

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at the Frank Jordan Centre, Lichfield Street, Stone, on Tuesday 4 October 2022

PRESENT: Councillor I. Fordham in the Chair, and
Councillors: A. Best, J. Davies, Mrs J. Hood, T. Kelt, J. Powell, C. Thornicroft,
R. Townsend and S. Walley

Officers: L. Trigg and Mrs T. Williams

ABSENT: Councillors: K. Argyle, Mrs A. Burgess, Mrs L. Davies, Mrs K. Dawson, M. Green,
M. Hatton, J. Hickling, R. Kenney and P. Leason

GP23/083 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: K. Argyle, Mrs L. Davies, Mrs K. Dawson,
M. Green, J. Hickling, R. Kenney and P. Leason

GP23/084 **Declarations of Interests**

None

GP23/085 **Requests for Dispensations**

None

GP23/086 **To receive the report of the County Councillors**

County Councillor Mrs J. Hood

The Chairman invited Councillor Mrs Hood to address the Committee.

Councillor Mrs Hood informed the Committee that she had succeeded in getting the graffiti removed from the crossroads at Aston Lodge which encompassed a message requesting a repair to a pothole. She asked that residents refrain from drawing attention to road defects in this way.

County Councillor I. Parry

Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting.

GP23/087 **To receive the report of Borough Councillors**

The Chairman advised the Committee that Councillor Kenney was absent from the meeting (this evening) as he was attending a meeting of the Borough Council's Scrutiny Committee which was considering the Local Plan. He anticipated that Councillor Kenney would report back on its content in due course.

GP23/088 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP23/089 **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6 September 2022 (Minute Numbers GP23/064 – GP23/082), be approved as a correct record.

GP23/090 **Minutes of Sub-Committees**

There were no Minutes of Sub-Committees

GP23/091 **Co-option to Sub-Committee**

The Committee considered the co-option of Jon Cook to the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee.

Mr Cook runs 'A Little Bit of Stone' which is considered Stone's leading social media outlet, providing valuable knowledge, experience and insights into the views of residents and businesses locally.

The Chairman confirmed that Mr Cook if appointed, would attend meetings and speak as a Member of the Sub-Committee but would not have a vote (and would therefore not form part of a quorum). He would be bound by the Town Council's Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED: To appoint Mr Jon Cook as a co-opted member of the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee.

GP23/092 **Resident Engagement Events**

The Chairman invited Councillor Walley to provide a verbal report on the outcome of the Resident Engagement Event trial period.

Councillor Walley advised the Committee that he had worked with the Town Clerk and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee to develop the format for the engagement events, and it had been agreed that two events would be held, one during the weekend and one midweek.

He reported that the events had not been very well attended by residents with three attending the midweek session and no one attending the weekend one.

Councillor Walley informed the Committee that the conclusion had been drawn that arranging a third event would not be a good use of Councillors' time; although Councillors had connected with a group of residents to identify some issues that were currently being worked through.

Councillor Walley thanked Councillors for their support with the trial initiative.

GP23/093 Nominations for SPCA Executive and AGM arrangements

The Committee considered an invitation to nominate a representative to stand for election to Staffordshire Parish Councils Association's Executive. It was noted that the election will take place at the Association's AGM on the evening of 5 December 2022.

As Councillor Mark Green was a current representative of the SPCA Executive the Committee did not wish to make any new nominations.

GP23/094 Town Council Payments

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

GP23/095 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 Mrs Hood advised the Committee that no meeting had taken place.

Engagement with Young People

Councillor Mrs Dawson and Councillor Mrs Davies were not available to give a report.

GP23/096 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 of the Liaison Group would be on 26th October 2022. He invited Councillors to put forward items they might like the Group to discuss and extended an invitation to attend the meeting.

Stone ATC

Councillor Davies informed the Committee that a meeting had taken place on Tuesday 20 September 2022, and all was going well. The ATC Committee is expanding and working hard with a focus on recruitment.

Age Concern Stone & District

Councillor Thornicroft advised the Committee that no meeting had taken place.

Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor Kelt reported that a meeting had taken place on 26 September 2022, but he was away on holiday and hadn't yet had the opportunity to read the minutes.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

Councillor Kelt reported that no meeting 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.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

Councillor Mrs Hood advised the Committee that no meeting of the 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 Planning Consultative Committee meeting and the closed session of the Town Council meeting had taken place.

GP23/097 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

GP23/098 Confidential Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6 September 2022, Minute Numbers GP23/064, GP23/081 and GP23/082 be approved.

GP23/099 Heritage Centre

The Committee considered an update on the Stone Heritage Centre building works tendering process and the appointment of a main contractor for this work.

CHAIRMAN