

# Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

## Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 23 May 2023

**PRESENT:** Councillor R. Kenney in the Chair, and  
Councillors: J. Battrick, A. Best, A Burgess, J. Davies, L. Davies, K. Dawson,  
I. Fordham, J. Hood, T. Kelt, B. Kenney, J. Metters, J. Powell and C. Thornicroft

Officers: L. Trigg & T. Williams

**ABSENT:** Councillors: P. Leason, A. Mottershead, N. Powell and R. Townsend

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Before the meeting began the Chairman invited the Town Mayor to update the Committee on an occurrence of flooding in Stone's Friendship Twinning town of Bagnacavallo, Italy.

Councillor Davies read a letter he had received from Gabriella Foschini, President of the Twinning Association, sent in reply to a note of support he had sent her. Madam Foschini said the situation was terrible but thankfully no loss of life, with surface water flooding from heavy rainfall affecting Bagnacavallo as well as a number of surrounding villages/settlements. Councillor Davies said that he would send a good wishes message to the Mayor of Bagnacavallo.

### **GP24/001** Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: P. Leason, A. Mottershead, N. Powell and R. Townsend.

Where a reason for absence is given, this reason was approved for the purposes of Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **GP24/002** Declarations of Interests

None

### **GP24/003** Requests for Dispensations

None

### **GP24/004** To receive the report of the County Councillors

#### **County Councillor Jill Hood**

The Chairman invited Councillor Hood to address the Committee.

#### Potholes

Councillor Hood advised the Committee that the County Highways Department had invited County Councillors to put forward five potholes in their areas for a fast-tracked residual repair. She said she was disappointed to be limited to five – making it a difficult decision – but had chosen: Valley Road, Newcastle Road, High

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Street, Trent Road, Millennium Way and Church Street. The deep pothole on the Uttoxeter Road would be filled as an addition to this list.

#### King's Coronation Event

Councillor Hood advised the Committee that she had given a report to the County Council on the Town Council King's Coronation celebration in Stone on Sunday 7 May, which had been a fantastic day and a great success.

The celebration had included a live concert which had been very well attended by local people and those from further afield with businesses enjoying very swift trade.

#### HS2

Councillor Hood advised the Committee that she had received confirmation that Pirehill Lane would not be considered as a haul road for HS2 construction traffic. She said there were issues with the route that had not been resolved and this was very good news for the people of Walton.

#### **County Councillor I. Parry**

Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting.

#### **GP24/005** To receive the report of Borough Councillors

Councillor Fordham advised the Committee that Councillor Aiden Godfrey had been elected as Stafford Borough Council's Leader and he had formed a Cabinet of eight including three Stone Councillors. Councillor Kenney has been appointed Deputy Leader, Councillor Hood had been appointed Portfolio Holder for Communities and Councillor Fordham appointed Portfolio Holder for the Environment.

Councillor Fordham said that although their brief was borough wide, it was noteworthy that Stone town now had a stronger representation at borough level than had been the case for a number of years.

#### **GP24/006** Representations from Members of the Public

None

#### **GP24/007** Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4 April 2023 (Minute Numbers GP23/193 – GP23/212), be approved as a correct record.

#### **GP24/008** Minutes of Sub-Committees

There were no Sub-Committee Minutes.

**GP24/009**      **Sub-Committee Terms of Reference**

The Committee considered the terms of reference for the Council's Sub-Committees, a copy of which had been attached to the electronic version of the agenda for the meeting.

The Chairman advised the Committee that the Management Sub-Committee could be dissolved and its responsibilities largely absorbed within the General Purposes Committee to reduce the number of sub-committee meetings and possibly enable all sub-committee meetings to take place on the same evening.

RESOLVED: That the Sub-Committee terms of reference circulated with the agenda are approved, with the exception of the Management Sub-Committee, which should be removed and, wherever possible, its responsibilities absorbed into those of the General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk report to the next meeting of this Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 setting out proposals for any elements of the Management Sub-Committee's responsibilities that cannot be absorbed by the General Purposes Committee and proposing a new meeting timetable to take account of the change.

**GP24/010**      **Appointment of Members, Chairmen and Vice Chairmen to the following Sub-Committees:**

RESOLVED: To appoint the following Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and Members to the Sub Committees for the municipal year 2023-24:

**Tourism & Town Promotion**

Chairman: Councillor J. Hood

Vice Chairman: Councillor A. Mottershead

Members: Councillors: A. Best, A. Burgess, K. Dawson, B. Kenney, P. Leason, J. Powell and C. Thornicroft

Co-opted Member: J. Cook

**Environment**

Chairman: Councillor R. Townsend

Vice Chairman: Councillor T. Kelt

Members: Councillors: J. Battrick, A. Burgess, K. Dawson, B. Kenney, J. Metters, J. Powell and N. Powell

**Estates**

Chairman: Councillor J. Powell

Vice Chairman: Councillor A. Best

Members: Councillors: J. Battrick, L. Davies, I. Fordham, J. Hood, P. Leason, A. Mottershead, N. Powell and C. Thornicroft

**Mayor's Charity**

Chairman: Councillor J. Davies

Vice Chairman: Councillor R. Townsend

Members: Councillors: L. Davies, I. Fordham, T. Kelt, R. Kenney, J. Metters and J. Powell

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In addition, the Town Mayor and the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee are ex-officio members of all committees and sub-committees where they are not members in their own right, as set out in Standing Orders.

