

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 September 2024**

PRESENT: Councillor P. Leason in the Chair and
Councillors: A. Best, A. Burgess, J. Davies and L. Davies

Co-opted Member: J. Cook

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

By Chairman's invitation: No Councillors

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

In the absence of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman for this Sub-Committee, the Town Mayor, Councillor Leason, was elected to Chair the meeting.

TTP25/009 Apologies

Councillors: J. Hood, B. Kenney, R. Kenney and A. Mottershead

TTP25/010 Declarations of Interest

None

TTP25/011 Requests for Dispensations

None

TTP25/012 Representations from Members of the Public

None

TTP25/013 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee meeting held on 16 July 2024 (Minute Numbers TTP25/001– TTP25/008), were 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.

TTP25/014 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:

2024 – Events that have taken place

- Classic Car Event (Saturday 27 July 2024)
The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the Classic Car Event had been a well-attended, successful event with lots of exhibits on display in the High Street with a number of interesting models.
- Florence Brass Band Concert & Burma Star Commemoration (Sunday 18 August 2024)
The Chairman reported that the Florence Brass Band Concert, set in the beautiful backdrop of Stonefield Park, had been a most enjoyable and well-attended event. Cream teas were provided by the Town Council and a good time was had by all.
- Summer Circus Skills (Monday 19 to Wednesday 21 August 2024)
The Chairman reported that this was a new and successful event which had attracted lots of children to Market Square to practice their circus skills.
- Summer Street Party (Saturday 31 August 2024)
The Chairman informed the Sub-Committee that the Summer Street Party had been a popular and well attended event opened by two of the three Stone Olympic medallists who had worked extremely hard signing autographs. There were a lot of young families which was good to see, and only two minor incidents occurred which were well controlled by the Police and security staff.

2024 – Upcoming/Agreed

- Remembrance Commemorations (10 and 11 November 2024)
The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the invitations to the Remembrance Commemorations in November had been issued.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council was working in consultation with the Royal British Legion and the traditional format for the occasions would be adopted again this year. Attendees would not be asked to process to Market Square after the Church Service.

- Vegan Market (Saturday 16 November 2024)
The Chairman confirmed that a vegan market would be taking place on Saturday 16 November 2024. This was a new event and the first market of its kind to be arranged in the town.

Mr Cook asked that the details are shared on social media. He said the people running the market had started to promote it on Facebook.

* 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.

- Christmas Lights Switch-On (Thursday 21 November 2024)
The Chairman informed the Sub-Committee that the three Stone Olympians were switching the Christmas Lights Switch-On in Stafford this year. The Town Clerk said it was traditional in Stone for the Town Mayor to switch the lights alongside the winner of the Christmas Card competition.
- Texas Flag Raising, marking the anniversary of Texas joining the Union on 29 December 1845 (Sunday 29 December 2024)
Councillor Davies advised the Sub-Committee that the Texas Flag Raising event in December would be small scale.
- Any other suggested new events for 2024 and 2025
The Chairman invited new ideas for events and suggested that arrangements for the VE Day celebrations in May 2025 commence in earnest.

He informed the Sub-Committee that Stafford had set up a committee to look at the arrangements for their celebratory event and suggested the Sub-Committee set up a working group to consider the VE Day celebrations in Stone.

RESOLVED: That a VE Day Working Group is set up with membership consisting of Councillor J. Davies (who would act as co-ordinator), and additional members appointed by the General Purposes Committee.

TTP25/015 Reports from Working Groups

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

Remembrance Plaques Working Group

Councillor J. Davies advised the Sub-Committee that the working group was making progress but was waiting for the timing to be right so that its work could be aligned with the opening of the Heritage Centre.

Market Strategy Working Group

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

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.