

# Stone Town Council – Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee

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

**PRESENT:** Councillor J. Hood in the Chair and  
Councillors: A. Best, A. Burgess, J. Davies, K. Dawson, B. Kenney, R. Kenney, J. Powell  
and C. Thornicroft

Co-opted Member: J. Cook

Officers: L. Trigg and T. Williams

By Chairman's invitation: L. Davies

**ABSENT:** Councillors: P. Leason and A. Mottershead

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**TTP24/017** Apologies

Councillors: P. Leason and A. Mottershead

**TTP24/018** Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None

**TTP24/019** Representations from Members of the Public

None

**TTP24/020** Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee meeting held on 15 August 2023 (Minute Numbers TTP24/009– TTP24/016), were approved as a correct record.

**TTP24/021** Calendar of Events

The Committee considered the Town Council's Calendar of Events for 2023-24 and gave updates on events that had already taken place:

- Classic Car Event (Saturday 23 September 2023)  
The Chairman reported that the Classic Car event had been a remarkable success and very well attended all through the day.

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\* 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.

- Opening of Covid-19 Commemorative orchard (Tuesday 10 October 2023)  
The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the Opening of the Covid-19 commemorative orchard had been a pleasant and very well attended event that included a good representation of the town.

She reported on the moving words of Reverend Cartlidge and the Town Mayor and that it had been lovely to see the Grounds Maintenance Contractor, Mick Plant, in attendance and for everyone to admire the quality of his restoration work on the bench.

The Chairman said she hoped people would take a moment to sit and reflect on this awful and most unusual time.

- Remembrance Commemorations (Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 November 2023)  
The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that a meeting had been set to talk about the final arrangements for Remembrance and she hoped that everyone would be available on 11 and 12 November to attend the commemorations.

Councillor Davies confirmed that Remembrance Sunday would conclude outside St Michael's Church at the end of the Service as the parade would not be reassembling to proceed to Market Square.

- Christmas Lights Switch-On (Thursday 23 November 2023)  
The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the Christmas Lights Switch-On was traditionally a great day in the town and the organisation of this year's event was well underway. The Marketing and Events Organiser was making good progress with the arrangements, securing the school choirs, the compere and Warwick's Funfair.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that a minimum of eight stewards (in addition to those who already support the event) were needed to help on the night as Stone Lions were only able to look after lost children. As steward support was critical to the event being possible a deadline date was set for volunteers to put their names forward. He said that on the day, the role would commence at 4.30pm for a briefing in the Council Chamber and the duties were usually finished by around 8pm.

- Texas Flag Raising (Friday 29 December 2023)  
Councillor Davies informed the Sub-Committee that this was the small-scale commemoration where the Texas State Flag was raised to mark the Anniversary of Texas joining the Union in 1845.

The main event on the first Saturday in March (to coincide with the Farmers' Market) marks the anniversary of Texas gaining independence from Mexico in 1836.

#### **Events to be agreed in 2024**

- Town Council's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 1 April 2024

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Councillor Davies advised the Sub-Committee that this was a sweet and sour occasion as the Town Council existed to serve the local community but had lost valuable powers after the reorganisation of local Government.

Councillor Battrick put himself forward to be involved in the arrangements.

- St George's Day Re-enactment (Saturday 20 April 2024)  
The Sub-Committee confirmed its wish for a St George's Day Re-enactment to be held in 2024 and suggested a booking was made with the knights.
- Floating Market (provisionally 25, 26, 27 May 2024)  
Councillor Davies advised the Sub-Committee that he attended the Floating Market which was very good.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the organisers were very keen to come to Stone in 2024 but were unable to confirm availability just yet.

- 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day Landings (Thursday 6 June 2024)  
The setting up of a working group to consider the arrangements for marking the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day Landings were listed separately on the agenda (Minute Number TTP24/022).
- Puppet Tree Jamboree (July 2024)  
The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that Mr Leech of Peplum Puppets was keen to arrange a Puppet Tree Jamboree in 2024.

It was suggested the Jamboree did not take place on the same weekend as the Stone Rocks Festival at Christ Church Academy.

- Music Festival (July 2024)  
The Sub-Committee agreed in principle to the Town Council arranging a Music Festival in 2024 and acknowledged that there was a lot to organise as the biggest and most expensive event of all.

The Town Clerk suggested that consideration be given to rebranding the Music Festival in line with that of the Coronation Event, rather than continuing with its usual format.

The Sub-Committee were aware that Stone Traders were considering a music festival next year and dates would need to be co-ordinated.

The Sub-Committee noted that the Food and Drink Festival would be taking place in Westbridge Park on the first weekend in July 2024.

- Florence Brass Band Concert & Burma Star Commemoration (August 2024)  
The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that she hoped this event could take place again next year as it was a great concert and a special commemoration in

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Stone that attracted a mixture of age groups. She said the band were remarkable, and the cream teas very well received.

The Florence Brass Band Concert was agreed in principle to take place again in 2024. The suggestion was made that the Gurkha Signal Squadron on the camp be invited to attend.

- Any other suggested new events for 2024 and 2025

The Chairman invited the Sub-Committee to consider alternative events to Stone by the Sea. She said that while visiting BOD recently two ladies had been performing circus tricks and coaching children who were testing their skills. She observed how interactive the activities were and that children of all age groups were attracted to the circus tricks.

Other ideas suggested by the Sub-Committee were a dancing event, a beer festival (although not possible), a literary festival and firework display.

The Town Clerk raised the point that anything replacing Stone by the Sea would likely have a financial implication and this would need to be considered.

## **TTP24/022 D-Day 80**

The Sub-Committee considered the membership of a working group to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day Landings on Thursday 6 June 2024.

Councillor Davies offered to put some thoughts for a commemoration together and said he would look at the names of those involved in the D-Day Landings (on the war memorial) and would make enquiries as to whether the guys on the camp were available.

The Chairman suggested displaying the pictures (previously displayed at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee) in the heritage centre.

## **TTP24/023 Reports from Working Groups**

The Chairman invited representatives from each Working Group to address the Sub-Committee:

### **Remembrance Plaques Working Group**

Councillor Davies advised the Sub-Committee that the project was in progress (as things were changing all the time) and that she would like to have the Heritage Centre Manager involved from the outset.

### **Market Strategy Working Group**

The Chairman reported that no meeting of the Market Strategy Working Group had taken place.

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**TTP24/024 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.

**TTP24/025 Confidential Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Confidential Minutes of the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee, held on 15 August 2023 (Minute Numbers TTP24/009 and TTP24/016), be approved as a correct record.

**Chairman**

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