



Town Clerk

Les Trigg

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25 March 2024

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** will be held in the **Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone**, on **TUESDAY 2 APRIL 2024 at 7:00pm** for consideration of the matters itemised in the following agenda.

Les Trigg
Town Clerk

Agenda

1. **To receive apologies for absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Requests for Dispensations Received**
4. **Representations from Members of the Public**

To consider representations from members of the public on items to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with the Council's scheme of public participation.

5. **To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 5 March 2024, Minute Numbers C24/091 – C24/098 (attached).**

6. **To receive the draft minutes and decisions of the under mentioned Committees:**
 - a) General Purposes Committee meeting held on 5 March 2024, Minute Numbers GP24/171 – GP24/186 (attached).
 - b) Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 5 March 2024, Minute Numbers PC24/061 – PC24/066 (attached).
7. **To receive the forthcoming Civic Announcements** (attached).
8. **To receive the Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Reports of Engagements** (attached).

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Town Council meeting as observers and/or to make representations to the committee in accordance with the Council's scheme of public participation. Details of the scheme are displayed in the Council's notice boards and website.

Please access the Council Chamber from the rear of the building.

Stone Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 5 March 2024

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

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

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

Prayers

Before the meeting began Reverend Jim Cartlidge led prayers.

C24/091 Apologies

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

C24/092 Declarations of Interest

None received.

C24/093 Requests for Dispensations

None received.

C24/094 Representations from Members of the Public

None

C24/095 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 13 February 2024 (Minute Numbers C24/079 – C24/090), 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.

C24/096 **Committee Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) The draft minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 13 February 2024 (Minute Numbers PC24/055 – PC24/060), were noted.

C24/097 **Civic Announcements**

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

The Town Mayor drew the Council's attention to his upcoming engagements, particularly the Charity Quiz Night on Friday 8 March 2024 and his Mayor's Street Collection on Saturday 6 April 2024, for which he would welcome the support of Town Councillors.

C24/098 **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 advised the Council that Aston and Little Stoke Scouts had visited the Council Chamber on 20 February 2024 and were intrigued by the history of Stone. He said that during their visit they had expressed a desire to learn more about the town's links with Bagnacavallo in Italy and he had made enquiries to Bagnacavallo Twinning Committee about reigniting active relations between the towns.

TOWN MAYOR

* 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.

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 5 March 2024

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

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

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

GP24/171 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: A. Mottershead, J. Powell, 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.

GP24/172 Declarations of Interest

None

GP24/173 Requests for Dispensations

None

GP24/174 To receive the report of the County Councillors

County Councillor Jill Hood

The Chairman invited Councillor Hood to address the Committee.

Pingle Lane

Councillor Hood advised the Committee that she had reached the final stages in her investigations to establish who owns Pingle Lane and the outcome is that there is no registered owner. She said that ancient law dictated that each householder living on, and whose home was accessed from Pingle Lane, is responsible for the shared costs.

County Councillor I. Parry

Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting.

GP24/175 To receive the report of Borough Councillors

The Chairman invited Borough Councillors to address the Committee.

* 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.

Councillor Fordham advised the Committee that Stafford Borough Council had approved its Council Tax rise which involved a 2.99% increase.

GP24/176 Representations from Members of the Public

None

GP24/177 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6 February 2024 (Minute Numbers GP24/151 – GP24/170), be approved as a correct record.

GP24/178 Minutes of Sub-Committees

There were no sub-committee minutes.

GP24/179 Review of Standing Orders

The Committee undertook to review the Council's Standing Orders* which had been presented at the last meeting of the Committee and circulated electronically with the agenda for this meeting. The document had been reviewed by the Town Clerk who did not propose any changes.

RESOLVED: That no changes were required to the Town Council's Standing Orders.

GP24/180 Review of Financial Regulations

The Committee undertook to review the Council's Financial Regulations* which had been presented at the last meeting of the Committee and circulated electronically with the agenda for this meeting. The document had been reviewed by the Town Clerk who did not propose any changes.

RESOLVED: That no changes were required to the Town Council's Financial Regulations.

GP24/181 Annual Review of Risk Management

The Committee received the report* of the Town Clerk on the Annual Review of Risk Management. The report had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that the Council was required to consider risks on an annual basis and the report had been updated to take account of the Heritage Centre and a few other smaller details.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Review of Risk Management be accepted by the Town Council.

GP24/182 Town Council Payments

RESOLVED: To note the list* of Town Council payments made during the period 1 to 31 January 2024.

* 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 Town Clerk advised the Committee that the Town Council supported a number of lighting pillars in the town and the annual costs of maintaining them had been included in the payments list.

GP24/183 Update from Working Groups:

Stone Heritage Centre Steering Group

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

Engagement with Young People

Councillor Dawson advised the Committee that she had nothing to report on this occasion.

