

# Stone Town Council – Environment Sub-Committee

## Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 24 May 2022

**PRESENT:** Councillor R. Townsend in the Chair and  
Councillors: K. Argyle, T. Kelt, R. Kenney and J. Powell

Officers: L Trigg and Mrs T. Williams

By Chairman's Invitation: Councillors Mrs J. Hood and S. Walley

**ABSENT:** Councillors: Mrs A. Burgess, Mrs K. Dawson, M. Hatton and P. Leason

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### **ENV23/001 Apologies**

Councillors: Mrs K. Dawson and P. Leason

### **ENV23/002 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None received

### **ENV23/003 Representations from Members of the Public**

None

### **ENV23/004 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

- a) The minutes of the Environment Sub-Committee meeting held on the 15 March 2022 (Minute Numbers ENV22/031 – ENV22/038), were approved as a correct record.

### **ENV23/005 Covid-19 Commemoration**

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that as a new chairman he was getting up to speed with issues affecting the Sub-committee and understood that Councillor Mrs Hood and Councillor Leason had met on site to discuss the location of the commemoration area.

The Chairman invited an update from Councillor Mrs Hood who confirmed that the Grounds Maintenance contractor had agreed with the location of the tree planting and that he envisaged creating a horseshoe shape. The variety of tree was to be revisited due to an issue with the height of the variety chosen originally, and consideration given to the flooding that often occurs in the area chosen in the winter.

The Chairman said that planting of the Covid-19 Commemoration was scheduled from September to November 2022 as this is the best time.

The Sub-Committee believed that a plaque would be installed as part of the commemoration, but the Town Clerk would check this point in the records.

**ENV23/006 Crown Meadow Improvements**

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

The Chairman confirmed that all seemed to be in order.

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that he would in future be involved in the regular update meetings held between the Deputy Town Clerk and the Grounds Maintenance Contractor.

**ENV23/007 Environmental Issues Checklist**

The Chairman suggested that the Environmental Issues Working Group should prepare a policy checklist to support committees and sub-committees when they are considering environmental issues and ensuring compliance with Council Policy.

The checklist could also be used by the Town Council when commissioning services and in ascertaining a supplier's environmental credentials.

The Sub-Committee suggested a form of checklist had been produced when the Environment policy document was taken forward and that this could be used as a starting point.

RESOLVED: That the Environmental Issues Working Group prepares an Environment Policy Checklist to support the work of the Town Council's Committees and Sub-Committees.

**ENV23/008 Environmental Issues Working Group**

- a) The Sub-Committee noted the resignation of co-opted Environmental Issues Working Group member, Tracy Lindop. The Chairman asked that the Sub-Committee's appreciation of her valuable contribution to the Working Group over the past two years be put on record and wished her well for the future.
- b) The Chairman asked the Sub-Committee to consider a proposal that all Environment Sub-Committee members become members of the Environmental Issues Working Group to eliminate past difficulties in bringing some of the issues to a conclusion and to be able to tackle new and complex issues with focus in the future.

The Chairman said he believed the Working Group should have specific

and defined rather than broad brush tasks which could be dealt with by circulation of information, communication by email and conversations, rather than just meetings.

The Sub-Committee suggested it was not always possible for people with limited financial resources to put the environment first as they had difficult choices to make and couldn't always afford the most environmentally friendly option.

RESOLVED: That all Environmental Sub-Committee Members become members of the Environmental Issues Working Group.

### **ENV23/009 Updates**

- a) The Chairman invited the Town Clerk to provide an update on Energy audits at the Frank Jordan Community Centre and the Stone Station Community Centre.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that the contract had been awarded some time ago, but the work hadn't yet been undertaken. After chasing the company, he had been told that the work would be done by next week.

- b) The Chairman invited the Town Clerk to provide an update on recycling and single use plastics audit at the Town Council office.

The Town Clerk advised on the following:

- Plastic pens and pencils – are difficult to replace as there is a limited range of non-plastic items. Whilst the item was difficult to deliver on, no new plastic pens had been purchased.
- Water cups in the office – eco cups have been purchased for the hot drinks machine and old stocks of plastic drinking cups were being used up. The eco cups are the only recyclable cups available and although not recycled by all authorities, had not been tested with Stafford Borough Council.
- Water bottles – three of the four water coolers had been eliminated leaving just the unit in the Town Council office which will stay until the contract ends.
- Ink Cartridges – no alternative was available at present. The Town Council is in the process of replacing the photocopier with a smaller refurbished/recycled model and there is a recycling program for ink cartridges.
- IT and telephony equipment – These have recently been replaced, but are not single use. The old equipment has not yet been disposed of.

**ENV23/010 Reports of Working Groups**

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

Environmental Issues Working Group

Councillor Kelt reminded the Sub-Committee that he had approached the Stone & Eccleshall Gazette about the publication of an environmental article for the purpose of promoting the topic of the environment, gauging the level of interest from the people of Stone and possibly facilitating the setting up of town groups.

An accompanying paper\* and draft article\* (produced by Councillor Kelt) had been attached to the agenda for the meeting.

Councillor Kelt proposed (after receiving approval from the Environmental Issues Working Group) that the Sub-Committee recommend the article for approval by the General Purposes Committee.

Councillor Argyle expressed his strong view that a number of points needed further discussion and proposed an amendment that additional work be undertaken before submission to the General Purposes Committee. The amendment was not supported.

The Sub-Committee congratulated Councillor Kelt on his informative document which was intended to be advisory and general in nature with the opportunity to add detail as further articles are produced.

RECOMMENDED: That the Environmental article is recommended to the General Purposes Committee for publication in the Stone & Eccleshall Gazette.

**Chairman**