

# Stone Town Council – Environment Sub-Committee

## Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 18 March 2025

**PRESENT:** Councillor R. Townsend in the Chair and  
Councillors: J. Battrick, A. Burgess, T. Kelt, B. Kenney, J. Metters, N. Powell and  
C. Thornicroft

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

By Chairman's Invitation: A. Best

**ABSENT:** Councillors: R. Kenney, P. Leason and J. Powell

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**ENV25/036 Apologies**

Councillors: R. Kenney, P. Leason and J. Powell

**ENV25/037 Declarations of Interest**

None made.

**ENV25/038 Request for Dispensations**

None received.

**ENV25/039 Representations from Members of the Public**

Due to this meeting taking place in the pre-election period for Town Council elections, the Town Council's Scheme of Public Participation had been suspended.

**ENV25/040 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Environment Sub-Committee meeting held on 14 January 2025 (Minute Numbers ENV25/027 – ENV25/035), were approved as a correct record.

**ENV25/041 Environmental Sub-Committee Works Update**

The Chairman drew the Sub-Committee's attention to the Grounds Maintenance Works Update which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting. The following points were highlighted:

### Asbestos Removal

Although not under any time pressure, the Town Council had reached an impasse with the main allotment holder in respect of what was needed to be done to replace the asbestos (to provide ground support) when it was dug up. A solution was needed to be negotiated.

### Woodend Footbridge

The Grounds Maintenance Contractor has cleaned the foot bridge and confirmed that it would be treated and painted by the end of March 2025.

### Scrape One

The Grounds Maintenance Contractor has completed work on Scrape One. He has cut back a third of the grasses to promote new growth and biodiversity.

The Grounds Maintenance Contractor has removed Willow saplings ahead of time and before the nesting season commences. The saplings have been reduced to stumps (which will regrow) to prevent the Willow seeds they produce, from germinating in the scrape.

### Plant Borders

The Sub-Committee Chairman, Deputy Town Clerk and Grounds Maintenance Contractor, have undertaken a walkabout to look at the town's borders, including Walton roundabout, identifying the current issues and considering their future maintenance and improvement.

A number of tasks were noted including pollarding some taller Willow trees, general pruning work and some replanting. The Grounds Maintenance Contractor now has a clear idea of what needs to be done, which should be covered by the existing budget.

### New Items

Footpath improvement works on Crown Meadow, to alleviate surface water flooding, is a new item added to the list.

### Anglers Car Park

The planned work to Angers Car Park is in the Grounds maintenance Contractors sights to complete before the end of the financial year.

### Scrape Two

The restoration of Scrape Two involving the digging out of hundreds of unwanted Willow saplings and grasses has been done. The area currently looks unsightly but will regenerate with replanting of the wanted grasses and flowers, still to do.

The Chairman thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for her input on these projects.

**ENV25/042 Crown Meadow**

The Chairman provided the Sub-Committee with a further update on Crown Meadow which included the following:

Volunteer Groups

Dates have been suggested for a volunteer litter picking meet, now confirmed to be taking place on Saturday 29 March 2025, with several Councillors advising they plan to attend.

Himalayan Balsam Removal sessions were also proposed for April and June.

Biodiversity Officer

A site meeting with Stafford Borough Council's Biodiversity Officer was planned to take place soon to look at the work undertaken on Crown Meadow and to receive advice on further improvements and positive projects to enhance the site.

**ENV25/043 Reports of Working Groups**

Environmental Working Group

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the Environmental Working Group was looking at getting some volunteer dates, and if it proves popular, the setting up of another WhatsApp group, to share information on volunteer sessions and related environmental updates.

**ENV25/044 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.**

**ENV25/045 Crown Meadow**

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

RECOMMENDED: That the General Purposes Committee authorises the publication of a series of articles on Crown Meadow as described in the Town Clerk's report.

**Chairman**