

Stone

Town Council



Terms of Reference

Committees & Sub-Committees

May 2025

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1 GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the General Purposes Committee is to consider policy issues in relation to, and to scrutinise the operation of, all aspects of Council work which can be legally delegated by the Council.

MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT

- 1.2 The Committee shall consist of the whole membership of the Town Council, unless otherwise determined by the Council. These members shall be appointed by the Council in May to serve until the following May's Council meeting. Appointments to fill any casual vacancies that may arise during the year shall be made by the Council to serve until the following May's Council meeting..
- 1.3 If not otherwise appointed, the Town Mayor shall be ex-officio voting member of the Committee.

CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

- 1.4 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be appointed by the Council in May to serve until the following May's Council meeting. Appointments to fill any casual vacancies that may arise in these posts during the year shall be made by the Council to serve until the following May's Council meeting.. If neither the Chairman nor the Vice-Chairman are able to preside at a meeting of the Committee, the members of the Committee present shall elect a temporary Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

QUORUM

- 1.5 No business shall be dealt with unless at least three voting members of the Committee, or at least one third of the voting members of the Committee if higher, are present and able to vote. If there is no quorum, all items for which the Committee would be inquorate shall be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

ATTENDANCE BY COUNCILLORS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

- 1.6 Any member of the Council who is not a member of the Committee may attend the meeting and may speak on any item, with the permission of the Chairman in advance of the meeting. Such a member may not make or second any proposals or amendments, and may not vote.
- 1.7 The requirements of the Council's Code of Conduct will apply to all Councillors present at the meeting, whether members of the Committee or not.

ATTENDANCE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- 1.8 Meetings will normally be open to the public throughout unless there is a specific resolution of the Committee to consider an item of business in private.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

- 1.9 Meetings will normally be held on dates determined by the General Purposes Committee. Where changes are required to these dates, this shall be determined by the Committee. If such a decision needs to be made outside a meeting, it shall be determined by the Town Clerk following consultation with the Chairman whenever possible.

AGENDA AND PROCEEDINGS

- 1.10 The agenda shall be drawn up and circulated by the Town Clerk. The provisions of the Council's Standing Orders for Business shall apply to meetings of the Committee.

REPORTING

- 1.11 Decisions of the Committee shall have the status of resolutions, which shall be binding on the Council providing that the item can be legally delegated by the Council. Where an item cannot be legally delegated, decisions shall have the status of recommendations to the full Council.

FUNCTIONS

- 1.12 To consider policy issues in relation to, and to scrutinise the operation of, all aspects of Council work which can be legally delegated by the Council.
- 1.13 To appoint chairmen, vice-chairmen and members to sub-committees.
- 1.14 To appoint Council representatives to outside bodies.
- 1.15 To distribute the Council's grants budget.
- 1.16 To recommend the annual budget and precept to the Council.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

- 1.17 The General Purposes Committee shall consider reports in the form of draft or approved minutes from each of its Sub-Committees in accordance with Standing Orders.
- 1.18 The General Purposes Committee minutes shall be reported to the full Council in accordance with Standing Orders. Draft minutes shall be reported if not yet approved by the Committee.
- 1.19 If a difference of opinion develops between its Sub-Committees, the General Purposes Committee shall determine how the matter will be resolved.

- 1.20 If a difference of opinion develops between Committees, the Council shall determine how the matter will be resolved.

2 PLANNING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of the Planning Consultative Committee is to consider planning applications within the Town Council area and make comments to Stafford Borough appropriately, and to consider policy issues in relation to planning applications.

MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT

- 2.2 The Committee shall consist of the whole membership of the Town Council, unless otherwise determined by the Council. These members shall be appointed by the Council in May to serve until the following May's Council meeting. Appointments to fill any casual vacancies that may arise during the year shall be made by the Council to serve until the following May's Council meeting.
- 2.3 If not otherwise appointed, the Town Mayor and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee shall be ex-officio voting members of the Committee.

CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

- 2.4 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be appointed by the Council in May to serve until the following May's Council meeting. Appointments to fill any casual vacancies that may arise in these posts during the year shall be made by the Council to serve until the following May's Council meeting. If neither the Chairman nor the Vice-Chairman are able to preside at a meeting of the Committee, the members of the Committee present shall elect a temporary Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

QUORUM

- 2.5 No business shall be dealt with unless at least three voting members of the Committee, or at least one third of the voting members of the Committee if higher, are present and able to vote. If there is no quorum, all items for which the Committee would be inquorate shall be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

ATTENDANCE BY COUNCILLORS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

- 2.6 Any member of the Council who is not a member of the Committee may attend the meeting and may speak on any item, with the permission of the Chairman in advance of the meeting. Such a member may not make or second any proposals or amendments, and may not vote.
- 2.7 The requirements of the Council's Code of Conduct will apply to all Councillors present at the meeting, whether members of the Committee or not.

ATTENDANCE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- 2.8 Meetings will normally be open to the public throughout unless there is a specific resolution of the Committee to consider an item of business in private.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

- 2.9 Meetings will normally be held on dates determined by the General Purposes Committee. Where changes are required to these dates, this shall be determined by the Committee. If such a decision needs to be made outside a meeting, it shall be determined by the Town Clerk following consultation with the Chairman whenever possible.

AGENDA AND PROCEEDINGS

- 2.10 The agenda shall be drawn up and circulated by the Town Clerk. The provisions of the Council's Standing Orders for Business shall apply to meetings of the Committee.

REPORTING

- 2.11 Decisions of the Committee shall have the status of resolutions, which shall be binding on the Council providing that the item can be legally delegated by the Council. Where an item cannot be legally delegated, decisions shall have the status of recommendations to the full Council.

FUNCTIONS

- 2.12 To consider planning applications within the Town Council area and make comments to Stafford Borough appropriately.
- 2.13 To consider policy issues in relation to planning applications.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

- 2.14 The Planning Consultative Committee minutes shall be reported to the full Council in accordance with Standing Orders. Draft minutes shall be reported if not yet approved by the Committee.
- 2.15 If a difference of opinion develops between Committees, the Council shall determine how the matter will be resolved.

3 ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

- 3.1 The purpose of the Environment Sub-Committee is to consider policy issues in relation to, and to scrutinise the operation of, environmental services provided by the Town Council and to make recommendations to the General Purposes Committee accordingly.

MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT

- 3.2 The Sub-Committee shall consist of seven members, or any other number as determined by the General Purposes Committee, drawn from the membership of the Town Council. These members shall be appointed by the General Purposes Committee in May to serve until the following May's meeting of that Committee. Appointments to fill any casual vacancies that may arise during the year shall be made by the General Purposes Committee to serve until the following May's meeting of that Committee.
- 3.3 The Town Mayor and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee shall be ex-officio, voting members of the Sub-Committee.
- 3.4 The Sub-Committee may make recommendations to the General Purposes Committee for the co-option of non-Councillor members to the Sub-Committee due to the particular expertise they are able to offer.

CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

- 3.5 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be appointed by the General Purposes Committee in May to serve until the following May's meeting of that Committee. Appointments to fill any casual vacancies that may arise in these posts during the year shall be made by the General Purposes Committee to serve until the following May's meeting of that Committee. If neither the Chairman nor the Vice-Chairman are able to preside at a meeting of the Sub-Committee, the members of the Sub-Committee present shall elect a temporary Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

QUORUM

- 3.6 No business shall be dealt with unless at least three voting members of the Sub-Committee, or at least one third of the voting members of the Sub-Committee if higher, are present and able to vote. If there is no quorum, all items for which the Sub-Committee would be inquorate shall be deferred until the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

ATTENDANCE BY COUNCILLORS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

- 3.7 Any member of the Council who is not a member of the Sub-Committee may attend the meeting and may speak on any item, with the permission of the Chairman in advance of the meeting. Such a member may not make or second any proposals or amendments, and may not vote.
- 3.8 The requirements of the Council's Code of Conduct will apply to all Councillors present at the meeting, whether members of the Sub-Committee or not.

