

**Town Clerk** 

Les Trigg

15 Station Road STONE ST15 8JP

Tel: 01785 619740

Email: clerk@stonetowncouncil.gov.uk

24 September 2024

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** will be held in the **Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone**, on **TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2024** at **7:00pm** for consideration of the matters itemised in the following agenda.

Les Trigg Town Clerk

## <u>Agenda</u>

- 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 6 August 2024, Minute Numbers C25/036 – C25/045 (attached).

#### 6. To receive the draft minutes and decisions of the under mentioned Committees:

- a) General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6 August 2024, Minute Numbers GP25/039 GP25/053 (attached).
- b) Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 6 August 2024, Minute Numbers PC25/019 PC25/024 (attached).

#### 7. Allotment Awards

To award the winners of the Allotments Competition 2024.

#### 8. Conclusion of Audit 2023-24

To note receipt of the External Auditor's Report and Certificate for the year ending 31 March 2024.

A letter from the External Auditor and the External Auditor's Report and Certificate is attached.

- 9. To receive the forthcoming Civic Announcements (attached).
- 10. To receive the Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Reports of Engagements (attached).

#### 11. 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.

#### 12. Confidential Minutes

To receive the Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 6 August 2024, Minute Numbers GP25/039 and GP25/053 (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 6 August 2024

PRESENT: Councillor P. Leason in the Chair and

Councillors: J. Battrick, J. Davies, L. Davies, J. Hood, T. Kelt, B. Kenney, R. Kenney,

J. Metters, J. Powell and C. Thornicroft

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

ABSENT: Councillors: A. Best, A. Burgess, K. Dawson, I. Fordham, A. Mottershead, N. Powell

and R. Townsend

#### **Prayers**

Before the meeting began Councillor Mrs Lin Davies led prayers.

#### Presentation of the Mayor's Charity Collection for 2023-24

The Past Town Mayor, Councillor Jim Davies, awarded half of the proceeds of his Mayor's Charity appeal 2023-24, totalling £1,050, to Mr Neil Norman of Age Concern Stone & District.

Mr Norman, Treasurer of the charity, gave thanks to Councillor Davies and the Town Council on behalf of the charity and trustees for the monies received.

A total value of £2,100 had been raised by Councillor Davies during his mayoral term and representatives of his other charity, Oak Tree Farm Rural Project, had received their award during the previous week when they visited the Council Chamber.

# C25/036 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: A. Best, K. Dawson, A. Mottershead, N. Powell and R. Townsend

#### C25/037 Declarations of Interest

None received.

# C25/038 Requests for Dispensations

None received.

<sup>\*</sup> 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.

#### C25/039 Representations from Members of the Public

None

# C25/040 Minutes

#### **RESOLVED:**

 That the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 2 July 2024 (Minute Numbers C25/026 – C25/035), be approved as a correct record.

#### C25/041 Committee Minutes

#### **RESOLVED:**

- a) The draft minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 2 July 2024 (Minute Numbers GP25/023 GP25/038), were noted.
- b) The draft minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 2 July 2024 (Minute Numbers PC25/013 PC25/018), were noted.

# C25/042 <u>To thank the outgoing Mayor's Cadets for their services during 2023-24</u> Mayor's Cadets

The Town Mayor invited Past Town Mayor, Councillor Jim Davies, to come forward to thank his Cadets for their conscientious service through the now completed mayoral year 2023-24, and to award certificates of appreciation in acknowledgement of their duty and support.

Sergeant William Follows served a full term as Mayor's Air Cadet (representing 2352 (Stone) Squadron Air Training Corps) and Jude Turner-Farmer, formerly Lance Corporal, served a part term as Mayor's Army Cadet (representing Stone Detachment (Mercian Regiment) Army Cadets).

After photographs had been taken and Councillor Davies had wished the boys well in their future careers, the Mayor's Cadets returned to their seats in the public gallery.

# C25/043 <u>Local Government Transparency Code 2015</u> Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

The information\* for Quarter ending 30 June 2024 was noted.

#### C25/044 Civic Announcements

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

<sup>\*</sup> 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.

## C25/045 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 and the Deputy Town Mayor informed the Town Council about the engagements they had attended.

