

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at the Frank Jordan Centre, Lichfield Street, Stone, on Tuesday 5 July 2022

PRESENT: Councillor R. Kenney in the Chair, and
Councillors: K. Argyle, A. Best, J. Davies, Mrs K. Dawson, M. Green, J. Hickling,
Mrs J. Hood, T. Kelt, J. Powell, C. Thornicroft and R. Townsend

Officers: L. Trigg and Mrs T. Williams

ABSENT: Councillors: Mrs A. Burgess, Mrs L. Davies, I. Fordham, M. Hatton, P. Leason and
S. Walley

GP23/031 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs L. Davies, I. Fordham, P. Leason and
S. Walley

GP23/032 **Declarations of Interests**

None

GP23/033 **Requests for Dispensations**

None

GP23/034 **To receive the report of the County Councillors**

County Councillor Mrs J. Hood

The Chairman invited Councillor Mrs Hood to address the Committee.

Walton Roundabout

Councillor Mrs Hood said she was delighted to advise the Committee that she had finally persuaded the County Highways Department to award Stone a share of the £15 million (extra fund) allocated to fixing Staffordshire's roads. She was hopeful that Walton Roundabout would be repaired very soon to remedy the poor road surface which was hazardous to cyclists and motorbikes and adding to the wear and tear on people's cars.

County Councillor I. Parry

Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting.

GP23/035 **To receive the report of Borough Councillors**

There were no reports from Borough Councillors on this occasion.

GP23/036 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP23/037 **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7 June 2022 (Minute Numbers GP23/018 – GP23/030), be approved as a correct record.

GP23/038 **Minutes of Sub-Committees**

There were no minutes for consideration.

GP23/039 **Grant Aid to Local Organisations**

The Committee noted the updated grant assessment criteria (which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting).

The Committee considered the following requests for a grant:

STONE SCOUT & GUIDE BAND

The Committee considered the grant application received from Stone Scout & Guide Band requesting £500 to purchase and maintain musical instruments and associated accessories. This would provide a greater range of instruments for local young people to learn and an opportunity for them to play music from other genres outside of military marching songs. The Band will also look to adding another practice night to their schedule.

RESOLVED: To award £500 to Stone Scout & Guide Band.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Committee considered the grant application received from the Stone Branch of the Royal British Legion requesting £500 to purchase a new branch standard. The old standard is nearly 50 years old and beyond repair due to water mould damage and fading.

RESOLVED: To award £500 to the Royal British Legion.

OAK TREE FARM RURAL PROJECT

The Committee considered the grant application from Oak Tree Farm Rural Project requesting £500 to supplement the loss of income during the Covid 19 lockdown with the additional pressure of financing a repair to its wastewater plant.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that due to the value of annual turnover and reserves the application did not meet the grant criteria on this occasion.

RESOLVED: To award £500 to Oak Tree Farm Rural Project.

* 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 ALZHEIMER'S DROP IN CLUB

The Committee considered the grant application from Stone Alzheimer's Drop in Club requesting £500 to contribute towards the funding of their annual Christmas party.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that due to the value of reserves the application did not meet the grant criteria on this occasion.

RESOLVED: To award £300 to Stone Alzheimer's Drop in Club.

15SQUARE

The Committee considered the grant application from 15Square requesting £500 to contribute towards a new office-based computer, the upgrading of existing technology (a laptop and tablet) and to improve digital service delivery.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that due to the value of reserves the application did not meet the grant criteria on this occasion.

RESOLVED: To decline the award of a grant.

GP23/040 **Code of Conduct Review**

The Committee considered the updated Councillor Code of Conduct (which had been attached to the electronic version of the agenda for the meeting).

The Committee noted that changes had been made at paragraphs 17, 18 and 19.

RESOLVED: To accept the updated Code of Conduct.

GP23/041 **Press and Media Protocol Review**

The Committee considered the updated Press and Media Protocol (which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting).

The Committee noted that Paragraph 1.5 has been updated for clarity.

RESOLVED: To accept the updated Press and Media Protocol.

GP23/042 **Town Council Payments**

RESOLVED: To note the list* of Town Council payments made during the period 1 to 31 May 2022.

GP23/043 **Update from Working Groups:**

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Councillor Mrs Hood reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had not met.

Stone Heritage Centre Steering Group

Councillor Kenney advised the Committee that a meeting had been held this afternoon and a full report would be given under the confidential section of the agenda.

* 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.

Engagement with Young People

Councillor Mrs Dawson informed the Committee that she was in the process of arranging a meeting of the Working Group.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Steering Group

Councillor Mrs Hood advised the Committee that a 'washup' meeting had taken place with the Town Clerk and a few items would be put forward to the Tourism and Town Promotion Sub-Committee for discussion.

Councillor Mrs Hood said the events had all gone very well.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Steering Group would now automatically be disbanded in accordance with the terms of reference.

GP23/044 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 on 27 July.

Stone ATC

Councillor Davies advised the Committee that the last meeting of Stone ATC had taken place on 7 June which had coincided with Town Council meetings. Upon viewing the minutes, he said there were 23 cadets currently. Recruiting new members and raising funds for a new minibus were the main priorities.

Stone ATC's Dining in Night and Award Ceremony had recently taken place and the Town Mayor was present to present the awards.

Age Concern Stone & District

Councillor Thornicroft advised the Committee that no meeting of Age Concern Stone & District had taken place.

Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor Kelt advised the Committee that the next meeting of Stafford & Stone Access Group would be held on 18 July and include the AGM.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

Councillor Mrs Hood advised the Committee that no meeting of the Stone Common Plot Trustees had taken place.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

Councillor Mrs Hood advised the Committee that no meeting of Stone Community Hub Liaison Group had taken place.

SPCA Executive Committee

Councillor Green advised the Committee that no meeting of the SPCA Executive Committee had taken place.

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

* 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.

GP23/045 **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

GP23/046 **Stone Heritage Centre**

The Committee considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk setting out issues related to tendering of the building contract for the Stone Heritage Centre. It also received a report and recommendations from the Heritage Centre Steering Group.

The Heritage Centre Steering Group had met earlier on 5th July 2022 to consider the final design and tendering arrangements for the Centre building works. It was noted that this tender covered the building only, including mechanical and electrical (M&E) works, and that separate tenders would be let for the building's internal fittings.

The Steering Group reported that it had considered the same documents that had been circulated electronically as part of the confidential section of this Committee's agenda and had received the advice of both the project architects (Byatt Oliver) and the Council's procurement advisors (Staffordshire County Council). As a result, the Steering Group made a number of recommendations to the General Purposes Committee regarding the arrangements for the tendering of the building contract.

RESOLVED

To approve the recommendations of the Steering Group.

CHAIRMAN