50th Anniversary of Stone Town Council

Councillor Davies informed the Committee that his was looking to co-ordinate the marking of the Town Council's 50th Anniversary with the opening of the Heritage Centre.

GP24/184 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 a meeting would be arranged soon.

Stone ATC

Councillor Davies advised the Committee that no meeting had taken place since the welfare meeting of Stone ATC on 6 February 2024.

Age Concern Stone & District

Councillor Thornicroft advised the Committee that a meeting was scheduled on Friday 8 March 2024.

Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor Kelt informed the Committee that a meeting had taken place on 26 February 2024 which was attended by representatives from Stafford Gatehouse Theatre. He said there were some issues with the seating arrangements in the little theatre making access difficult for less able people (for various reasons) and there were health and safety concerns. Different options were considered but changes were unlikely as the seating was newly installed.

The group was still looking at the Best Toilet Awards in the Borough.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

Councillor Hood advised the Committee that a recent meeting had taken place but she was unable to attend.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

Councillor Hood advised the Committee that the Liaison Group were considering a suitable date for a meeting.

SPCA Executive Committee

Councillor Kelt advised the Committee that he was not aware that any recent meeting 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.

Stone Traders Group Directors' Meeting

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

West Midlands Railway and other rail matters

Councillor Kelt advised the Committee that this was a new item on the agenda to enable the reporting to the Council of important issues raised by regular railway and stakeholder meetings.

Councillor Kelt reported on a meeting that has taken place in February 2024 between West Midlands Trains/London Northwestern Railway and the stakeholders.

He said that attendees had considered how the new timetable scheduling introduced in December 2023 was performing. The main concerns expressed were that passengers to Birmingham must now change at Stafford to the Cross-Country Service. The delay that used to exist when it was just West Midlands Trains has been reduced but in one direction the six-minute change over across the footbridge could become problematic. When queried the train operating company were unwilling to discuss the issue because they had discussed it many times before and nothing had changed.

Councillor Kelt advised the Committee that other service improvements were in the pipeline but there was no date given or assurances they would happen. This included reopening stations at Barlaston, Wedgwood and Trentham which could bring about another look at direct journeys to Birmingham because there will be more interest from members of the public wanting to take trains from these stations.

Councillor Kelt informed the Committee that the next meeting would be held on 14 May 2024, and that a Stone Station Open Day would be taking place on 13 March 2024 where everyone was welcome to attend.

GP24/185 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.

GP24/186 Confidential Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6 February 2024, Minute Numbers GP24/151, GP24/161 and GP24/162 be approved.

CHAIRMAN

Stone Town Council – Planning Consultative Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 5 March 2024

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

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

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

PC24/061 **Apologies**

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

PC24/062 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

Councillor R. Kenney advised the Committee that as a member of Stafford Borough Council's Planning Committee, he would not speak or vote on the planning applications listed on the agenda.

PC24/063 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

PC24/064 **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 13 February 2024 (Minute Numbers PC24/055 – PC24/060), be approved as a correct record.

PC24/065 **Planning Applications**

Application Number – 24/38627/POTH

Applicant – Mrs R. Domb

Location – 2 Granville Square, Stone

Development – Change of use from commercial premises to 4 no. apartment dwellings and associated refuse and cycle stores.

Observations: The Town Council supports the development of the upper levels of shops for residential accommodation and acknowledges mitigation of some of the concerns raised in response to planning application 23/38165/POTH.

However, the Town Council maintains its objection as not all points of concern have been satisfactorily addressed, particularly in relation to those raised by the Highways Department.

The Town Council considers that this planning application fails to provide sufficient detail about how the applicant intends storing refuse bins outside the premises and how the blocking of pavements will be avoided during the renovation work. The dropped kerbs to the pavements (around the perimeter of Granville Square) provide a vital access link for people with mobility issues.

Application Number – 23/38498/FUL

Applicant – Mrs A. Booth (Back2Back Investments Ltd)

Location – Land off Beacon Road, Walton

Development – Gymnasium Centre (Class E(d) (formally D2)

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 23/38565/HOU

Applicant – Mr & Mrs Buchan

Location – 50 Redwood Avenue, Stone

Development – Two storey rear extension

Observations: The Town Council made no comments on this planning application.

Application Number – 23/38442/LBC

Applicant – The Management Team

Location – Crown Hotel, 38 High Street, Stone

Development – Internal re-configuration to create new spa for guests.

Observations: The Town Council wishes to make no comments pending an investigation by the Conservation Officer and the Planning Officer in respect of addressing the effective disposal of wastewater (to resolve regular instances of flooding impacting neighbouring properties) and would like to see more detailed plans in respect of the proposal for a spa.

Application Number – 24/38673/HOU

Applicant – Mr D. Bellerby

Location – 44 Mount Avenue, Stone

Development – Two storey rear extension with a single storey rear and side extension, including internal alterations and dropped kerb/amended access.

Observations: The Town Council raises objections to the proposal due to the overbearing and intensive nature of the development and lack of detail in the plans.