The Town Mayor thanked those that had supported Civic Sunday on 14 July and the Portuguese Evening on 25 July 2024, both of which were successful and enjoyable occasions.

The Town Mayor had accompanied the allotment judges on their visits to the allotments in Mount Road and Newcastle Road on 26 July 2024 and was very impressed with the variety of produce grown.

The Town Mayor attended the Classic Car show in the High Street on Saturday 27 July, where several visitors to Stone had commented to him that it was a fabulous event.

The Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Metters, informed the Town Council about his attendance at the Christ Church Academy Award Ceremony at Christ Church (Church) on Wednesday 10 July.

Councillor Metters said the Awards Ceremony was a fantastic event and that it was lovely to see the large variety of awards presented in recognition of students and praise of their work. He enjoyed seeing first-hand the culmination of hard work, effort, talent and the passion of students, teachers and governors alike.

**TOWN MAYOR** 

<sup>\*</sup> 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 6 August 2024

**PRESENT:** Councillor R. Kenney in the Chair, and

Councillors: J. Battrick, J. Davies, L. Davies, J. Hood, T. Kelt, B. Kenney, P. Leason,

J. Metters, J. Powell and C. Thornicroft

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

ABSENT: Councillors: A. Best, A. Burgess, K. Dawson, I. Fordham, A. Mottershead,

N. Powell and R. Townsend

## GP25/039 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: A. Best, K. Dawson, A. Mottershead, 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.

#### **GP25/040** Declarations of Interest

None

## **GP25/041** Requests for Dispensations

None

#### **GP25/042** To receive the report of the County Councillors

#### **County Councillor Jill Hood**

Councillor Jill Hood advised the Committee that she had no report on this occasion.

# **County Councillor I. Parry**

Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting.

# **GP25/043** To receive the report of Borough Councillors

The Chairman invited Borough Councillors to address the Committee.

Councillor R. Kenney advised the Committee that the 'High Street Boost Stafford' Programme had been launched within the last week and Stone will be getting an equivalent 'High Street Boost' providing an opportunity for businesses to learn how to enhance their operations, attract more customers and in turn increase profitability. There will be business and retail workshops, interactive sessions led by experienced retail experts with topics such as digital marketing strategy and

<sup>\*</sup> 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.

customer engagement techniques. One to one personalised and fully funded support will also be available.

Councillor Hood advised the Committee that the Borough Council had introduced a 'Healthy Towns' initiative which after pressure had been extended to include Stone town. Any resident who has no more than £31,000 savings can apply for assistance with small repairs in the home. The repair must cost no more than £500 and be completed in a day.

Councillor Mrs Hood said she was pleased the scheme included Stone and hoped residents would take the opportunity to have outstanding repairs undertaken.

#### **GP25/044** Representations from Members of the Public

None

## GP25/045 Minutes

**RESOLVED:** 

That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 2 July 2024 (Minute Numbers GP25/023 – GP25/038), be approved as a correct record.

#### **GP25/046** Minutes of Sub-Committees

- a) Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee held on 16 July 2024 (Minute Numbers TTP25/001 – TTP25/008), that the draft minutes be noted, and the recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in Minute Number TTP25/007 be adopted.
- b) Environment Sub-Committee held on 16 July 2024 (Minute Numbers ENV25/001 – ENV25/010), that the draft minutes be noted, and the recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in Minute Numbers ENV25/007 (i) and ENV25/010 be adopted.
- c) Mayor's Charity Sub-Committee held on 16 July 2024 (Minute Numbers MC25/001 MC25/006), that the draft minutes be noted.

#### **GP25/047** Budget Monitoring Report – June 2024

The report\* of the Town Clerk was noted.

**RESOLVED: That the Committee:** 

- Notes the approved adjustments to the Council's budget set out at Appendix A.
- Notes the Council's performance against budget at the end of June 2024.
- Refers the income situation at the Town Market to the Tourism and Town Promotion Sub-Committee for further analysis and recommendations.

#### **GP25/048** Heritage Centre

The Committee considered an update on Stone Heritage Centre.

<sup>\*</sup> 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 informed the Committee that the Heritage Centre Manager was involved in several projects including the arrangements for loan agreements, and that he had generated a significant number of useful contacts.

