



Stone

Town Council

Town Clerk

Les Trigg

Tel: 01785 619740

Email: clerk@stonetowncouncil.gov.uk

15 Station Road
Stone
ST15 8JP

9 November 2022

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT SUB COMMITTEE** will be held in the **Frank Jordan Centre, Lichfield Street, Stone**, on **TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2022 at 7:10pm**, or on the rising of the Estates Sub-Committee, if later.

Please find the agenda set out below.

Les Trigg
Town Clerk

Councillors: R. Townsend (Chairman), T. Kelt (Vice Chairman), K. Argyle, Mrs A. Burgess, Mrs K. Dawson, M. Hatton and P. Leason

AGENDA

1. **To receive apologies for absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations Received.**
3. **Representations from Members of the Public**

To consider representations from members of the public on items to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with the Council's scheme of public participation.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
 - a) To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Sub-Committee held on 16 August 2022, Minute No's ENV23/011 – ENV23/019 (attached)

5. **Covid-19 Commemoration**

To receive an update.

6. **Crown Meadow Improvements**

To receive an update on the work being undertaken by the Council's Grounds Maintenance contractor (update attached) and to consider any variations required.

7. **Members' Motion Under Standing Order 4**

Councillor Andrew Best

"Salary sacrifice schemes can offer benefits to both employees and employers by allowing the purchase of certain Government approved items by reduction to salary, rather than the employee meeting the cost from their net income. In these cases, the employee saves the income tax, National Insurance and pension contributions that they would otherwise have paid on the salary sacrificed (though pension and some other benefits are also correspondingly reduced) and the employer saves their contributions to National Insurance and pensions.

Once such scheme is the Bike to Work Scheme, details of which are available at <https://www.bike2workscheme.co.uk>. I feel this scheme would help some but not all Council employees and it's a great "Green" incentive that helps the environment.

I recommend that the Sub-Committee asks the Town Clerk to consult with staff to ascertain if there would be any interest in such a scheme and, if so, bring back a full report to the Sub-Committee setting out the implications for the Council."

8. **Speaker on Environmental Matters**

To consider the paper from Councillor T. Kelt (attached).

This item has been brought forward from the previous meeting.

9. **Reports of Working Groups**

- Environmental Issues Working Group

Will any Councillors who wish to speak at this meeting, but are not members of the Sub-Committee, please inform the Chairman before the start of the meeting

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Environment Sub-Committee Meeting as observers and/or to make representations to the committee in accordance with the Council's scheme of public participation. Details of this scheme are displayed on the Town Council's notice boards and website.

Stone Town Council – Environment Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 16 August 2022

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

Officers: L Trigg and Mrs T. Williams

By Chairman's Invitation: A. Best, J. Davies and Mrs J. Hood

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

ENV23/011 Apologies

Councillors: Mrs K. Dawson and R. Townend

ENV23/012 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None received

ENV23/013 Representations from Members of the Public

None

ENV23/014 Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a) The minutes of the Environment Sub-Committee meeting held on the 24 May 2022 (Minute Numbers ENV23/001 – ENV23/010), were approved as a correct record.

ENV23/015 Covid-19 Commemoration

The Chairman updated the Sub-Committee on the Covid-19 Commemoration project.

Councillor Kelt advised the Sub-Committee that the budget was £1,800 with the costs estimated to be £700 for the purchase of the trees and between £350 and £1,000 for the bench. The Grounds Maintenance Contractor, Mr Plant, has very kindly offered to plant the trees and install the bench at no cost to the Council. He suggested doing this as his contribution to the project.

The cost of the plaque can be met from any remaining funds within the £1,800. The wording will need to be agreed by the Sub-Committee.

The planting of the trees is planned for September as the Ground's Maintenance Contractor considers this to be the best time. He will be meeting with Town Councillors before then to progress the item.

The Sub-Committee expressed their thanks and gratitude to Mr Plant for his generosity in providing his labour for the project free of charge.

ENV23/016 Crown Meadow Improvements

The Sub-Committee noted the update (which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting) on the work being undertaken by the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contractor.

It was confirmed that the overgrown allotment plots were in Mount Road and would be relet following their clearance.

ENV23/017 Energy and Carbon Review

The Sub-Committee considered the content of the Energy and Carbon Review & Action Plans for the Stone Station and Frank Jordan Community Centres (which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting).

The Chairman invited the Town Clerk to comment on the two reviews.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that he was awaiting a response to several queries on the reports which recommended the same course of action at both centres, to change the heating systems for heat exchange pumps and to install solar panelling (in conjunction) to reduce the costs.