ATTENDANCE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- 3.9 Meetings will normally be open to the public throughout unless there is a specific resolution of the Sub-Committee to consider an item of business in private.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

- 3.10 Meetings will normally be held on dates determined by the General Purposes Committee. Where changes are required to these dates, this shall be determined by the Sub-Committee. If such a decision needs to be made outside a meeting, it shall be determined by the Town Clerk following consultation with the Chairman whenever possible.

AGENDA AND PROCEEDINGS

- 3.11 The agenda shall be drawn up and circulated by the Town Clerk. The provisions of the Council's Standing Orders for Business shall apply to meetings of the Sub-Committee.

REPORTING

- 3.12 Decisions of the Sub-Committee shall have the status of recommendations to the General Purposes Committee. From time to time items may be specifically referred to the Sub-Committee together with delegated powers to act. In this latter case, the decisions of the Sub-Committee shall be binding on the Council.

FUNCTIONS

- 3.13 To consider matters of Council policy related to environmental services. Whilst the scope of these services is likely to change from time to time, at the date of approval of these terms of reference this consisted of:
- a. The Crown Meadow
 - b. Grounds Maintenance
 - c. Allotments
 - d. Environmental damage issues (e.g. climate change, waste control, pollution, bio-diversity, green spaces)

- 3.14 To scrutinise the operation of the above services.
- 3.15 To recommend to the General Purposes Committee the budget required for the ongoing provision of the services under its purview, and to make recommendations for improvements or reductions in services as required to meet the needs of the Council.
- 3.16 To recommend to the General Purposes Committee, as part of the annual budget process, any budgeted items within its responsibility that it would specifically wish to consider and approve before spending is incurred.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER SUB-COMMITTEES

- 3.17 The Sub-Committee's minutes shall be reported to the General Purposes Committee in accordance with Standing Orders. Draft minutes shall be reported if not yet approved by the Sub-Committee.
- 3.18 Whilst the Sub-Committee is responsible for recommending policy related to the provision of environmental services, it should be noted that policy issues related to management, staffing and finance fall under the purview of the General Purposes Committee, even where they relate to an environmental asset or service.
- 3.19 If a difference of opinion develops between Sub-Committees, the General Purposes Committee shall determine how the matter will be resolved.

4 ESTATES SUB-COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

- 4.1 The purpose of the Estates Sub-Committee is to consider policy issues in relation to, and to scrutinise the operation of, the physical building and infrastructure assets provided by the Town Council and to make recommendations to the General Purposes Committee accordingly.

MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT

- 4.2 The Sub-Committee shall consist of seven members, or any other number as determined by the General Purposes Committee, drawn from the membership of the Town Council. These members shall be appointed by the General Purposes Committee in May to serve until the following May's meeting of that Committee. Appointments to fill any casual vacancies that may arise during the year shall be made by the General Purposes Committee to serve until the following May's meeting of that Committee.
- 4.3 The Town Mayor and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee shall be ex-officio voting members of the Sub-Committee.
- 4.4 The Sub-Committee may make recommendations to the General Purposes Committee for the co-option of non-Councillor members to the Sub-Committee due to the particular expertise they are able to offer.

CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

- 4.5 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be appointed by the General Purposes Committee in May to serve until the following May's meeting of that Committee. Appointments to fill any casual vacancies that may arise in these posts during the year shall be made by the General Purposes Committee to serve until the following May's meeting of that Committee. If neither the Chairman nor the Vice-Chairman are able to preside at a meeting of the Sub-Committee, the members of the Sub-Committee present shall elect a temporary Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

QUORUM

- 4.6 No business shall be dealt with unless at least three voting members of the Sub-Committee, or at least one third of the voting members of the Sub-Committee if higher, are present and able to vote. If there is no quorum, all items for which the Sub-Committee would be inquorate shall be deferred until the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

ATTENDANCE BY COUNCILLORS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

- 4.7 Any member of the Council who is not a member of the Sub-Committee may attend the meeting and may speak on any item, with the permission of the Chairman in advance of the meeting. Such a member may not make or second any proposals or amendments, and may not vote.
- 4.8 The requirements of the Council's Code of Conduct will apply to all Councillors present at the meeting, whether members of the Sub-Committee or not.