#### **GP25/049** Town Council Payments

RESOLVED: To note the list\* of Town Council payments made during the period 1 to 30 June 2024.

#### **GP25/050 Update from Working Groups:**

#### **Stone Heritage Centre Steering Group**

There was no additional update from the Steering Group.

#### **Engagement with Young People**

Councillor Dawson was not available to give an update on the work of the working group.

# GP25/051 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 J. Davies advised the Committee that he was looking to hold the next meeting in the autumn and was considering extending invitations to more visiting speakers.

#### **Stone ATC**

Councillor J. Davies advised the Committee that the Squadron was doing very well. He said the next meeting will be held on 17 September 2024.

#### Age Concern Stone & District

Councillor J. Davies advised the Committee that he had attended a meeting on 2 August 2024 and was very pleased to note the charity was in a sound financial state. They are currently looking to recruit high quality volunteers both in the office and as case workers.

#### **Stafford & Stone Access Group**

Councillor Kelt advised the Committee that the Access Group had visited Crown Wharf Theatre to look at the facilities and how accessible they were. This included the Crown Wharf Tap toilets and comments had been favourable.

He said the Access Group had a meeting in July that mainly dealt with Highways issues such as problems with traffic lights, dropped kerbs, e-bikes, scooters and reinstating services/making good after road works. Highways staff who were present confirmed that disruption from road works had a reinstatement target of six months. He said he understood the County were currently investing significantly in highway and footpath maintenance.

The next meeting of the Access Group will take place in October 2024.

#### **Stone Common Plot Trustees**

Councillor Hood advised the Committee that the next meeting would be held on 11 August 2024.

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#### **Stone Community Hub Liaison Group**

Councillor Hood advised the Committee that no meeting of the Hub Liaison Group had taken place.

#### **SPCA Executive Committee**

Councillor Kelt advised the Committee that the next meeting would be held in September 2024.

#### **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 a new representative had been introduced to the group. There has been continued discussion on the service terminating at Stafford and Crewe with no encouragement from the train operating company. There were plans to ask local MPs to offer their support.

Councillor Kelt said there was an urgent review into the West Midlands Transport Schemes as a whole and they have received information on the Virgin application for the West Coast Main Line. The next meeting will be held in September 2024.

Councillor Kelt advised the Committee that there was a possibility that parking charges would soon be introduced at Station Approach in Stone.

The meeting was suspended and reconvened after the Planning Consultative Committee meeting.

#### GP25/052 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.

#### **GP25/053** Staffing Matters

The Committee considered the report\* of the Town Clerk which had been attached to the agenda for the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council reappoints to the post of Marketing and Events Organiser in line with the job description, person specification and recommendations enclosed in the report.

**CHAIRMAN** 

<sup>\*</sup> 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 – Planning Consultative Committee**

# Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 6 August 2024

**PRESENT:** Councillor T. Kelt in the Chair, and

Councillors: J. Battrick, J. Davies, L. Davies, J. Hood, B. Kenney, R. Kenney,

P. Leason, J. Metters, J. Powell and C. Thornicroft

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

ABSENT: Councillors: A. Best, A. Burgess, K. Dawson, I. Fordham, A. Mottershead, N. Powell

and R. Townsend

#### PC25/019 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: A. Best, K. Dawson, A. Mottershead, N. Powell, and R. Townsend

## PC25/020 <u>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations</u>

Councillor R. Kenney advised the Committee that due to his involvement with Stafford Borough Council's Planning Committee, he would not speak or vote on the planning applications listed on the agenda.

#### PC25/021 Representations from Members of the Public

None

#### PC25/022 Minutes

**RESOLVED:** 

That the minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 2 July 2024 (Minute Numbers PC25/013 – PC25/018), be approved as a correct record.

#### PC25/023 Planning Applications

Application Number – 24/39317/HOU

Applicant – Mr C. Cox

Location – 11 Arthur Street, Stone

Development – Two storey side and rear extension

**Observations:** No objections

**Application Number** – 24/39302/PTEL **Applicant** – Icon Tower Infrastructure Ltd **Location** – Land at Opal Way Verge, Stone

**Development** – Installation of a shareable telecommunication base station installation comprising a 25m lattice tower supporting up to 6 no antennas and up to 2 no dishes, together with up to 6 no ground-based cabinets, 1 no meter cabinet and ancillary development thereto including compound fencing and access.