PC24/066

To note the following items considered under delegated powers where no objections were forwarded to Stafford Borough Council due to no Member asking for the item to be considered by a special meeting of the Committee.

Application Number – 23/37487/FUL (amended plans)

Applicant – Mr Jeffries (Stone Developments Ltd)

Location – Land Adjacent 14 Sutherland Road, Stone

Development – Two storey dwelling

Amendments – The number of bedrooms has been reduced to three and there will be two parking spaces at the front and no parking at the rear. New documentation and updates are detailed on the planning portal (includes updates to the Construction Management Statement and Planning Statement).

Observations: The Town Council wishes to restate its comments made on 6 July 2023, in response to the original planning application:

The Town Council raises objections to this planning application on the grounds that the development proposal would be overbearing in its setting. The Town Council is also concerned about the implications of the access onto Weavers Lane and supports the County Highways Department's representation.

CHAIRMAN

STONE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
2 April 2024
CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Mayor

Friday 5 April 2024	Leek Town Mayor's Civic Celebration
Saturday 6 April 2024	Stone Town Mayor's Charity Street Collection
Thursday 11 April 2024	Stafford Borough Mayor's Civic Dinner at Stafford Rugby Club
Monday 15 April 2024	Invitation from the High Sheriff of Staffordshire to the Formal Opening of the Trinity Term of Stafford Crown Court
Tuesday 16 April 2024	Reverend Terry Bloor's Visit to the Council Chamber
Wednesday 17 April 2024	Oak Tree Farm Rural Project - Annual General Meeting
Saturday 20 April 2024	St George's Day Re-Enactment in the High Street
Saturday 20 April 2024	Stone Town Mayor's Civic Dinner
Wednesday 24 April 2024	Tactical Supply Wing Commanding Officer's visit to the Council Chamber
Saturday 27 April 2024	Opening of Westbridge Park
Saturday 27 April 2024	RAFSC & SW Association President's Annual Dinner
Friday 3 May 2024	HMS Collingwood Ceremonial Divisions
Saturday 11 May 2024	Stafford Borough Council's Annual Meeting and Mayor Making

Deputy Mayor

No Civic Engagements

TOWN MAYOR

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT – 2 April 24

Friday 1 Mar 24

In response to a request from Market Drayton Town Council and Joules Brewery, the Mayor welcomed their Town Mayor and other representatives at the Crown Wharf for a meeting with Anna Brakel from the brewery. Valuable discussions were had regarding the success of the partnership between Stone Town Council, Joules Brewery and the Theatre Trust.

Saturday 2 Mar 24

In March 1836 Texas won its independence from Mexico and to mark the anniversary, the flag of the Lone Star State was raised on the flagpole in the High St and the Florence Brass band accompanied the singing of the state song. In his speech the Mayor explained how Stone had become the sister city of Carthage, Texas.

Friday 8 Mar 24

A Quiz Night is always a popular fund-raiser, especially a quiz devised by Stone's own 'Quiz Inquisitor', Neil Norman. A full house at the Frank Jordan Centre enjoyed an evening of intellectual challenge and an excellent sum was raised for the Mayor's charities: Age Concern (Stone & District) and Oak Tree Farm. The Mayor and Mayoress's team triumphed by ½ point.

Wednesday 13 Mar 24

Stone is blessed with a characterful railway station building currently let to the Town Council. However, although in recent years a better and more popular train service has been provided at the station itself, new timetable changes have not improved the service. Nevertheless, Network Rail and the train operating companies have been keen to engage with the public and the Mayor was pleased to attend an Open Day to celebrate station improvements and the work of the station volunteers, organised by the North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership.

Saturday 16 Mar 24

The Mayor had another opportunity to combine both his civic role and his role as a choir member at the Stone Choral Society concert at St Dominic's Priory School Hall. The Mayoress fulfilled her role as a music critic and was delighted to meet two excellent young singers who were appearing as soloists.

DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT – 2 April 24

Friday 15 Mar 24

I was interested to attend a special preview evening for the Museum of the Moon exhibition at St Giles the Abbot church in Cheadle on Friday 15 March. The evening was staged to launch three weeks of events in Cheadle which celebrate the life of pioneering local astronomer Mary Adela Blagg. The centrepiece of the celebration is the Museum of the Moon art installation by Luke Jerram, an amazing model and projection of the moon, installed in the church for the duration of the festival. The preview event was very well

attended by a range of community representatives and was well-orchestrated with speakers and live music. Everyone was astonished at the impressive art installation, a photo of which is attached, (because it is impossible to describe). Cheadle is now enjoying a series of events based around music, theatre, crafts and education celebrating its famous resident. The events have been made possible through a collaboration of various organisations in the town inspired and led by [OUTSIDE \(outsidearts.org\)](http://outsidearts.org) which is a Staffordshire based organisation recently founded to support arts-based activities in Staffordshire.



