

# 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

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### **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**