understanding by Councillors of the increased financial risk to the Council and the potential need for mitigations until the reserves are reinstated. It can be seen from the above table that this level of reserves is not forecast to be achieved during the period of this three year budget, though they should fully regenerate to this level by March 2026 based on the proposed budget with the indicative Council Tax increases maintained at 2.9% for a further year.

11. The alternatives to the proposed approach would be to reduce the budget, potentially endangering the delivery of the Heritage Centre, setting the precept/Council Tax at a significantly higher level, or taking out a loan for the capital project.
12. The proposed use of reserves in these circumstances together with budgeting to replenish them in future years therefore represents, in my view, a financially responsible approach to setting the Council's budget. On this basis, I am able to advise the Council that reserves should be adequate to ensure that the Council's current plans can be reasonably sustained into the future. This will, however, need to be monitored throughout the year and examined very closely when the 2023-24 budget is considered next January/February.

Council Tax Leaflet

13. The Council also needs to determine the wording to be used on the Council Tax leaflet.
14. The wording for 2021-22 was:

"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.

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."

15. Members are asked to consider the wording for the 2022-23 leaflet.

Recommendations

16. That the Council determines its budget and Council Tax for 2022-23, indicative budgets for 2023-24 and 2024-25, and the wording of the Council Tax leaflet.

Stone Town Council

Appendix A

Proposed Budget 2022-23 to 2024-25

Actual 2020-21		Budget 2021-22	Forecast 2021-22	Budget 2022-23	Budget 2023-24	Budget 2024-25
£		£	£	£	£	£
9,427	Frank Jordan Centre	4,900	2,900	3,700	3,800	3,600
12,703	Stone Station	12,900	9,700	37,200	9,500	9,700
-	Stone Heritage Centre (Running)	20,250	-	20,000	40,000	41,200
-2,473	Town Market	-10,300	-8,000	-10,400	-10,700	-11,000
4,782	Car Parking	-	-	-	-	-
1,594	Bus Shelters & Street Furniture	9,100	9,050	6,280	5,420	5,570
771	Street Lighting	800	700	700	700	700
740	Dog & Litter Bins	1,150	1,090	1,020	1,050	1,080
-	Joules Clock	300	300	300	300	300
257	Town Electricity Supply	400	340	400	400	400
-	Building Maintenance	29,700	-	9,700	10,000	10,000
17,349	Grounds Maintenance	17,700	19,560	20,140	20,700	21,300
3,683	Crown Meadow Improvements	4,825	4,870	8,540	-	-
-2,725	Allotments	450	-1,480	-1,870	-1,920	-1,980
-	Environmental Initiatives	5,750	5,750	-	-	-
21,268	Christmas Lights	23,100	21,200	26,650	22,100	21,150
360	Advertising	-	-	-	-	-
8,605	Tourism & Town Promotion	20,000	17,600	28,250	23,950	24,650
3,980	Grants	14,585	2,585	8,300	8,500	8,600
161,563	Salaries & Employment Costs	162,300	150,000	183,000	199,000	205,000
4,768	Accommodation	5,100	5,350	5,510	5,670	5,830
6,184	Insurances	6,400	6,350	7,040	7,250	7,460
21,288	Administration	25,042	25,042	26,900	27,700	28,520
975	Audit & Legal Fees	2,000	1,090	1,240	1,280	1,320
-	Town Council Elections	9,000	9,000	-	30,000	-
2,534	Allowances - Mayor & Deputy Mayor	3,300	3,100	3,190	3,280	3,380
381	Regalia & Presentations	500	300	500	500	500
210	Civic Dinner & Hospitality	2,300	2,800	3,500	3,600	3,700
987	Remembrance Sunday & War Memorials	7,000	2,000	2,060	2,120	2,180
-564	Miscellaneous	6,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
-308	Interest	-400	-50	-50	-50	-50
-	Neighbourhood Plan	7,900	525	-	-	-
-	Stone Heritage Centre (Setup)	180,000	180,000	155,000	-	-
-	Coronavirus Contingency	10,700	-	-	-	-
-	Town Promotion	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
-	General Contingency	10,000	-	-	-	-
-11,461	Concurrent Functions Allowance	-11,500	-11,500	-11,500	-11,500	-11,500
18,377	Rollover Reserve	-159,252	-159,252	-	-	-
-	Neighbourhood Plan Reserve	-7,900	-525	-	-	-
285,257		419,100	308,395	538,300	405,650	384,610
	Planned Contribution to (from) Balances			-161,038	-9,164	31,753
	Precept Required (incl LCTSG)			377,262	396,487	416,363
	Band D Council Tax Equivalent			56.51	58.15	59.84

