

Stone Town Council – Estates Sub-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 Mrs L. Davies in the Chair and
Councillors: A. Best, Mrs J. Hood and C. Thornicroft

Officers: Mr L. Trigg and Mrs T. Williams

By Chairman’s invitation: Councillor J. Davies

ABSENT: Councillors: I. Fordham, M. Hatton, R. Kenney, J. Powell and R. Townsend

EST22/018 **Apologies**

Councillors: I. Fordham, R. Kenney and J. Powell

EST22/019 **Declarations of Interest, Requests for Dispensations, and Declarations under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992**

None received

EST22/020 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None received

EST22/021 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

That the minutes of the Estates Sub-Committee meeting held on the 16 November 2021 (Minute Numbers EST22/009 – EST22/017), be approved as a correct record.

EST22/022 **Budget 2022-23 – 2024-25**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Town Clerk* which considered the level of budget that the Sub-Committee may wish to recommend to the General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 25 January 2022 for the services under its control.

The Town Clerk reminded the Sub-Committee that Town Markets no longer formed part of the Estates Sub-Committee budget as the Council had resolved last year to make this service the responsibility of the Tourism and Town Promotion Sub-Committee.

* 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.

The Sub-Committee reviewed the standstill budget and the amounts included for each service. It also considered other areas of growth or savings to be taken into account when setting the budget for 2022-23 and future years.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that section 5 included information that needed to be borne in mind when considering the budget, but this did not include the cost of repairs to Stone Station roof. He advised the Sub-Committee to recommend that the General Purposes Committee consider the required budget for this item.

The Sub-Committee confirmed that a recent audit/review of the street furniture in the High Street had been undertaken which highlighted the need to identify other organisations that are responsible for some assets, in addition to making its own budget recommendation.

The Sub-Committee confirmed that it wished to make provision for the installation of a bench on the Uttoxeter Road to support Aston Lodge residents wishing to take the long walk into town.

RECOMMENDED: That the budget figures included in the Clerk's report are accepted by the General Purposes Committee, with the additional sums of £500 for the provision of a new bench to be installed on the Uttoxeter Road and £500 for street furniture in the town.

RECOMMENDED: That the General Purposes Committee gives due regard to the budget recommendation for repairs to Stone Station Roof.

EST22/023 Use of Frank Jordan Centre and Stone Station Working Group

The Sub-Committee considered whether the Use of Frank Jordan Centre and Stone Station Working Group should continue or be dissolved.

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the Working Group had not met since before the Covid-19 pandemic and believed that following completion of its work on the installation of Wi-Fi there wasn't a need presently for it to continue.

Other members of the Sub-Committee expressed the view that there may be a need for the Working Group to continue in the near future with the comeback following the Covid-19 pandemic and to respond to opportunities that might be available as a result of the Government's 'Levelling Up' agenda.

Following a vote where two Members were in favour of retaining the Working Group and two members were against retaining it, the Chairman used her casting vote against retaining the Group (with the view that a new one could be created as necessary, in the future).

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RESOLVED: That the Use of Frank Jordan Centre and Stone Station Working Group is dissolved.

EST22/024 Reports of Working Groups

Use of Frank Jordan Centre and Stone Station

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that no meeting of the Community Centres Working Group had taken place and there was nothing to report.

The Estates Sub-Committee meeting was adjourned and then reconvened after the Management Sub-Committee and the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub Committee meetings had taken place.

EST22/025 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 item of business.

EST22/026 Confidential Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Confidential minutes of the Estates Sub-Committee meeting held on the 16 November 2021 (Minute Numbers EST22/009, EST22/016 and EST22/017), be approved as a correct record.

EST22/027 Update on Stone Station

The Chairman invited the Town Clerk to update the Sub-Committee on the current position on Stone Station Community Centre.

The Town Clerk updated the Sub-Committee on progress.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Clerk further progresses his enquires.

Chairman

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