



Town Clerk

Les Trigg

15 Station Road
STONE
ST15 8JP

Tel: 01785 619740

Email: clerk@stonetowncouncil.gov.uk

28 September 2022

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** will be held at the **Frank Jordan Centre, Lichfield Street, Stone**, on **TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2022 at 7:00pm** for consideration of the matters itemised in the following agenda.

Les Trigg
Town Clerk

Agenda

1. **To receive apologies for absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**
3. **Representations from Members of the Public**
4. **To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 6 September 2022, Minute Numbers C23/046 – C23/055 (attached)**
5. **To receive the draft minutes and decisions of the under mentioned Committees:**
 - a) General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6 September 2022, Minute Numbers GP23/064 – GP23/082 (attached)

- b) Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 6 September 2022, Minute Numbers PC23/025 – PC23/030 (attached)

6. Conclusion of Audit 2021-22

To note receipt of the External Auditor's Report and Certificate for the year ending 31 March 2022.

A letter from the External Auditor and the External Auditor's Report and Certificate is attached.

7. To receive the forthcoming Civic Announcements (attached).

8. To receive the Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Reports of Engagements (attached).

9. 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.

10. To receive the draft Confidential Minutes and decisions of the undermentioned Committees:

- a) General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6 September 2022, Minute Numbers GP23/064, GP23/081 and GP23/082 (attached).

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Town Council meeting as observers and/or to make representations to the committee in accordance with the Council's scheme of public participation. Details of the scheme are displayed in the Council's notice boards and website.

Stone Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting held in St Michael's Suite at the Frank Jordan Centre, Lichfield Street, Stone, on Tuesday 6 September 2022

PRESENT: Councillor J. Powell in the Chair and
Councillors: K. Argyle, A. Best, J. Davies, Mrs L. Davies, Mrs K. Dawson,
Mrs J. Hood, T Kelt, R. Kenney, C. Thornicroft and S. Walley

Officers: L. Trigg and R. Mincher

ABSENT: Councillors: Mrs A. Burgess, I. Fordham, M. Green, M. Hatton, J. Hickling,
P. Leason and R. Townsend

Before the meeting began Reverend Prebendary Cardinal led prayers.

C23/046 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: M. Green, J. Hickling and R. Townsend.

C23/047 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None received

C23/048 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

C23/049 **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 2 August 2022 (Minute Numbers C23/036 – C23/045, be approved as a correct record.

C23/050 **Committee Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) The minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 2 August 2022 (Minute Numbers GP23/047 – GP23/063), were noted.
- b) The minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 2 August 2022 (Minute Numbers PC23/019 – PC23/024), were noted.

* 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.

C23/051 Allotment Awards

The Town Mayor read out the comments from the judge, Martin Robinson, who had unfortunately been unable to attend the meeting.

Mr Robinson commented that the overall standard was good, bearing in mind the continued dry weather, and congratulated those that had brought previously under cultivated sites back into use. He particularly noted the work of the Council's grounds maintenance contractor, whose diligence and hard work in the background had made this possible.

The Town Mayor awarded prizes to the following allotment winners and congratulated each of them on their achievements:

Best Kept Allotment Winner Mount Road – Ms H. Dawson & Mr N Lyons
Best Kept Allotment Winner Newcastle Road – Mr R. Downing
Best Kept Allotment Highly Commended Mount Road – Mr & Mrs J. Simpson
Best Kept Allotment Highly Commended Newcastle Road – Mr & Mrs D. Keeble

C23/052 Civic Announcements

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

C23/053 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 Town Mayor expanded on a number of the engagements, particularly referring to the amazing brass band concert at Stonefield Park, his enjoyment of the Girl Guiding Staffordshire Unity 2022 International Camp, and the extremely successful visit of the Kenyan Girl Guides to the Council Chamber. He said that this latter visit was particularly meaningful to him, as he was born in Nairobi, Kenya.

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.

C23/054 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.

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C23/055 Confidential Committee Minutes

- a) The confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 2 August 2022, Minute Numbers GP23/047, GP23/062 and GP23/063 were noted.