**Observations:** No objections

**Application Number** – 24/39285/HOU **Applicant** – Mr Wilcox

Location - 2 Balmoral Close, Stone

**Development** – Garage conversion to study to the rear, canopy to the front and replacement of UPVC conservatory with solid garden/living room.

**Observations:** No objections

PC25/024

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.

None

**CHAIRMAN** 

# Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2023/24

In respect of

#### **Stone Town Council**

# 1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02 as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/ .

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2024; and
- · confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

# 2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2023/24

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

While the Council provided bank statements from 31/03/2024 which reconciled to the majority of the figures stated on the bank reconciliation, the Council could not provide a bank statement for one account which verified the value of the account at 31/03/2024. Carrying out regular bank reconciliations is a key management control.

In future, the Council should ensure it has arrangements in place to ensure all bank balances at 31 March 2024 can be agreed to supporting evidence.

# 3 External auditor certificate 2023/24

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

*We do not certify completion because:		
Not applicable.		
External Auditor Name		

Forvis Mazars LLP, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1DF

External Auditor Signature

Forvis Mazars LLP

Date

18 September 2024

The Corner Bank Chambers 26 Mosley Street Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1DF

Tel: +44 (0)191 383 6300 forvismazars.com/uk



Mr W L Trigg Stone Town Council 15 Station Road Stone Staffordshire

Direct line: +44 (0)191 383 6348

Email: local.councils@mazars.co.uk

Date: 18 September 2024

Dear Mr Trigg

ST15 8JP

#### Completion of the audit for the year ended 31 March 2024

We have completed our audit for the year ended 31 March 2024 and I have pleasure in enclosing the certified Annual Governance and Accountability Return. The External Auditor's Certificate and Report is given in Section 3.

If there are any significant matters arising from the audit, they are summarised in the External Auditor's certificate in Section 3. If we have identified minor scope for improvement we have recorded this on page 2 of this letter. The Council must consider these matters and decide what action is required. In most cases this will be self-evident. In some instances we have referred to further guidance available, in particular, in the publication "Governance and Accountability for Local Councils – A Practitioners' Guide (England) 2023. This can be obtained via your NALC or SLCC branch, or downloaded free of charge.

#### Action you are required to take:

The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 set out what you must do at the conclusion of the audit. In summary, you are required to:

Publish (which must include publication on the authority's website) a statement **on or before 30**September to confirm:

- that the audit has been concluded and that the statement of accounts has been published;
- the rights of inspection conferred on local government electors by section 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; and
- the address at which, and the hours during which, those rights may be exercised.
- Keep copies of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for purchase by any person on payment of a reasonable sum.
- Ensure that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return remains available for public access for a period of not less than five years beginning with the date on which the Annual Governance and Accountability Return was first published.



The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 do not specify the period the Completion Notice needs to be on the council's website but this period must be reasonable.

#### Minor scope for improvement in 2024/2025

No minor issues identified.

## **Email management**

There have been amendments to the requirements of the Practitioner's Guide in relation to email management and the use of '.gov.uk' domains. The March 2024 version of the Practitioner's Guide, points 5.210 and 5.211, state that:

- All Parish, Town and Community Councils are eligible to use, and are advised to use, a
  .gov.uk domain for their websites and email communications. Your community, suppliers and
  partners will now reasonably expect a local council to have a .gov.uk domain name.
- To assist with compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), it is advised that clerks provide official .gov.uk email accounts to their councillors, which must only be used for official council business.

While the Practitioner's Guide 2024 does not mandate the use of '.gov.uk' email addresses, we would expect the Council and its councillors to have a generic email address to use for official Council correspondence. If the Council and councillors are not using generic email address by 31 March 2025, then this could result in either a qualification or other matter on the 2024/2025 AGAR.

# **Accessibility regulations**

We are aware that the Accounts and Audit Regulations requirement for a physical 'wet ink' signature on the original AGAR, does not allow parish council's to fully comply with the Accessibility Regulations. The National Audit Office are aware that the two pieces of legislation are not compatible, therefore smaller authorities are advised to make it clear on their website that the document is a scan and will not be fully compliant with the Accessibility Regulations.