**GP24/011 Appointment to Steering/Working Groups:**

RESOLVED: To make the following appointments to Town Council Steering and Working Groups for the municipal year 2023-24:

**Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

No appointments were made to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

**Stone Heritage Centre Steering Group**

Members: Councillors: J. Davies, J. Hood, R. Kenney and P. Leason

Co-opted Members: S. Nuttall, S. Booth, T. Cockin and H. Frost

**Engagement with Young People**

Members: Councillors: J. Battrick, A. Best, K. Dawson and J. Powell

**GP24/012 Appointment to Outside Bodies**

RESOLVED: To make the following appointments of Council representatives on outside bodies:

**Stone ATC (Mayor plus 1 member)**

Councillors: Town Mayor with one post remaining vacant

**Age Concern Stone & District (2 members)**

Councillors: J. Davies and C. Thornicroft

**Stafford & Stone Access Group (1 member)**

Councillor T. Kelt

**Trustees of the Town Hall Charity (all members)**

All Councillors

**Stone Community Hub Group (3 members)**

Councillors: J. Battrick, J. Hood and J. Powell

**Stone Area Parish Liaison Group (1 member)**

Councillor J. Davies

**Stone Traders Group Directors' Meeting (Councillors attend on a rotating basis)**

Councillors: A. Burgess, I. Fordham, J. Hood and T. Kelt

NOTE: Current membership of the following bodies will continue until the stated dates, or until retirement by an individual member, even if the members cease to be members of the Council.

**Stone Common Plot Trustees (5 members for a four-year term)**

Councillor C. Thornicroft (term runs to May 2026)

Councillors: A. Burgess, J. Hood, T. Kelt and R. Townsend (all members' terms run to May 2027)

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**Richard Vernon Trust** (3 members for a four-year term)

Councillors: J. Davies, P. Leason and J. Powell (all members' terms run to 2027)

**SPCA Executive Committee** (one member elected for a two-year term)

Member: M. Green (new appointment to be made in December 2023)

**GP24/013**     **Covid-19 Reflection Orchard**

The Committee considered the wording of the Plaque in the Reflection Orchard which was an item carried forward from the previous meeting of the Committee (Reference Minute Number: GP23/204).

A copy of the suggested wording prepared by Councillor Townsend had been attached to the agenda for the meeting.

It was also suggested that a secondary plaque be placed on the bench to indicate when the orchard was opened, and that it was funded by Stone Town Council.

RESOLVED: That the following wording prepared by Councillor Townsend be installed on the plaque in the Reflection Orchard on Crown Meadow:

*'You are invited to take a moment of rest and reflection to remember the people of Stone affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. These cherry trees and bench are dedicated to those who lost their lives and to those who worked tirelessly for others'.*

RESOLVED: That a secondary plaque be placed on the bench to indicate when the orchard was opened, and that it was funded by Stone Town Council.

**GP24/014**     **Heritage Centre**

The Committee considered an update on Stone Heritage Centre following the appointment of a main contractor for the building works.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that the builders were on site and working. He was aware that they had installed the new stairs and had prepared the window openings for secondary glazing to be installed.

**GP24/015**     **Town Council Payments**

RESOLVED: To note the list\* of Town Council payments made during the period 1 March to 30 April 2023.

**GP24/016**     **Update from Working Groups:**

**Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

Councillor Hood reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had not met.

**Stone Heritage Centre Steering Group**

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

**Engagement with Young People**

Councillor Dawson confirmed that no meeting had taken place.

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**GP24/017**      **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 no meeting had taken place but a new date would soon be arranged.

**Stone ATC**

Councillor Davies informed the Committee that no meeting had taken place.

**Age Concern Stone & District**

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

**Stafford & Stone Access Group**

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

**Stone Common Plot Trustees**

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

**Stone Community Hub Liaison Group**

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

**SPCA Executive Committee**

M. Green was not available to give a report.

**Stone Traders Group Directors' Meeting**

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that he had a date for the next meeting of the Stone Traders Group Directors' which would be circulated.

**The meeting was adjourned and then reconvened after the Planning Consultative Committee meeting had taken place.**

**GP24/018**      **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.

**GP24/019**      **Confidential Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4 April 2023, Minute Numbers GP23/193, GP23/211 and GP23/212 be approved.

**CHAIRMAN**