TOWN MAYOR

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Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at the Frank Jordan Centre, Lichfield Street, Stone, on Tuesday 6 September 2022

PRESENT: Councillor R. Kenney in the Chair, and
Councillors: K. Argyle, A. Best, J. Davies, Mrs L. Davies, Mrs K. Dawson, Mrs J. Hood,
T. Kelt, J. Powell, C. Thornicroft and S. Walley

Officers: L. Trigg and R. Mincher

ABSENT: Councillors: Mrs A. Burgess, I. Fordham, M. Green, M. Hatton, J. Hickling, P. Leason
and R. Townsend

GP23/064 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: M. Green, J. Hickling and R. Townsend

GP23/065 Declarations of Interests

Councillor Mrs K Dawson declared a personal interest in minutes GP23/072 and
GP23/056 (c)

Councillor J Davies declared a personal interest in minute GP23/073 (c)

GP23/066 Requests for Dispensations

None

GP23/067 To receive the report of the County Councillors

County Councillor Mrs J. Hood

The Chairman invited Councillor Mrs Hood to address the Committee.

Councillor Hood thanked Councillor Walley for his comprehensive list of blocked
gullies following her request for information at the last meeting of this Committee.
She also informed the Committee that a list had been received from Councillor
Fordham. This information will be passed to the Highways Department for them
to act upon.

County Councillor I. Parry

Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting.

GP23/068 To receive the report of Borough Councillors

There was no report on this occasion.

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GP23/069 Representations from Members of the Public

None

GP23/070 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 2 August 2022 (Minute Numbers GP23/047 – GP23/063), be approved as a correct record.

GP23/071 Minutes of Sub-Committees

- a) Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee meeting held on 16 August 2022, Minute Numbers TTP23/008 – TTP23/016.

RESOLVED:

- i. To note the draft minutes
 - ii. To approve the recommendations contained in Minute number TTP23/014.
- b) Environment Sub-Committee meeting held on 16 August 2022, Minute Numbers ENV23/011 – ENV23/019.

RESOLVED:

- i. To note the draft minutes
 - ii. To approve the recommendations contained in Minute number ENV23/017.

GP23/072 Grants to Local Organisations – Free Use of Community Centres

The Committee considered the Town Clerk's report*, which recommended limiting the granting of ongoing or extended periods of free use of community centres to the Stone Station only.

A question was raised about whether any application for the use of the community centres as "warm hubs" in the future would be subject to this policy, if agreed. It was confirmed that it would apply, but that any such application would be brought to the Committee for consideration.

It was further clarified that approval of this policy would not mean that the Station was now available for free use. Normal charging policies would continue to apply at the Station as set out in the Clerk's report unless a request for ongoing free or reduced charges was approved by the Committee under the grant aid process.

RESOLVED:

- a) The granting of free or significantly discounted use of the Council's community centres via the Grant Aid process is limited to the Station Community Centre only.

* 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 limit of £500 within the grants policy should not apply to free or significantly discounted use of the Station Community Centre.
- c) The grants policy should be updated accordingly.

GP23/073 Grants to Local Organisations

Grant applications had been received from three organisations, but none of them met the Council's criteria for the reasons set out on the agenda:

- a) **Stone (Staffs) & District U3A – Replacement of IT equipment used for classes.**
A proposal to waive the criteria related to the level of reserves in this case was not seconded, so the application was not considered further.
- b) **Stafford and Stone Canoe Club – Equipment for Junior Paddlers.**
RESOLVED: To waive the criteria related to the level of reserves and award a grant of £477.56.
- c) **1st Stone Scout Group – Free use of FJC (approx. £4,000 pa).**
RESOLVED: To waive the criteria related to the level of reserves and agree to the free use of the Stone Station Community Centre for a period of 12 months.

GP23/074 External Auditor Appointment

The Committee considered the correspondence from Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments (SAAA)* attached to the agenda asking the Council whether it wished to continue to be included within the SAAA central auditor appointment arrangements for the next five year period from the current financial year to 2026-27.

The Town Clerk strongly recommended that the Council should continue with these arrangements.

RESOLVED:

To continue with the SAAA central auditor appointment arrangements for the next five year period to 2026-27.

