

Stone Town Council – Environment Sub-Committee

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

PRESENT: Councillor P. Leason in the Chair and
Councillors: T. Kelt, R. Kenney and J. Powell

Officers: L Trigg and Mrs T. Williams

By Chairman's Invitation: Councillor Mrs J. Hood

ABSENT: Councillors: K. Argyle, Mrs A. Burgess, Mrs K. Dawson, M. Hatton and
R. Townsend

ENV22/031 Apologies

Councillors: Mrs K. Dawson

ENV22/032 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None received

ENV22/033 Representations from Members of the Public

None

ENV22/034 Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a) The minutes of the Environment Sub-Committee meeting held on the 18 January 2022 (Minute Numbers ENV22/021 – ENV22/030), were approved as a correct record.

The General Purposes Committee noted Minute Number GP22/154 (d) which reads:

Environment Sub-Committee held on 18 January 2022 (Minute Numbers ENV22/021 – ENV22/030), that the draft minutes be noted, and the recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in Minute Numbers ENV22/025, ENV22/026 and ENV22/030 be adopted. The Sub-Committee were asked to reconsider minute ENV22/027 and the recommendation was consequently not agreed at this stage.

- b) The Minute Number ENV22/027 was considered by the Sub-Committee and approved with understanding that the word 'hedge' had been incorrectly used and should have been documented as 'hedgerow'.

RECOMMENDED: That the General Purposes Committee considers the amended recommendation originally proposed at Minute number ENV22/027 as follows:

That, subject to receipt of the grant, £500 is spent on hedgerow planting in accordance with the grant application.

ENV22/035 Covid-19 Commemoration

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that he and Councillor Mrs Hood would be meeting separately with the Grounds Maintenance Contractor (over the next number of days) to discuss the specific positioning of the tree planting on Crown Meadow (somewhere near to the Peace Pole) for the Covid-19 Commemoration.

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the outcome of the meetings will be reported to the General Purposes Committee.

ENV22/036 Crown Meadow Improvements

- a) The Sub-Committee noted the update on the work being undertaken by the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contractor.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that in the tree re-planting row of the update (which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting) 'hedge' should read 'hedgerow'.

The Sub-Committee noted that the anticipated completion date for the tree re-planting would be after the anticipated date of March 2022 as some of the work first required approval by the General Purposes Committee.

- b) The Sub-Committee noted the update on the Sub-Committee's budget proposals (Minute Number ENV22/026).

ENV22/037 Merger of Working Groups

Councillor Kelt advised the Sub-Committee that the Single Use Plastics Working Group and the Environmental Issues Working Group had always met together and most members of each working group were the same people.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that the merged working group would be a new one but with the terms of reference of both of the old groups. The co-opted member would have to be co-opted again by the Environment Sub-Committee and also approved again by the General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Single Use Plastics Working Group and the Environmental Issues Working Group merge into one group called the 'Environmental Issues Working Group'.

RECOMMENDED: That the current co-opted member of the Single Use Plastics Working Group be co-opted to the new combined group.

ENV22/038 Reports of Working Groups

The Chairman invited Councillor Kelt to address the Sub-Committee.

- a) Plastic Free Community/Single Use Plastics Working Group
- b) Environmental Issues Working Group

Councillor Kelt advised the Sub-Committee that he would provide a verbal update to cover both working groups as the issues were merged.

Councillor Kelt reported that he had attended the first meeting of the Stafford Environment Panel on Microsoft Teams. He confirmed that the terms of reference were agreed, joint Chairmen had been elected, and work streams defined. The next meeting will be held on 28 March 2022 (which Councillor Kelt will be unable to attend).

Councillor Kelt reported on a productive meeting of the Working Groups where the next steps were agreed as community engagement. The meeting was attended by the Stafford Borough Council Climate Change Officer who has confirmed the Borough Council's agreement to provide bins free of charge (as many as are needed) for the collection of non-recyclable waste. There will be a need to agree the non-recyclable items to be collected and the number of bins required.

The Working Group discussed a stall at the Farmer's Market (possibly in May) to publicise the Group's activity and promote interest.

Councillor Kelt advised the Sub-Committee that he had attended the No Planet B Stafford Green Art Exhibition which was interesting with good ideas from local schools.

Councillor Kelt advised the Sub-Committee that he had sought agreement from the Editor of the Stone & Eccleshall Gazette for the publication of an article on environmental matters, which he hoped could become a regular two-page feature. He suggested that the article could be documented as having been written by him, either as an individual or as a Council representative.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that if an article was written in the name of the Council, or in the name of a particular role within the Council, it would need to go through Council processes for its approval.

The Sub-Committee agreed that when the article Councillor Kelt was writing had been completed, it should be forwarded to the Town Clerk for consideration.

Chairman