Stone Town Council

Local Government Transparency Code 2015

Information for Period Ended 31st December 2021

Expenditure Exceeding £250

Date	Reference	Supplier	Description	Amount	Month
02/10/2021	41UG031-0005	Geosphere TA Parish Online	Parish Online Annual Subscription to 2.10.22	£600.00	Oct-21
04/10/2021	SBC Rates	Stafford Borough Council	SBC Rates Oct 2021 FJC	£434.00	Oct-21
09/10/2021	001/2021	Equine Stunt Productions	St George's Event 23/09/21 - Fighting & Mounted Knights	£800.00	Oct-21
11/10/2021	123545	E On	Highways Lighting Energy & Maint 2021/22	£607.11	Oct-21
12/10/2021	026	C Shingler T/A Hindsight Heritage	Developing Collection Policy & attending meetings	£300.00	Oct-21
21/10/2021	2110030	Crown Highways	Walton Christmas Lights installation works	£1,605.44	Oct-21
25/10/2021	148302	Prism Solutions	Prism IT Support Services Nov 2021	£631.33	Oct-21
31/10/2021	INV-0614	Current Electrical & Property Services	Oct 21 Marquee set up and table hire	£895.00	Oct-21
01/11/2021	7070289012	Stafford Borough Council	Supply and water 105 hanging baskets	£5,250.00	Nov-21
01/11/2021	22864	Stone Gazette Ltd	Gazette Ad for Switch On Event	£350.00	Nov-21
03/11/2021	25	MJ Plant	Sep 21 Grounds Maint - amphi, CM, MR Allots, Old Bridge & Ab	£1,554.00	Nov-21
03/11/2021	SBC Rates	Stafford Borough Council	SBC Rates Nov 2021	£434.00	Nov-21
03/11/2021	26	MJ Plant	Oct 21 Grounds Maint - Amphi, CM, MR Allots, Old Bridge, Abb	£1,554.00	Nov-21
08/11/2021	Inv1000	The Secret Kitchen	Remembrance Sunday Buffet 14/11/21	£630.00	Nov-21
17/11/2021	7070289107	Stafford Borough Council	SBC Annual Office Service Charge	£4,208.18	Nov-21
17/11/2021	17112021	Stone in Bloom	100 Christmas trees and use of lights	£2,000.00	Nov-21
18/11/2021	INV-1212	IG Stage Hire	50% final payment for stage hire and face lights	£375.00	Nov-21
18/11/2021	18112021	Steve's Sound Systems	Hire of public address systems 11/11 & 14/11	£280.00	Nov-21
25/11/2021	493	Hazzard Promotions	Hire of sound system for Lights Switch On 2021	£350.00	Nov-21
25/11/2021	149700	Prism Solutions	Prism IT Support Services - Nov 2021	£686.15	Nov-21
30/11/2021	INV-0626	Current Electrical & Property Services	Marquees set up - Nov 21	£1,000.00	Nov-21
30/11/2021	INV-0621	Current Electrical & Property Services	Install / hire of power to stage	£300.00	Nov-21
30/11/2021	QL200666-1	Society of Local Council Clerks	CiLCA Qualification Fee - RM	£410.00	Nov-21
03/12/2021	SBC Rates	Stafford Borough Council	SBC Rates - Dec 2021	£434.00	Dec-21
06/12/2021	4583	Christmas Plus	Install festive display 2021 (70%)	£3,979.50	Dec-21
06/12/2021	4583	Christmas Plus	Install, hire & dismantle Thai Festoon Xmas 2021	£2,100.00	Dec-21
07/12/2021	28	MJ Plant	Annual Weed Control - Amphi, C Meadow & surrounding areas	£300.00	Dec-21
07/12/2021	29	MJ Plant	Canoe Club hedge cutting & removal - 3 visits per year	£300.00	Dec-21
07/12/2021	31	MJ Plant	Weed control and misc jobs	£300.00	Dec-21

07/12/2021	27	MJ Plant	Annual Maint of Walton Roundabout and Town Borders	£4,124.00	Dec-21
07/12/2021	30	MJ Plant	Maintenance of War Memorial and display stand	£487.00	Dec-21
08/12/2021	7134120211271966	Pozitive Energy	Station Gas Usage Nov 21	£378.49	Dec-21
08/12/2021	7134020211271965	Pozitive Energy	FJC Gas Usage Nov 21	£396.65	Dec-21
13/12/2021	SIN1933545	PPL PRS Music Rights	Annual Music Licence 2021/22	£1,041.00	Dec-21
16/12/2021	7070289271	Stafford Borough Council	Install & removal of High Street bollards Oct to Dec 2021	£398.61	Dec-21
20/12/2021	4593	Christmas Plus	Install and dismantle Walton lights canopy	£510.00	Dec-21
20/12/2021	4593	Christmas Plus	Purchase canopy of lights and clusterline	£1,382.00	Dec-21
22/12/2021	21012	Simon Meddings Associates Ltd	Prepare summary of catering options for Heritage Centre	£630.00	Dec-21
25/12/2021	CE/220228	The Arch Rent Collectors	Station Rent 25/12/21 to 24/03/22	£1,184.25	Dec-21
29/12/2021	151093	Prism Solutions	IT Support Services - Jan 2022	£748.77	Dec-21

NOTE: The table above excludes salary and related payments, payments from the Mayor's Charity, and transfers between the Council's bank accounts.