GP23/075 Members' Motion under Standing Order 4

Councillor Steve Walley proposed that:

"Whilst attending the Norbury Canal Festival, I was introduced to the coordinator of the Roving Canal Traders Association. One of the key aims of the RCTA is to hold waterside events that provide opportunities for roving canal traders. The RCTA were holding such an event at the Norbury festival which featured a number of barges operating a floating market, selling a selection of products, many of which were locally produced. The coordinator of the event was interested in exploring the possibility of holding such an event at Stone canal side. Holding these events requires coordination with other regional RCTA events in addition to the logistics of getting all the barges to the town. The RCTA require the blessing of town/parish councils before they will enter into any formal discussions or carry out site visits to assess the practicalities of holding an event. Holding a floating market at Stone canal side would be a great way to make more of the towns canal heritage,

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encourage more local residents to get onto the canal and attract new visitors to the town.

I would ask the Council to request that the Town Clerk approaches the RTCA to explore the possibility of holding a floating market at Stone canal side during 2023”

The exploration of this proposal was supported by the Committee, but a number of issues were discussed that would need to be resolved before such a market could be held. This included the level of activity currently on the canal and the number of independent and reserved moorings in the area. It was suggested that a discussion be held with the holiday let business in the area.

RESOLVED:

To support the exploration of this proposal, and ask the Town Clerk to report back to the Tourism and Town Promotion Sub-Committee.

GP23/076 Stone Heritage Steering Group

- a) The resignation of Councillor Mrs L Davies from the Steering Group was noted.
- b) RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor J Davies to the Steering Group vacancy.

GP23/077 Town Council Payments

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

GP23/078 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 no meeting had taken place.

Engagement with Young People

Councillor Mrs Dawson informed the Committee that the group had not met.

GP23/079 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 next meeting of the Liaison Group would be on 26th October 2022.

Stone ATC

Councillor Davies informed the Committee the next meeting was due on 13th September 2022.

Age Concern Stone & District

Councillor Thornicroft advised the Committee that a meeting of Age Concern Stone & District had taken place on 2nd September 2022, which had included

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consideration of the accounts, the introduction of new volunteers, and the work involved with requests for assistance.

Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor Kelt reported that the next meeting was planned for 26th September 2022.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

Councillors Mrs Hood, Kelt and Kenney reported that a Plot walkabout had taken place on a very hot 14th August 2022, but that there had been no meeting since the last report.

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 was not present at the meeting to give a report.

The meeting was adjourned and then reconvened after the open session of the Planning Consultative Committee and closed session of the Town Council had taken place.

GP23/080 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

GP23/081 Confidential Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 2 August 2022, Minute Numbers GP23/047, GP23/062 and GP23/043 be approved.

GP23/082 Heritage Centre

The Committee Chairman and the Town Clerk reported on progress with regard to the letting of the contract for works at the Heritage Centre. It was expected that a further report would be presented to the next meeting of this Committee.

CHAIRMAN

* 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 Town Council – Planning Consultative Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in St Michael's Suite at the Frank Jordan Centre, Lichfield Street, Stone, on Tuesday 6 September 2022

PRESENT: Councillor T. Kelt in the Chair, and
Councillors: K. Argyle, A. Best, J. Davies, Mrs L. Davies, Mrs K. Dawson,
Mrs J. Hood, R. Kenney, J. Powell, C. Thornicroft and S. Walley

Officers: L. Trigg and R. Mincher

ABSENT: Councillors: Mrs A. Burgess, I. Fordham, M. Green, M. Hatton, J. Hickling,
P. Leason and R. Townsend

PC23/025 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: M. Green, J. Hickling and R. Townsend

PC23/026 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

Councillor Mrs Hood confirmed that, as a member of Stafford Borough Council's Planning Committee, she would not speak or vote on the planning applications listed on the agenda.

PC23/027 Representations from Members of the Public

None received

PC23/028 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 2 August 2022 (Minute Numbers PC23/019 – PC23/024), be approved as a correct record.

PC23/029 Planning Applications

Application Number – 22/36324/FUL

Applicant – Mr C. Jaram

Location – Land Adjacent to Lichfield Road, Stone

Development – Vary/remove condition 12 (closing lay-by), 13 (pedestrian crossing) and 20 (number of dwellings) on 18/27783/OUT. An outline planning application seeking planning permission for affordable (local) housing and a local shopping and service centre including the provision of a local food store with all matters reserved for later approval.

