



Town Clerk

Les Trigg

15 Station Road
STONE
ST15 8JP

Tel: 01785 619740

Email: clerk@stonetowncouncil.gov.uk

26 March 2025

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** will be held in the **Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone**, on **TUESDAY 1 APRIL 2025 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.

Note: Due to this meeting taking place in the pre-election period for County Council elections, this item will not be considered.

5. **To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 18 February 2025, Minute Numbers C25/075 – C25/084 (attached).**
6. **To receive the draft minutes and decisions of the under mentioned Committees:**
 - a) Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 18 February 2025, Minute Numbers PC25/049 – PC25/054 (attached).
 - b) General Purposes Committee meeting held on 18 March 2025, Minute Numbers GP25/134 – GP25/138 (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 18 February 2025

PRESENT: Councillor J. Metters in the Chair and
Councillors: J. Davies, L. Davies, I. Fordham, J. Hood, R. Kenney, J. Powell,
N. Powell, C. Thornicroft and R. Townsend

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

ABSENT: Councillors: J. Battrick, A. Best, A. Burgess, K. Dawson, T. Kelt, B. Kenney,
P. Leason and A. Mottershead

Prayers

Before the meeting began, Licensed Lay Reader, Councillor Lin Davies, led prayers.

C25/075 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: J. Battrick, A. Best, A. Burgess, K. Dawson, T. Kelt, B. Kenney, P. Leason and A. Mottershead

C25/076 Declarations of Interest and Declarations under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

None made.

C25/077 Requests for Dispensations

None received.

C25/078 Representations from Members of the Public

None

C25/079 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 10 December 2024 (Minute Numbers C25/067 – C25/074), 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.

C25/080 Committee Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) The draft Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 10 December 2024 (Minute Numbers GP25/095 – GP25/112), were noted.
- b) The draft Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 10 December 2024 (Minute Numbers PC25/037 – PC25/042), were noted.
- c) The draft Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 14 January 2025 (Minute Numbers PC25/043 – PC25/048), were noted.
- d) The draft Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4 February 2025 (Minute Numbers GP25/113 – GP25/133), were noted. The recommendations included in Minute GP25/130 were considered as part of agenda item 7 (Minute Number C25/081).

C25/081 To consider the Council's Budget for 2025-26 to 2027-28 and to set the Precept and Council Tax for the Year

The Town Council considered the Town Clerk's budget report*, which reflected the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee on 4 February 2025.

The Town Council considered a Proposal* on the 'Revenue Budget 2025-26 to 2027-28' including the budget, precept and Council Tax for 2025-26, indicative budgets for 2025-26 and 2027-28, and recommendation for the wording of the Council Tax leaflet.

RESOLVED:

In respect of the Town Council's budget for 2025-26 to 2027-28:

1. The Budget recommended by the General Purposes Committee on 4th February 2025, as included in the draft minutes at Council agenda item 6(d) and set out in the Clerk's report to this meeting, is agreed.
2. The 2025-26 Council Tax for this Council's purposes should be £63.99 for a Band D property, an increase for the year of £2.99, with indicative Council Tax levels of £67.13 and £70.42 for the following two years. This would result in a precept on Stafford Borough Council for 2024-25 of £409,788.12. Local Council Tax Support Grant of £26,210.12 would be added to this.
3. The wording for the 2025-26 Council Tax leaflet should be:

* 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 provides services for the people and town of Stone.

These services include the provision of community facilities, such as the Frank Jordan and Stone Station community centres, Stone Heritage Centre, allotment sites at Newcastle Road and Mount Road, and the Crown Meadow Nature Reserve and amphitheatre.

The 2025-26 budget includes additional funding to provide support for the introduction of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) in Stone High Street, further improvements at Crown Meadow, support for VE Day and VJ Day commemoration events, improvements to wreath laying arrangements on Remembrance Sunday, and improvements to the Council’s office accommodation.

Investing in and working to promote a vibrant town and encourage visitors is a key Town Council priority. In order to support this, the Council organises regular events such as the Town Market and monthly Craft Market together with town centre events such as the Summer Street Party, Puppet Festival, the Classic Car event and the St Georges Day celebration. Christmas lights are provided in the High Street and at Walton, with the Council’s annual switch-on event being one of highlights of the town year. The High Street environment is enhanced by the Council’s provision of hanging baskets and bunting along the High Street, and noticeboards and fingerposts throughout the town.

