

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

## Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 19 March 2024

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

Co-opted Member: J. Cook

Officers: L. Trigg, R. Edwards and T. Williams

By Chairman's invitation: L. Davies and R. Townsend

**ABSENT:** Councillors: A. Burgess, K. Dawson, B. Kenney, R. Kenney, P. Leason, A. Mottershead  
and J. Powell

---

**TTP24/037** Apologies

Councillors: K. Dawson, B. Kenney, R. Kenney, A. Mottershead and J. Powell

**TTP24/038** Declarations of Interest

None

**TTP24/039** Requests for Dispensations

**TTP24/040** Representations from Members of the Public

None

**TTP24/041** Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee meeting held on 16 January 2024 (Minute Numbers TTP24/026– TTP24/036), were approved as a correct record.

**TTP24/042** Calendar of Events

The Sub-Committee considered the Town Council's Calendar of Events for 2024-25 and gave updates on events that had taken place:

---

\* 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.

## 2024 – Events taken place

- Texas Flag Raising (Saturday 2 March 2024)  
Councillor Davies advised the Sub-Committee that the event had been well supported by Florence Brass Band and well attended by members of the public.

## 2024 – Upcoming/Agreed

- The Town Council's 50th Anniversary (Monday 1 April 2024)  
Councillor Davies advised the Sub-Committee that the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Stone Town Council would be marked with a theme at the Heritage Centre. He said he was considering inviting former staff of Stone Urban District Council and Stone Rural District Council (at the time of change of governance), to the Council Chamber to share recollections of this period.
- St George's Day Re-enactment (Saturday 20 April 2024)  
The St George's Day Re-enactment team were booked ready to deliver their jousting performance in Stone.
- Floating Market (provisionally 25, 26, 27 May 2024)  
No news had come back from the organiser, but it was hoped the Floating Market would take place during the late May Bank Holiday weekend.
- 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings (Thursday 6 June 2024)  
Councillor J. Davies advised the Sub-Committee that the working group wished to purchase the specially designed flag for flying on the flagpole to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day Landings. He said that Councillor Leason was arranging a church service to commemorate the occasion.

The Chairman invited Councillors to volunteer to the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Working Group to boost its current number of one.

Councillors L. Davies, J. Hood and R. Townsend agreed to join Councillor J. Davies. It was suggested that, in his absence, Councillor Leason was also invited to attend meetings.

- Puppet Tree Jamboree (29 June 2024)  
The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the Puppet Tree Jamboree founder was working enthusiastically to organise his event on 29 June and had already secured schools and the Scout & Guide Band to play a part in the programme.
- Classic Car Event (provisionally 27 July 2024)  
The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the Classic Car event would be held in July rather than September this year to avoid clashes with another event.

---

\* 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.

- Music Festival (31 August 2024)  
The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the Marketing and Events Co-ordinator was working hard to secure bands to perform at the music festival. She said she hoped the Town Council would have an opportunity to incorporate into the festival programme the Olympic successes of local athletes where their achievements could be showcased and celebrated.
- Florence Brass Band Concert & Burma Star Commemoration (18 August 2024)  
The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the Marketing and Events Organiser had arranged to meet the new Secretary of Florence Brass Band to discuss the programme for the concert in Stonefield Park. An ice cream van and cream teas would be incorporated into the itinerary.
- Remembrance Commemorations (10 and 11 November 2024)  
The Sub-Committee expressed its commitment to appropriately marking the Remembrance commemorations in the town on Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Questions were raised about the organisation of poppy sales as last year they had been sparse. Councillor Davies said he had contacts at the Royal British Legion Stafford Branch who would hopefully support Stone if needed.

- Christmas Lights Switch-On (Thursday 21 November 2024)  
The proposed date for the event was set and the arrangements were in the planning.

The Chairman asked that an early check is undertaken on the lights on Walton Roundabout to identify any faults that might jeopardise the display.

- Texas Flag Raising, marking the anniversary of Texas joining the Union on 29 December 1845 (Sunday 29 December 2024)

This event would proceed as normal.