ATTENDANCE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- 4.9 Meetings will normally be open to the public throughout unless there is a specific resolution of the Sub-Committee to consider an item of business in private.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

- 4.10 Meetings will normally be held on dates determined by the General Purposes Committee. Where changes are required to these dates, this shall be determined by the Sub-Committee. If such a decision needs to be made outside a meeting, it shall be determined by the Town Clerk following consultation with the Chairman whenever possible.

AGENDA AND PROCEEDINGS

- 4.11 The agenda shall be drawn up and circulated by the Town Clerk. The provisions of the Council's Standing Orders for Business shall apply to meetings of the Sub-Committee.

REPORTING

- 4.12 Decisions of the Sub-Committee shall have the status of recommendations to the General Purposes Committee. From time to time items may be specifically referred to the Sub-Committee together with delegated powers to act. In this latter case, the decisions of the Sub-Committee shall be binding on the Council.

FUNCTIONS

- 4.13 To consider matters of policy related to the physical building and infrastructure assets provided by the Town Council. Whilst the scope of these services is likely to change from time to time, at the date of approval of these terms of reference this consisted of:
- a. The Frank Jordan Centre
 - b. Stone Station Community Centre
 - c. Oversight of the Appearance of the Town Centre
 - d. Car Parking
 - e. Bus Shelters and Street Furniture
 - f. The Provision of Dog and Litter Bins

- 4.14 To scrutinise the operation of the above services.
- 4.15 To recommend to the General Purposes Committee the budget required for the ongoing provision of the services under its purview, and to make recommendations for improvements or reductions in services as required to meet the needs of the Council.
- 4.16 To recommend to the General Purposes Committee, as part of the annual budget process, any budgeted items within its responsibility that it would specifically wish to consider and approve before spending is incurred.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER SUB-COMMITTEES

- 4.17 The Sub-Committee's minutes shall be reported to the General Purposes Committee in accordance with Standing Orders. Draft minutes shall be reported if not yet approved by the Sub-Committee.
- 4.18 Whilst the Sub-Committee is responsible for recommending policy related to the provision of the Council's physical building and infrastructure assets, it should be noted that policy issues related to management, staffing and finance fall under the purview of the General Purposes Committee, even where they relate to an asset providing services to the public.
- 4.19 If a difference of opinion develops between Sub-Committees, the General Purposes Committee shall determine how the matter will be resolved.

5 TOURISM AND TOWN PROMOTION SUB-COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

- 5.1 The purpose of the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee is to consider policy issues in relation to, and to scrutinise the operation of, tourism and town promotion services provided by the Town Council and to make recommendations to the General Purposes Committee accordingly.

MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT

- 5.2 The Sub-Committee shall consist of seven members, or any other number as determined by the General Purposes Committee, drawn from the membership of the Town Council. These members shall be appointed by the General Purposes Committee in May to serve until the following May's meeting of that Committee. Appointments to fill any casual vacancies that may arise during the year shall be made by the General Purposes Committee to serve until the following May's meeting of that Committee.
- 5.3 The Town Mayor and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee shall be ex-officio voting members of the Sub-Committee.
- 5.4 The Sub-Committee may make recommendations to the General Purposes Committee for the co-option of non-Councillor members to the Sub-Committee due to the particular expertise they are able to offer.

CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

- 5.5 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be appointed by the General Purposes Committee in May to serve until the following May's meeting of that Committee. Appointments to fill any casual vacancies that may arise in these posts during the year shall be made by the General Purposes Committee to serve until the following May's meeting of that Committee. If neither the Chairman nor the Vice-Chairman are able to preside at a meeting of the Sub-Committee, the members of the Sub-Committee present shall elect a temporary Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

QUORUM

- 5.6 No business shall be dealt with unless at least three voting members of the Sub-Committee, or at least one third of the voting members of the Sub-Committee if higher, are present and able to vote. If there is no quorum, all items for which the Sub-Committee would be inquorate shall be deferred until the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

ATTENDANCE BY COUNCILLORS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

- 5.7 Any member of the Council who is not a member of the Sub-Committee may attend the meeting and may speak on any item, with the permission of the Chairman in advance of the meeting. Such a member may not make or second any proposals or amendments, and may not vote.
- 5.8 The requirements of the Council's Code of Conduct will apply to all Councillors present at the meeting, whether members of the Sub-Committee or not.

