

Stone Town Council – Estates Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 17 January 2023

PRESENT: Councillor A. Best in the Chair and
Councillors: J. Davies, Mrs J. Hood, R. Kenney and C. Thornicroft

Officers: L. Trigg and Mrs T. Williams

By Chairman's invitation: No Councillors

ABSENT: Councillors: Mrs L. Davies, Mrs K. Dawson, I. Fordham and J. Powell

EST23/028 **Apologies**

Councillors: Mrs L. Davies, I. Fordham and J. Powell

EST23/029 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None received

EST23/030 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None received

EST23/031 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

That the minutes of the Estates Sub-Committee meeting held on the 15 November 2022 (Minute Numbers EST23/020 – EST23/027), be approved as a correct record.

EST23/032 **Budget 2023-24 – 2025-26**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Town Clerk* which considered the level of budget that the Sub-Committee may wish to recommend to the General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 7 February 2023 for the services under its control.

The Sub-Committee reviewed the standstill budget and the amounts included for each service. It also considered other costs and savings to be taken into account when setting the budget for 2023-24 and future years.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that the overall position was that

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the budget was tight as energy costs were estimated to be increasing by over 250%. In managing this unprecedented situation, he said he had created a separate energy budget as well as taking inflation out of all individual budgets and putting it into a separate single inflationary budget to enable continual assessment.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that the General Purposes Committee was looking to see reductions in individual budgets where possible in an attempt to offset some of the energy cost increases.

A draft proposal made by the Chairman, for the setting of the Estates budget for 2023-24 and future years, was circulated at the meeting.

Councillor Kenney congratulated the Estates Sub-Committee for absorbing energy costs and not passing them on to all users of the community centres whilst also reducing the budgets of the Sub-Committee over the next four years.

RECOMMENDED: That the budget figures included in the Clerk's report are accepted by the General Purposes Committee, after making the adjustments below:

1. To increase charges at the Frank Jordan Centre and the Stone Station by 25%, but with a new discount of 10% on the overall charge for community groups and similar bookings.
2. To cease maintaining bus shelters at locations which are no longer on bus routes and to remove them in the future when funds permit.
3. That due to the high cost of a quotation received for the restoration of Joules clock to working order, no action would be taken at present.
4. That provision for general building maintenance for 2022-23 is removed for the current year only.
5. As a result of the above, the Sub-Committee's budget will be reduced as follows compared to the standstill budget:

	£
2022-23	10,500
2023-24	3,500
2024-25	3,500
2025-26	3,500

The meeting was adjourned and then subsequently reconvened later in the evening.

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EST23/033 **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 item of business.

EST23/034 **Confidential Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Confidential minutes of the Estates Sub-Committee meeting held on the 15 November 2022 (Minute Numbers EST23/020, EST23/026 and EST23/027), be approved as a correct record.

EST23/035 **Update on Stone Station**

The Town Clerk updated the Sub-Committee on the current position on Stone Station Community Centre and confirmed that works to the roof are expected to commence in February 2023.

Chairman

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