Observations: No comments

Application Number – 22/36184/FUL

Applicant – J & S Property Acquisitions Ltd

Location – 67 High Street, Stone

Development – Alterations to the existing estate agents on the ground floor, including a new shop front and the conversion of part of the ground floor to a one-bedroom apartment, conversion of the first floor to a bedsit and a one-bedroom flat and the conversion of the second floor to a one-bedroom flat.

Observations: No objections

NOTE: The following applications were included on the agenda, but were not considered as they had not been received by the day of the meeting.

Application Number – 22/36002/HOU

Applicant – Mr & Mrs Sweeney

Location – 7 Northesk Street, Stone

Development – Single storey rear extension

Observations: Application not yet received from the Borough Council

Application Number – 22/35857/HOU

Applicant – Mr & Mrs S. Nicholls

Location – 4 Kings Avenue, Stone

Development – Replacement front window

Observations: Application not yet received from the Borough Council

Application Number – 22/35866/HOU

Applicant – Mr & Mrs C. Moss

Location – 1 Blundell Drive, Stone

Development – Single storey side extension

Observations: Application not yet received from the Borough Council

Application Number – 22/35917/HOU

Applicant – Mr & Mrs T & H Brocklebank

Location – The Rectory, 56 Lichfield Road, Stone

Development – Single storey rear extension

Observations: Application not yet received from the Borough Council

Application Number – 22/35978/HOU

Applicant – Mr A. Balderson

Location – 12 St Michael's Mount, Stone

Development – New porch with canopy over to front elevation, conversion of garage two storey rear extension internal re-modelling and alterations

Observations: Application not yet received from the Borough Council

PC23/030 To note the following items considered under delegated powers where no objections were forwarded to Stafford Borough Council due to no Member asking for the item to be considered by a special meeting of the Committee.

Application Number – 22/36327/LBC

Applicant – St Dominic's Catholic Primary School

Location – St Dominic's Catholic Primary School, Margaret Street, Stone

Development – Forming new archway in existing boundary wall

Observations: No objections

CHAIRMAN

Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2021/22

In respect of

Stone Town Council

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/>.

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2022; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2021/22

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

In undertaking the review of the 2020/21 Annual Return it came to our attention that the Council had not met the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 in starting the period of 30 working days to inspect the accounts by 1 July 2021.

The Council correctly answered no to the relevant assertion in the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement and has complied with the regulations in 2022.

3 External auditor certificate 2021/22

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2022.

*We do not certify completion because:

Not applicable.

External Auditor Name

Mazars LLP, Newcastle, NE1 1DF

External Auditor Signature

Mazars LLP

Date

20 September 2022

Mr W L Trigg
Stone Town Council
15 Station Road
Stone
Staffordshire
ST15 8JP

Direct line: +44 (0)191 383 6348

Email: local.councils@mazars.co.uk

Date: 20 September 2022

Dear Mr Trigg

Completion of the audit for the year ended 31 March 2022

We have completed our audit for the year ended 31 March 2022 and I have pleasure in enclosing the certified Annual Governance and Accountability Return. The External Auditor's Certificate and Report is given in Section 3.

If there are any significant matters arising from the audit, they are summarised in the External Auditor's certificate in Section 3. If we have identified minor scope for improvement we have recorded this on page 2 of this letter. The Council must consider these matters and decide what action is required. In most cases this will be self-evident. In some instances we have referred to further guidance available, in particular, in the publication "*Governance and Accountability for Local Councils – A Practitioners' Guide (England) 2021*". This can be obtained via your NALC or SLCC branch, or downloaded free of charge.

Action you are required to take

The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 set out what you must do at the conclusion of the audit. In summary, you are required to:

Publish (which must include publication on the authority's website) a statement:

- that the audit has been concluded and that the statement of accounts has been published;
- of the rights of inspection conferred on local government electors by section 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; and
- the address at which, and the hours during which, those rights may be exercised.
- Keep copies of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for purchase by any person on payment of a reasonable sum.
- Ensure that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return remains available for public access for a period of not less than five years beginning with the date on which the Annual Governance and Accountability Return was first published.

