

Stone Town Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 16 May 2023

PRESENT: Councillor J. Powell in the Chair for Minute Number C24/001
Councillor J. Davies in the Chair thereafter and
Councillors: J. Battrick, A. Best, A. Burgess, L. Davies, K. Dawson, I. Fordham,
J. Hood, T. Kelt, B. Kenney, P. Leason, J. Metters, A. Mottershead, N. Powell and
C. Thornicroft

Officers: L. Trigg & T. Williams

ABSENT: Councillors: R. Kenney and R. Townsend

Before the meeting began Reverend Prebendary Cardinal led prayers.

Councillor Powell thanked Reverend Prebendary Cardinal for being his Chaplain during his two-year mayoral term of office and presented him with a gift.

Councillor Powell, on behalf of the Town Council, expressed his warmest good wishes to Reverend Prebendary Cardinal for a happy retirement, which was due to commence in the early summer.

C24/001 To appoint the Town Mayor for the ensuing year

Councillor J. Powell invited nominations for Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor T. Kelt nominated Councillor Jim Davies.

Councillor K. Dawson seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations and all members agreed.

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor Jim Davies as Stone Town Mayor for the year 2023-24.

The Town Clerk invited Councillor Davies to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Councillor Davies then received the Chain of Office.

Councillor Davies announced that his wife, Councillor Lin Davies, would be his Consort.

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Councillor Davies advised the Council that Reverend Jim Cartlidge of St Michael and St Wulfad's Church had been asked to take on the role of Mayor's Chaplain, which he had accepted.

Councillor Davies addressed the Town Council, first advising Councillors that his chosen Mayor's Charities for the year 2023-24 would be Age Concern Stone and District and Oak Tree Farm Rural Project.

He thanked the Council for their support in electing him Town Mayor. He acknowledged the responsibility that lay before him and pledged to work hard for the town. He said he looked forward to representing Stone around the County and beyond.

Councillor Davies informed the Council that he was proud of the town's progress since his previous term as Town Mayor in 2017-18 with the development of Crown Wharf Tap, Crown Wharf Theatre, the Heritage Centre currently under construction, and the organisation of many public events in the town by a number of local organisations. He stated that following the recent elections Councillors must build on the good work already done over the new four year term and repay people's confidence in electing them.

C24/002 To appoint the Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year

Councillor Davies invited nominations for Deputy Town Mayor.

Councillor P. Leason proposed Councillor R. Townsend as Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year. This was seconded by Councillor C. Thornicroft. No further nominations were received, and all members agreed.

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor Robert Townsend as Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2023-24.

The Town Mayor advised the Council that Councillor Townsend had been unable to attend the meeting. The Town Clerk said that Councillor Townsend's signing of his Declaration of Acceptance of Office would be confirmed at the next meeting of the Council.

The Town Mayor informed the Council that Mrs Helen Townsend would be Councillor Townsend's Consort.

C24/003 To thank and record the Town Council's appreciation of the services of the retiring Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and their Consorts

The Town Mayor invited Councillor Hood to address the Council.

Councillor Hood expressed her appreciation for Councillor Jon and Nancy Powell's service as Mayor and Mayoress which was a big responsibility and a job they had excelled at over their two-year term of office.

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She said that Councillor and Mrs Powell's charities – Chuckle Productions and Stone Community Hub – had been worthy recipients of their hard work and successful fundraising.

Councillor Hood referenced how incredibly hard they had both worked, taking the lead on the civic ceremonies and community activities to further the interests of the town. She said they were a beautiful couple that had stood out at many of the functions they had attended including those at the Borough and County. She acknowledged that Jon and Nancy had left their mark and seeing the job done with such enthusiasm and commitment had been lovely to witness.

Councillor Hood concluded her address with a vote of thanks for Jon and Nancy's exemplary service as Mayor and Mayoress of Stone.

Councillor Davies expressed his support for Councillor Hood's report and referenced the challenges presented by Covid-19 during their first year in office. Jon and Nancy had fully embraced the opportunities presented when life had returned to normal.

Councillor Davies welcomed Nancy to the Town Council and congratulated Jon on his appointment to the Borough Council, wishing them both well.

Councillor Davies thanked the outgoing Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Andrew Best and his Consort, Mrs Rosalind Best, for their good service through the year.

C24/004 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors: R. Kenney and R. Townsend.

C24/005 Declarations of Acceptance of Office

The Council noted receipt by the Town Clerk of Declarations of Acceptance of Office from all Town Councillors.

C24/006 Dispensations

RESOLVED:

To grant dispensations under the Council's Code of Conduct for the period up to the Council's Annual General Meeting in May 2027 to:

- a) All Town Councillors who live within the Town Council boundary in respect of the Council's budget and precept process.
- b) All Town Councillors who are also Staffordshire County Councillors and/or Stafford Borough Councillors in respect of matters related to the business of those Councils.

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C24/007 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None received.

C24/008 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 4 April 2023 (Minute Numbers C23/105 – C23/113), be approved as a correct record.

C24/009 Committee Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) The minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4 April 2023 (Minute Numbers GP23/193 – GP23/212), were noted.
- b) The minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 4 April 2023 (Minute Numbers PC23/067 – PC23/072), were noted.

C24/010 Committee Terms of Reference

The Council considered the terms of reference for the Council's General Purposes and Planning Committees.

RESOLVED: The terms of reference for the Council's General Purposes and Planning Committees were approved without amendment.

C24/011 To determine membership and elect the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of General Purposes Committee and Planning Committee for 2023-24

Membership of the General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That all Members be appointed to the General Purposes Committee for the year 2023-24.

Chairman of the General Purposes Committee:

RESOLVED: That Councillor R. Kenney be appointed as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for the year 2023-24.

Vice Chairman of the General Purposes Committee:

RESOLVED: That Councillor I. Fordham be appointed as Vice Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for the year 2023-24.

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Membership of the Planning Consultative Committee:

RESOLVED: That all Members be appointed to the Planning Consultative Committee for the year 2023-24.

Chairman of the Planning Consultative Committee:

RESOLVED: That Councillor T. Kelt be appointed as Chairman of the Planning Consultative Committee for the year 2023-24.

Vice Chairman of the Planning Consultative Committee:

RESOLVED: That Councillor C. Thornicroft be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Planning Consultative Committee for the year 2023-24.

C24/012 General Power of Competence

The Council considered whether to readopt the General Power of Competence.

RESOLVED: To adopt the General Power of Competence until the next relevant meeting of the Council in 2027, having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

C24/013 To defer other business under Standing Order 2, paragraph (j) to an appropriate meeting of the General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That all other business under this Standing Order be deferred to the General Purposes Committee

C24/014 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.

C24/015 Confidential Committee Minutes

- a) The draft Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4 April 2023, (Minute Numbers GP23/193, GP23/211 and GP23/212), were noted.

TOWN MAYOR

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