#### Audit fee

Our fee note for the audit, which is in accordance with the audit fee scales set by SAAA, and available at **Audit Fees | Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments (saaa.co.uk)** will follow.

We would be grateful if you could arrange for this to be paid at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

**James Collins** 

Director

For and on behalf of Forvis Mazars LLP

# STONE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 1 October 2024 CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

# **Town Mayor**

Thursday 3 October 2024	Stone Alzheimers Club - 18 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Party
Friday 4 to Sunday 6 October 2024	HMS St Vincent Association Reunion and Dinner
Tuesday 8 October 2024	Formal Opening of the Michaelmas Term of Stafford Crown Court
Saturday 12 October 2024	Fulford Community Choir Massed Voice event
Sunday 13 October 2024	Eccleshall Parish Council - Civic Service at St Paul's Church, Croxton
Friday 18 October 2024	East Staffordshire Mayor's Charity Barn Dance at Burton Town Hall
Saturday 19 October 2024	Stone Town Mayor's Trafalgar Dinner
Tuesday 22 October 2024	Stone Scribblers for Staffordshire History Festival at Stone Library
Friday 25 October 2024	2352 (Stone) Squadron ATC – Dining in Event at Aston Marina

# **Deputy Mayor**

No engagements on this occasion

#### **TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – September 2024**

#### Wednesday 31st July – Mayor of Leek's Charity Canal Trip

From the Hollybush at Dentford along the Caldon Canal to Cheddleton aboard "Beatrice", the narrow boat that has been adapted for the use of children with disabilities. It was nice to see the boat still operating as it once used to be based in Stone. A most enjoyable trip on a summers evening.

# Sunday 4th August – Party in the Park at Cheadle

Various organisations from the town arranged displays and competitions at this event hosted by the Mayor of Cheadle. An enjoyable afternoon learning about some of the organisations we do not have in Stone.

#### Thursday 15th August – Mayor of Leek's Fund-Raising Curry Night

An informal evening held in a former textile mill in Leek with entertainment provided by the Mayor's son.

#### Sunday 18th August – Florence Brass Band Concert and Burma Star Commemoration

Once again the band gave an excellent concert in Stonfield Park playing a variety of music. The Burma Star commemoration was a very moving part of the event. The park was as always is resplendent.

# Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August – Summer Street Party to welcome back two of the town's silver medal Olympians.

It was a privilege to welcome Joe and Adam back to Stone. They worked hard signing autographs and having their photographs taken. Once again there was an excellent variety of music. The event was well attended and I have received lots of reports on how much people enjoyed it

It was also nice to meet some of the people who had been involved in the establishment of the canoe club 50 years ago and it was pleasing to hear how the Town Council helped and supported them and even allowed them to camp on Crown Meadow.

#### Sunday 1st September – Mayor of Leek's Civic Service

This was held in St. Edward's Church in Leek and the parade was led by the excellent Leek Scout and Guide Band.

#### Friday 6th September – BBC Radio Stoke's "Make a Difference Awards"

Held at Vale Park. It was humbling to see people receiving their awards in recognition of the services they have given.

# Thursday 12th September – Battle of Britain Dinner at M.O.D. Stafford

An excellent meal and very moving and thought-provoking readings between the courses.

# Sunday 15th September – Battle of Britain Parade at Stafford

Organised by Stafford Borough Council the service was held in St. Mary's Church, Stafford, and was a fitting tribute to "the few".

This was followed by wreath laying at the Borough War Memorial.

# Wednesday 18th September - County Scout AGM

Held in County Buildings it was interesting to hear about the work of the Scouting movement in Staffordshire and how membership has grown. Three Scouts who had been on a leadership course gave an excellent presentation.

# Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September – Mayor of Ashbourne's Civic Service

A wonderful service with several hymns being accompanied by the town's Brass Band. It was nice to meet some of the Town Mayors from towns in Derbyshire.

## Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Dr. Samuel Johnson Commemoration at Uttoxeter

A wreath laying ceremony led by the Town Mayor of Uttoxeter at the Dr Johnson memorial in the Market Square. This was followed by coffee and "wakes cakes" in the Town Hall.

#### **TOWN DEPUTY MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – September 2024**

No Deputy Town Mayor's report on this occasion