The Council provides bus shelters, benches and dog bins throughout the area and takes responsibility for the upkeep of many local amenities and planted areas. It also provides grants and other support to help charitable and community organisations such as the Stone Community Hub, organises remembrance events, and Council staff supply regular support and advice to local residents.

By considering the impact of every planning application, the Council seeks to develop and conserve the town, and its approved Neighbourhood Plan helps the Council to shape and protect the future of Stone.

At its monthly meetings the Council welcomes questions from the public and sets aside time to listen and respond.

* 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.

Assistance with public questions will gladly be given by the Council's staff."

4. The Town Clerk is authorised to seek tenders/quotations, place orders and make payments in accordance with this budget, the Council's policies, and Financial Regulations.

**C25/082 Local Government Transparency Code 2015
Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014**

The information for Quarter ending 31 December 2024 was noted.

C25/083 Civic Announcements

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

The Deputy Town Mayor drew the Town Council's attention to the Army Benevolent Fund Evening which both the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor were supporting.

He also highlighted the Staffordshire Moorlands Chairman's Charity Ball at Alton Towers Resort, which the Town Mayor will be attending on 22 February, and the Texas Flag Raising ceremony in the High Street at noon on Saturday 1 March 2025.

C25/084 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 previously been circulated, were noted.

The Deputy Town Mayor advised the Town Council that a report on a Carol Concert engagement at Aston and Little Stoke Scout Group was missing from the report and that a letter of apology was in the process of being drafted.

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 – Planning Consultative Committee

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

PRESENT: Councillor C. Thornicroft in the Chair, and
Councillors: J. Davies, L. Davies, I. Fordham, J. Hood, R. Kenney, J. Metters,
J. Powell, N. Powell and R. Townsend

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

ABSENT: Councillors: J. Battrick, A. Best, A. Burgess, K. Dawson, T. Kelt, B. Kenney,
P. Leason and A. Mottershead

PC25/049 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: J. Battrick, A. Best, A. Burgess,
K. Dawson, T. Kelt, B. Kenney, P. Leason and A. Mottershead

PC25/050 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

Councillor I. Fordham 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.

PC25/051 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None received.

PC25/052 **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on
14 January 2025, Minute Numbers PC25/043 – PC25/048), be approved as a
correct record.

PC25/053 **Planning Applications**

Application Number – 24/39897/FUL

Applicant – Mr G. Cole (Stone Lawn Tennis and Squash Club)

Location – Stone Lawn Tennis and Squash Club

Development – Two floodlit padel courts with canopy over

Observations: The Town Council has no objections but seeks assurance that the
development proposal conforms with lighting requirements to protect
neighbourhood amenity and wildlife from light pollution.

Application Number – 24/40005/HOU

Applicant – Mr & Mrs Haycock

Location – 38 Thomas Avenue, Stone

Development – Extension over existing garage to extend existing bedroom, garage conversion into office space and single storey rear extension.

Amendment – Extension over existing garage to create extension to existing bedroom.

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 25/40140/HOU

Applicant – Mr C. Cox

Location – 11 Arthur Street, Stone

Development – Two storey side and rear extension and alterations to the cellar.

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 25/40191/HOU

Applicant – Mr & Mrs Lakin

Location – 7 Redfern Road, Stone

Development – Single rear domestic extension with additional bedroom at first floor.

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 24/39971/FUL

Applicant – Dove Technology Ltd (c/o Enviroconsult Ltd)

Location – Unit 11 to 12 Walton Industrial Estate, Beacon Road, Stone

Development – Change of Use of Units 11 & 12 Walton Industrial Estate, Beacon Road, Stone) from B8 (Storage & Distribution) to B8 (Storage & Distribution) and B2 (General Industry) and installation of extraction equipment.

Observations: No objections

PC25/054

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 – 24/39779/HOU

Applicant – Mr I. MacDonald

Location – Radford House, The Avenue, Stone

Development – Installation of electric driveway gate

Observations: No objections

CHAIRMAN

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

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

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

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

Note: Prior to the start of the meeting, in the absence of the Committee Chairman and the Committee Vice Chairman, the Town Clerk invited nominations for Chairman and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Metters, was appointed to take the Chair for the meeting.

