

# Stone Town Council

## Minutes of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 8 February 2022

**PRESENT:** Councillor J. Powell in the Chair and  
Councillors: K. Argyle, A. Best, Mrs A. Burgess, J. Davies, Mrs L. Davies,  
Mrs K. Dawson, I. Fordham, M. Hatton, Mrs J. Hood, T. Kelt, R. Kenney,  
C. Thornicroft and R. Townsend

Officers: L. Trigg

**ABSENT:** Councillors: M. Green, J. Hickling, P. Leason and S. Walley

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Before the meeting began Councillor Mrs Lin Davies led prayers.

**C22/070** Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor: M. Green and S. Walley

**C22/071** Declarations of Interest, Requests for Dispensations, and Declarations under Section 106 of the Local Government Act 1992

None received

**C22/072** Representations from Members of the Public

None

**C22/073** Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 7 December 2021 (Minute Numbers C22/063 – C22/069), be approved as a correct record.

**C22/074** Draft Committee Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) The minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 7 December 2021 (Minute Numbers GP22/123 – GP22/138), were noted.

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\* 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 Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 7 December 2021 (Minute Numbers PC22/031 – PC22/036), were noted.
- c) The minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 4 January 2022 (Minute Numbers PC22/037 – PC22/042), were noted.
- d) The minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 25 January 2022 (Minute Numbers GP22/139 – GP22/146), were noted.

**C22/075 To Consider the Council’s Budget for 2022-23 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 25 January 2022. The Clerk confirmed in his report that, despite reserves being at a lower level than usual, the budget represented a sustainable position given the Town Council’s expenditure plans.

RESOLVED:

In respect of the Town Council’s budget for 2022-23 to 2024-25, it was resolved that:

1. The Budget recommended by the General Purposes Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022, and set out in the Clerk’s report to this meeting, is agreed.
2. 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 Council for 2022-23 of £355,843. Local Council Tax Support Grant of £21,419 would be added to this.
3. The wording for the 2022-23 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 2022-23 budget includes additional funding to provide a Covid 19 Commemoration Orchard and further improvements at Crown Meadow, a new bench in Uttoxeter Road and improvements to street furniture within the town, support for*

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*Queen's Platinum Jubilee events, and essential repairs to the Stone Station roof. This is in addition to the development and operation of a new Heritage Centre within the exciting redevelopment at Crown Wharf.*

*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 and bunting 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 and other support 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 over the last two years, 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 the approval of its Neighbourhood Plan in May 2021 will help the Council 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.

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**C22/076**    **Local government Transparency Code 2015**  
**Openness of Public Bodies Regulations 2014**

The Information\* for Quarter ending 31 December 2021 was noted.

**C22/077**    **Civic Announcements**

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

**C22/078**    **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 meeting was temporarily suspended and then reconvened after the open session of the General Purposes Committee and the Planning Consultative Committee meetings had taken place.**

**C22/079**    **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.

**C22/080**    **Confidential Committee Minutes**

**RESOLVED:**

- a) The confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7 December 2021 (Minute Numbers GP22/0123, GP22/136 and GP22/137) were noted.

**TOWN MAYOR**

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