The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 do not specify the period the Completion Notice needs to be on the council's website but this period must be reasonable.

Minor scope for improvement in 2022/23

No minor issues identified.

Accessibility Regulations

We are aware that the Accounts and Audit Regulations requirement for a physical 'wet ink' signature on the original AGAR, does not allow parish council's to fully comply with the Accessibility Regulations. The National Audit Office are aware that the two pieces of legislation are not compatible, therefore smaller authorities are advised to make it clear on their website that the document is a scan and will not be fully compliant with the Accessibility Regulations.

Audit fee

Our fee note for the audit, which is in accordance with the audit fee scales set by SAAA, and available at <http://www.localaudits.co.uk/fees.html> will follow.

We would be grateful if you could arrange for this to be paid at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C Waddell'.

Cameron Waddell

Partner

For and on behalf of Mazars LLP

STONE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
4 OCTOBER 2022

CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Mayor

Tuesday 4 October	Staffordshire County Scouts Council AGM
Sunday 9 October	Eccleshall Parish Council Chairman's Civic Service
Friday 21 October	Staffordshire County Council Chairman's Ball
Saturday 29 October	HMS St Vincent Association AGM & Reunion Dinner

Deputy Mayor

Thursday 6 October	Alzheimer's drop in Club 16 th Birthday Celebrations
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TOWN MAYOR

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT – to 25th September 2022

Sunday 4th September – Uttoxeter Civic Sunday

I journeyed to Uttoxeter to join fellow civic guests to witness the mayor making of the Mayor of Uttoxeter. The service was lovely, with songs sung by a newly formed choir to entertain and make the start of the Mayor's Year. We wish the mayor all the best for her year in office and offer her the friendship of Stone.

Friday 9th September 2022 – The week of Mourning for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

I will always remember the time and place when I heard the sad news of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. As we move through our lives, moments like that never leave us and are a starting point for pause and reflection. The constant presence of her has, to some, been a foundation of their pride in their British identity. However, it is her role as mother, grandmother and great-grandmother that I think she will be most fondly remembered by her family. My first duty of the week was to lead the book of remembrance at St Michael and Wulfad's Church on the Friday morning and be part of the congregation to remember the Queen in a short service. It was then that I realised that although there was sadness, there was a strong sense of happy fondness for her Majesty from the residents of Stone that I was meeting. This was reinforced on the services for the Queen on the two following Sundays, where we met young and old and read the heartfelt messages in the book of remembrance. The mayoress and I were invited by Christchurch to take part in a short 'Remembering Her Majesty the Queen' service on the eve of the state funeral. Joining young and old, we were moved by the memories of the Queen in a short video tribute and joined the nation in the one-minute silence. We then helped with a lovely flower tribute at the front of the church, where all joined in by placing flowers into two wooden crosses. It was again so heart-warming to see the residents of Stone coming together to share memories and to help with the sadness of the time. From the granddaughter helping her grandfather into the church to sign the book of remembrance, one of the mayor's cadets and her family attending the Queen's tribute and hugging the mayoress when the emotion of the evening became too much and to the mother explaining the occasion to her two small children. Once again Stone, you never disappoint, and I'm honoured to stand with you. God save the Queen!

Saturday 10th September – Stone and District Swimming Club Awards Evening

The Mayoress and I, and County Councillor, Jill Hood, joined the Stone and District Swimming Club for their awards evening. The room was full of the coaching staff, volunteers, young people and families joining together to celebrate the achievements of the club and its members. The age range was wide, and the abilities of the young people were amazing. It was an honour to join them, enjoy the food and I apologise for not joining in with the dancing and music. A great night and thank you.

Sunday 25th September – Cheadle Civic Sunday

The Mayoress and I joined other civic members, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, the High Sheriff of Staffordshire, Sir Bill Cash and other guests in supporting the Mayor of Cheadle as she started her year in office with her civic service. The theme was one of inclusion and all having a part in our society. We wish her all the best for her year in office and offer her the friendship of Stone.

DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT – to 25th September 2022

No report for this period