The complete and full costings had not been provided for the installations and the solar panels required additional considerations as both buildings are in the conservation area and Stone Station is a listed building.

The Sub-Committee discussed the reports and suggested it would be beneficial to obtain quotations for heat pumps and solar panels at both community centres which would provide additional insight from the specialists who undertake the installations. The information received could then be considered by the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee expressed some concern about the reliability of solar panels and queried other additional considerations that might be necessary (but not mentioned in the report) such as the suitability of the roofs and the need for insulation.

RECOMMENDED: That quotations are obtained in line with the recommendations of the Energy and Carbon Review & Action Plans for heat exchange pumps and solar panelling at Stone Station and the Frank Jordan Centre.

ENV23/018 Speaker on Environmental Matters

The Sub-Committee considered the paper from Councillor T. Kelt (which had been attached to the agenda for the meeting).

RESOLVED: That in the absence of Councillor Walley this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

ENV23/019 Reports of Working Groups

Environmental Issues Working Group

Councillor Kelt advised the Sub-Committee that the article on environmental matters had been published in the Stone & Eccleshall Gazette.

He said there had been two responses to the article with more awaited in the hope they can be co-ordinated into active town groups. The Stafford Panel have noted and are supportive of the actions of the Town Council on environmental issues.

Councillor Kelt informed the Sub-Committee that the working group was planning to set up a stall on a market day to nudge people into registering an interest in environmental matters, but its management needed to be thought through.

The working group was investigating ways of collecting the more difficult to recycle items which can't be collected in the blue bins. There are rules about the items that can be put into the four types of collection the Borough Council deal with and failure to adhere to the rules can lead to failure to recycle due to contamination.

Councillor Kelt advised the Sub-Committee that some retailers such as Morrisons and Marks and Spencer accepted non-recyclable items like soft plastic bags and food packaging/wrapping and people needed to be made aware of this. Other shops have expressed an interest in collecting the waste they have generated.

The Borough Council has offered additional bins to be deployed in the town but the process of collection and delivery needs thinking through to determine whether feasible and how it can be implemented.

Councillor Kelt pointed out that there are some teracycle points in Stone for items such as used pens and crisp packets, but these are not convenient for most of the community and the working group is looking at ways to improve this facility.

There is a need to look at what is normally put in green bins to see what else could be collected separately for reuse and how the process could be handled. There is also a need for education generally as to how waste can be processed more effectively.

The working group is following up on a Borough Council invitation to visit waste

management sites run by Veolia to see the process in operation. The preference is for a group of between five and ten participants. No date has been set.

The Sub-Committee suggested that a date in October be put out to Councillors.

Councillor Kelt advised the Sub-Committee that he was contributing to the Stafford Borough Panel on environment matters.

Councillor Kelt had attended three meetings and the Panel had been split into four work streams: waste management, raising awareness, food production and agriculture and biodiversity.

Stafford Borough has offered to visit Stone with its carbon footprint balloon, used to generate an interest in environmental matters and to encourage people to measure their carbon footprint.

Councillor Kelt was currently in discussion with the Town Clerk and an officer at the Borough (who was liaising with the County) on the arrangements for a visit. Market Square on a Farmers' Market date would be his preference but there might be issues related to the layout of market stalls blocking access to the Market Square.