ABSENT: Councillors: J. Hood, I. Fordham, R. Kenney, P. Leason, A. Mottershead and J. Powell

GP25/134 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: J. Hood, R. Kenney, P. Leason, A. Mottershead and J. Powell

Where a reason for absence is given, this reason was approved for the purposes of Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

GP25/135 Declarations of Interest

None made

GP25/136 Requests for Dispensations

None received

GP25/137 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.

GP25/138 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 which included retention of Covid-19 references as a mitigation against the general risks of pandemic.

* 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 said that he would review the items relating to European law next year.

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

CHAIRMAN

STONE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

1 April 2025

CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Mayor

Wednesday 2 April 2025	AEDdonate Furniture Store Official Opening
Friday 4 April 2025	Stafford Borough Mayor's Race Night at White Eagle Club
Monday 7 April 2025	High Sheriff of Staffordshire's Invitation to the Formal Opening of the Trinity Term of the Crown Court in Stafford
Wednesday 9 April 2025	Biddulph Town Mayor's Charity Cycle through Stone
Thursday 10 April 2025	Cannock Chase Chairman's Charity Nepalese Evening
Friday 11 April 2025	Town Mayor's Charity Quiz Night
Saturday 12 April 2025	Stone Choral Society Concert 'A Little Jazz Mass'
Wednesday 16 April 2025	Oak Tree Farm Rural Project Annual General Meeting
Thursday 24 April 2025	Stone Gangshow at Mitchell Art Centre, Hanley
Saturday 26 April 2025	St George's Day Parade and Re-enactment
Saturday 26 April 2025	Stone Town Mayor's Civic Dinner
Sunday 27 April 2025	Mayor of Leek's Civic Celebration at The Spice Merchant, Leek
Wednesday 7 May 2025	Stone & District Stroke Club's 80 th Anniversary of VE Day
Wednesday 7 May 2025	Stone Common Plot Annual General Meeting
Thursday 8 May 2025	Visit to Hilderstone Hall's VE Day Celebrations
Friday 9 May 2025	Stafford Borough Mayor's Charity Event at Stafford Rangers Club

Deputy Mayor

Friday 25 April 2025	Biddulph Town Mayor's Civic Charity Ball at Biddulph Town Hall
Saturday 26 April 2025	Stone Town Mayor's Civic Dinner

TOWN MAYOR

TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 26 March 2025

Saturday 8th February - The Mayor of Lichfield's Ceilidh

Held in the Guildhall with an excellent band and caller. A fun evening complete with fish and chips

Saturday 15th February - Stone Lions Club Charter Dinner

An excellent evening and an opportunity to thank the Lions for all that they do for the town and its residents. During the course of the evening two of the members received Melvyn Jones Fellowships, the highest award in the Lions movement

Thursday 20th February – An evening with the Army Benevolent

An excellent event held at The Mill on the same lines as our Portuguese Evening. Entertainment was provided by a former Army surgeon who read poems that he had written.

Saturday 22nd February – Staffordshire Moorlands Civic Ball

Held at the Alton Towers Hotel. A very enjoyable evening.

Saturday 1st March – Raising the flag of Texas

The event was well attended. Stone Choral Society and the Florence Band provided the musical accompaniment. Thanks to Cllr. Jim Davies for making the arrangements.

Friday 7th March – Pig Race in aid of the Mayor's Charity

A fun evening which hopefully has raised a large amount for the Mayor's Charities.

Sunday 9th March - Stone Junior Rugby Team's Covid Remembrance

Each Sunday over 130 young people from 18 months to 13 years train and play rugby. All the matches stopped for a minute's silence to remember those who had died as a result of Covid.

Monday 17th March – Chatty Cafe Launch

Organised by the Salvation Army shop, a table in Bod is reserved on Monday afternoon between 2.30 and 3.30pm for people who would like to meet others and talk as a way of overcoming loneliness.

Thursday 20th March – Civic Funeral of the Mayor of Newcastle

Civic funeral of the Mayor of Newcastle who died as a result of a car accident. A very moving service with the Mayoral robes and hat placed on the coffin and his mayoral chain on a black cushion being carried behind it. The event was attended by the Lord Lieutenant and most of the civic heads of the County.

Sunday 23rd March – Lichfield District Council's Civic Service

A lovely service held in the cathedral attended by a large number of civic heads from Staffordshire and North Warwickshire. Afterwards a reception in the interesting Council Chamber in what had been the old Grammar School.

TOWN DEPUTY MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 26 March 2025

No civic engagements to report on this occasion.