Stone Town Council

Local Government Transparency Code 2015

Information for Period Ended 31st December 2021

Procurement Information

1. Invitations to Tender for Contracts Exceeding £5,000

None

2. Contracted Agreements Exceeding £5,000

None

Stone Town Council

Openness of Public Bodies Regulations 2014

Information for Period Ended 31st December 2021

Decisions that would otherwise have been taken by the Town Council or one of its Committees that have been delegated to an officer:

1. Under a specific express authorisation; or
2. Under a general authorisation to officers to take such decisions and, the effect of the decision is to:
 - a. grant a permission or licence;
 - b. affect the rights of an individual; or
 - c. award a contract or incur expenditure which, in either case, materially affects the Town Council's financial position.

None

STONE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
8 FEBRUARY 2022

CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Mayor

Saturday 12 February

Stone Lions 43rd Charter Anniversary Dinner

Deputy Mayor

No engagements currently

TOWN MAYOR

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT – to 30 January 2022

Tuesday 30th November – ATC 2352 (Stone) Squadron

I attended the Air Training Corps' annual general meeting and was welcomed with tea and mince pies. The cadet numbers are good and strong going forward. Even though the squadron have pressures and challenges they are very focused on the future.

Saturday 4th December – Trafalgar 'Below Decks' evening

A wonderful and well supported evening, Limestone Brewery were great hosts and Dave Cranswick's history of Trafalgar and sea shanties sung by the CK community choir made a great evening. The quiz run well and the winners, the Deputy Mayor of Uttoxeter's team were clear winners. All seemed to really enjoy themselves and help raise funds for the mayor's charities.

Sunday 5th December – Uttoxeter Civic Sunday

The Mayoress and I attended the civic service to support the Mayor and Mayoress of Uttoxeter. It was very enjoyable and interesting to talk to the Mayor and seeing the challenges that Uttoxeter have as a town.

Sunday 12th December – Civic Carol Service

A wonderful evening welcoming guests from all parts of the community and guests to celebrate Christmas. A big thank you to all the participants who help make the service a joy to be part of.

Tuesday 14th December – Aston and Little Stoke Scout Group Carol Service

I was very grateful to be invited to the scout groups carol service and see the beavers, Cubs and Scouts celebrate Christmas. It was wonderful to see each age group bring the story of Christmas to everyone. I was amazed at the confidence of the children and young people and the commitment of the leaders and helpers. Some helping for over 50 years.

Thursday 16th December - Stone Choral Society Christmas Concert

Although the Covid restrictions stop the audience from fully participating it was a very enjoyable night. We enjoyed a recital of a new work, one night in Bethlehem and were made very welcome.

Sunday 19th December – Newcastle Mayor's Civic Carols Service

We journeyed to Newcastle under Lyme to enjoy an evening in the company of the Mayor and Mayoress. The evening was held at St Giles and was very Christmassy with the evening culminating with carols by candlelight. Which was truly magical.

Tuesday 28th December – Virtual meeting with Mayor of Bagnacavallo

We had been invited to participate in a virtual meeting with the Mayor of Bagnacavallo, councillors of Bagnacavallo and representatives of their twinned towns in France and Poland. Unfortunately, the time had not been clarified that it was European time and so we joined late. However, we had a good meeting with the mayor and councillors even though we were an hour late. I made a short speech and even tried a small amount of Italian, which I hope went well as no one laughed or questioned the meaning.

December – Advent Calendar Windows

The Mayoress and I visited several of the shop window advent calendars and found each one marvellous. It was great to see the work the local schools and groups had put into their displays and lovely to join in with unveiling.

DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT – to 30 January 2022

1st December 2021 – Advent Window unveiling

I attended the first window unveiling with my two eldest children. It was a wonderfully inclusive experience. A short service took place outside the annexe doors to Christ Church. I thought it was fairly well attended for a week day morning.

14th December 2021 – Aston & Little Stoke Carol Service

I attended alongside the Mayor. It was a wonderful service led by Dennis Abbott, Stone District Chaplain, and featured several well known hymns. Mr Mayor and I had the pleasure of handing out some achievements and awards to the young people. A fantastic evening celebrating the achievements of local young people and volunteers.