- Consideration of an alternative free event to Stone by the Sea  
The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that Mr Leech of (Puppet Tree Jamboree) had taken her to visit Everything Circus in Newcastle under Lyme. She said the venue was like being in a Big Top and prompted her to wonder whether a group of circus performers would consider entertaining the children of the town, in the High Street. The Sub-Committee agreed that enquiries should be made.

- Provisional new events in 2024 (Vegan Market, Cycle Race, Antiques Market)  
The Chairman confirmed that the proposed Cycle Race and Antiques Market would not be taking place in 2024 but was looking hopeful for 2025.

The organiser of the Vegan Market had been asked to consider whether the market could be held on the same day as the Puppet Jamboree and the Town Clerk was waiting to know whether this was agreeable.

---

\* 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.

- Any other suggested new events for 2024 and 2025

The Chairman invited new ideas for events and Councillor Townsend informed the Sub-Committee that he had attended the opening of a successful Arts Council funded event in Cheadle last week. The event was staged by an organisation called 'Outside', a Staffordshire Moorlands based community arts programme. He said that representatives of Outside didn't see any reason why they couldn't come across the border to work with Stone Town Council.

#### **TTP24/043 Friendship Agreement with Bagnacavallo**

The Sub-Committee considered the future of the Friendship Agreement with Bagnacavallo in Northern Italy.

The Chairman invited Councillor Davies to address the Sub-Committee.

Councillor Davies described Bagnacavallo as a delightful old papal town with lots of similarities to Stone and a good place for Stone to commit to its friendship twinning. The relationship did not constitute a formal twinning but a friendship twinning at minimum cost to the Council and no budget was needed.

He explained how Stone's friendship twinning with Bagnacavallo had come about 20 years ago through the development of a relationship between Biddulph and the nearby Italian town of Fusignano and was promoted by Italian people living locally to Stone. Following the exchange of visits between the people of Bagnacavallo and the people of Stone, and subsequent signing of agreements on both sides, the friendship was operated via the Stone Twinning Committee.

Councillor Davies expressed his view that the Town Council now needed to update its friendship connections with Bagnacavallo as the Twinning Committee, later called Friends of Bagnacavallo, now appeared to be inactive. As Stone Town Council had given authority to the Twinning Committee to manage the friendship, Bagnacavallo felt it had no option than to deal with the Committee and not the Town Council.

Councillor Davies said that he and Councillor L. Davies were in touch with some people in Bagnacavallo and had maintained their contacts. He said the two towns had a good relationship and it was frustrating the friendship could not be developed further because of the apparent inactivity of the Twinning Committee. Councillor Davies advised the Sub-Committee that the Chairwoman of the Association Amici di Neresheim had confirmed that whilst she had received informal contact from individuals on the Friends of Bagnacavallo Committee, there had been no formal contact with the body.

Councillor Davies proposed the Sub-Committee recommend to the General Purposes Committee that the Town Council restate its friendship with Bagnacavallo and ask that future communications are sent directly to Stone Town Council.

---

\* 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.

The Sub-Committee agreed that it should contact the Twinning Committee chairman, Mr Guiseppe Termine, to establish whether the organisation was still operating prior to the Town Council determining how to proceed.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Council re-affirms its commitment to the friendship agreement between Stone and Bagnacavallo and seeks clarification of the current status of the activities of the 'Friends of Bagnacavallo' group (Stone Twinning Committee) under this agreement.

**TTP24/044 Reports from Working Groups**

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

**Remembrance Plaques Working Group**

Councillor L. Davies advised the Sub-Committee that the project was at a point where the costings could be calculated. No timescales for installing the plaques had been set.

**Market Strategy Working Group**

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

**D-Day 80 (Thursday 6 June 2024)**

A report on the commemoration had been given earlier in the meeting.

**TTP24/045 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.

**TTP24/046 Confidential Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Confidential Minutes of the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee, held on 16 January 2024 (Minute Numbers TTP24/026 and TTP24/036), be approved as a correct record.

**Chairman**

---

\* 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.