Chairman

Stone Town Council - Works in Progress

Dept	Job Description	Contractor	Details	Current Status	Carry Over Budget	Approved Budget	Spend to Date	Total Forecast	Anticipated Date of Completion
Allotments	Clear overgrown plots	MJ Plant	Clear 15/16, Rotavate 9	15/16 Completed	400		400	400	Completed
Allotments	Mount Road -Plot 10	MJ Plant	Clear wooden clothes and tubs. Rotavate. Leave strip in middle for path / partition between A & B						Nov 2022
Allotments	Mount Road - 8A(i)	MJ Plant	Rotavate						Nov 2022
Allotments	Newcastle Road 2A	MJ Plant	Removal of bath tub and table and any general waste. Review asbestos reported and advise on removal						Nov 2022
Allotments	Newcastle Road	MJ Plant	Provide skip for general tidy up of all plots						Nov 2022
Allotments	Newcastle Road	MJ Plant	Investigate and confirm if any works required on dangerous tree reported by tenant on plot 3						Dec
Crown Meadow	Scrape 1	MJ Plant	Dig out area to create a shallow pond and plant wildflowers. Cut a new path around the scrape	Mick will pollard some willows to reduce the spread of catkins across CM. He will reinstate the scrape deeper and wider. Digging out is quick, putting plants back takes time. Remove Canadian Pond Weed for depth.	2,200		0	2,200	Oct - Dec 22
Crown Meadow	Tree Re-planting	MJ Plant	Remove four trees from the middle of the field and re-plant to form a hedgerow to shield the M&S building	A grant applications of £500 to SCC Climate Change Fund has been received. Mick ordering plants to establish the hedgerow	750	500	0	1,250	By Spring 2023
Crown Meadow	Amphitheatre Path	MJ Plant	Provide an 80m path with a ramp rather than steps (from Trent Close side) Site visit 18/10/22: Mick said that the current quote is for an 80m path and refurbishment of the steps down to Crown Meadow and does not include a ramp down to CM. For disabled access to CM we do need a ramp adjacent to the the steps.	To be completed. Supply issues with stones. Site visit on 18/10.22: Consider extending the new path 10 metres further to link up with existing disabled access ramp on Trent Rd at Workhorse Bridge. Also create ramp down to Crown Meadow as well as the replace steps. Consider this revised proposal for improved disabled accessibility at next Enviro-Sub meeting.	1,425		0	1,425	Ongoing. Completion date Dec 22

Stone Town Council - Works in Progress

Dept	Job Description	Contractor	Details	Current Status	Carry Over Budget	Approved Budget	Spend to Date	Total Forecast	Anticipated Date of Completion
Crown Meadow	Plant Remembrance Orchard	MJ Plant	Plant 8 cherry trees on Crown Wharf Meadow	Site visit 18/10/22: Supply issue with recommended trees. MP will discuss with his suppliers to avoid varieties that grow too large so that future maintenance is easy. A vintage bench has been sourced which MP will refurbish for the commemorative orchard. A quote needed for this so that we can evaluate the remaining funds for a plaque. Env Comm to decide on orientation of the orchard and positioning of bench / view from bench.		1800	0	1800	Oct - Nov 22
Crown Meadow	Purchase and install info board	MJ Plant		Original artwork to be reviewed by Enviro Committee. Quotes to be obtained for metal boards as per Common Plot Site visit 18/10/22. It is proposed to delay this project until 2023/4 FY so these allocated funds can be redirected towards the extra improvements needed to the new path, ramp and steps to CM		1500	0	1500	Nov 2022
Crown Meadow	Amphitheatre split tree	MJ Plant		Unless it becomes dangerous, leave until after birds have nested		640	0	640	TBC
Grounds Maint	Walton Roundabout - re-planting	MJ Plant		MP says has been too dry but MP assures work will be completed soonest in this FY.		600	0	600	Sep onwards
Grounds Maint	Town Borders - re-planting	MJ Plant		MP says has been too dry but assures that it will be completed soonest in this FY.		600	0	600	Sep onwards
Grounds Maint	Repair Lock Gate	MJ Plant		Canals Trust contacted about lockgate to refurb. MP aims to resolve soonest in this FY.		400	0	400	TBC when lockgate available
Grounds Maint	Contingency					1,000	0	1,000	

Stone Town Council - Works in Progress

Dept	Job Description	Contractor	Details	Current Status	Carry Over Budget	Approved Budget	Spend to Date	Total Forecast	Anticipated Date of Completion
Grounds Maint	Repair and re-site vandalised bench	MJ Plant	MP proposes to refurbish bench and re-site from secluded spot to more open and visible site to reduce ASB and vandlism. Env Comm to discuss quote needed.						TBC
Crown Meadow	River erosion	MJ Plant	River erosion resulting in 2 meadow benches now being closer to the riverbank with obvious danger for public. To be discussed by Enc Comm and quote needed.						TBC

PAPER FOR ENVIRONMENT SUB COMMITTEE 15th NOVEMBER 2022

There is an option to invite an expert to give a talk to council and to other invited participants on environmental matters if a suitable venue can be arranged. See email below from Councillor Whalley:

"I have a business contact who is one of the landscape industries leading voices on the environment and biodiversity. He writes regular features for industry magazines and chairs industry debates on the subject.

He is based in Surrey but was born and raised in Alexandra St. He would be more than willing to come to Stone and do a talk on what residents can do to increase biodiversity. I know that Crown Wharf have a large upstairs function room that is free of charge to use. Could be a great way to help kick start the town council's environment drive."

The sub-committee must decide if this is an approach worth pursuing.