

Stone Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 7 November 2023

PRESENT: Councillor J. Davies in the Chair and
Councillors: A. Best, J. Battrick, K. Dawson, I. Fordham, J. Hood, T. Kelt, B. Kenney,
P. Leason, J. Metters and C. Thornicroft

Officers: L. Trigg and T. Williams

ABSENT: Councillors: A. Burgess, L. Davies, R. Kenney, A. Mottershead, J. Powell, N. Powell
and R. Townsend

Prayers

Before the meeting began Reverend Jim Cartlidge led prayers.

C24/062 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: A. Burgess, L. Davies, R. Kenney,
A. Mottershead, J. Powell, N. Powell and R. Townsend

C24/063 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None received.

C24/064 Representations from Members of the Public

None

C24/065 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 3 October 2023 (Minute Numbers C24/053 – C24/061), be approved as a correct record.

* 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.

C24/066 Committee Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) The draft minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 3 October 2023 (Minute Numbers GP24/094 – GP24/109), were noted.
- b) The draft minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 3 October 2023 (Minute Numbers GP24/110 – GP24/117), were noted.
- c) The draft minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 3 October 2023 (Minute Numbers PC24/031 – PC24/036), were noted.

**C24/067 Local Government Transparency Code 2015
Openness of Public Bodies Regulations 2014**

The information* for Quarter ending 30 September 2023 was noted.

C24/068 Civic Announcements

The Civic Announcements, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

The Town Mayor drew the Council's attention to the upcoming events which included Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas Lights Switch-On (11,12 and 23 November). He said that all occasions were hugely supported by the town, and he hoped that as many Town Councillors as possible would be able to attend.

The Town Mayor informed the Council about the annual Advent Windows Openings with many good organisations contributing to the decoration of windows in the High Street.

C24/069 Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Reports of Engagements

The Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's reports of engagements, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

The Town Mayor informed the Council that he had found it a great surprise to learn, upon moving to Stone, that the town had strong connections to the Royal Navy, through Admiral of the Fleet, John Jervis, 1st Earl St Vincent.

He said it had been a pleasure to join HMS St Vincent Association for its Annual General Meeting and Reunion Dinner in Portsmouth and to see how much Stone's famous son was revered elsewhere particularly in the Royal Navy and HMS Collingwood.

The Town Mayor advised the Council that it had been a pleasure and an honour this year to host a Trafalgar Dinner and show the important link between the

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work done by John Jervis in improving the quality of the Royal Navy in time for Nelson to achieve his victory at Trafalgar. He said it could have been a different matter if John Jervis hadn't addressed the corruption in the naval dock yard.

Councillor Hood informed the Town Council that Cathy and Mick O'Keefe's absence was felt by Town Councillors attending the Trafalgar Dinner and asked the Town Mayor if he would send a good wishes message to them on behalf of the Council.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned and then reconvened after the public sessions of the General Purposes Committee and the Planning Consultative Committee meetings had taken place.

C24/070 **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.

C24/071 **Confidential Committee Minutes**

- a) The Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 17 October 2023, Minute Numbers GP24/110, GP24/115 and GP24/116 and GP24/117 were noted.

TOWN MAYOR

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