ATTENDANCE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- 5.9 Meetings will normally be open to the public throughout unless there is a specific resolution of the Sub-Committee to consider an item of business in private.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

- 5.10 Meetings will normally be held on dates determined by the General Purposes Committee. Where changes are required to these dates, this shall be determined by the Sub-Committee. If such a decision needs to be made outside a meeting, it shall be determined by the Town Clerk following consultation with the Chairman whenever possible.

AGENDA AND PROCEEDINGS

- 5.11 The agenda shall be drawn up and circulated by the Town Clerk. The provisions of the Council's Standing Orders for Business shall apply to meetings of the Sub-Committee.

REPORTING

- 5.12 Decisions of the Sub-Committee shall have the status of recommendations to the General Purposes Committee. From time to time items may be specifically referred to the Sub-Committee together with delegated powers to act. In this latter case, the decisions of the Sub-Committee shall be binding on the Council.

FUNCTIONS

- 5.13 To consider matters of policy related to tourism and town promotion services provided by the Town Council. Whilst the scope of these services is likely to change from time to time, at the date of approval of these terms of reference this consisted of:
- a. Town Markets
 - b. Christmas Lights
 - c. Tourism
 - d. Town Promotion
- 5.14 To scrutinise the operation of the above services.

- 5.15 To recommend to the General Purposes Committee the budget required for the ongoing provision of the services under its purview, and to make recommendations for improvements or reductions in services as required to meet the needs of the Council.
- 5.16 To recommend to the General Purposes Committee, as part of the annual budget process, any budgeted items within its responsibility that it would specifically wish to consider and approve before spending is incurred.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER SUB-COMMITTEES

- 5.17 The Sub-Committee's minutes shall be reported to the General Purposes Committee in accordance with Standing Orders. Draft minutes shall be reported if not yet approved by the Sub-Committee.
- 5.18 Whilst the Sub-Committee is responsible for recommending policy related to the provision of tourism and town promotion services, it should be noted that policy issues related to management, staffing and finance fall under the purview of the General Purposes Committee, even where they relate to a tourism and town promotion service.
- 5.19 If a difference of opinion develops between Sub-Committees, the General Purposes Committee shall determine how the matter will be resolved.

6 MAYOR'S CHARITY SUB-COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

- 6.1 The purpose of the Mayor's Charity Sub-Committee is to support the Town Mayor in determining appropriate charities, raising funds and distributing those funds to the chosen charities.

MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT

- 6.2 The Sub-Committee shall consist of seven members, or any other number as determined by the General Purposes Committee, drawn from the membership of the Town Council. The Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor, and Town Mayor for the previous year will automatically be members of the Sub-Committee, taking up three of the seven places.
- 6.3 In the event that the previous Town Mayor is no longer a member of the Council they will not be a member of the Sub-Committee, but shall be invited to attend and take part in discussions related to the distribution of funds raised during their term of office. They will not be able to vote.
- 6.4 The balance of the Sub-Committee's members shall be appointed by the General Purposes Committee in May to serve until the following May's meeting of that Committee. Appointments to fill any casual vacancies that may arise during the year shall be made by the General Purposes Committee to serve until the following May's meeting of that Committee.
- 6.5 For the period between the appointment of the Mayor Elect in April and the Town Mayor in May, the Mayor Elect will become an eighth member of the Sub-Committee, unless they are already a member.
- 6.6 The Chairman of the General Purposes Committee shall be an ex-officio voting member of the Sub-Committee.
- 6.7 The Sub-Committee may make recommendations to the General Purposes Committee for the co-option of non-Councillor members to the Sub-Committee due to the particular expertise they are able to offer.

CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

- 6.8 The Sub-Committee shall be chaired by the Town Mayor. The Deputy Mayor shall be the Vice-Chairman. If neither the Chairman nor the Vice-Chairman are able to preside at a meeting of the Sub-Committee, the members of the Sub-Committee present shall elect a temporary Chairman.

QUORUM

- 6.9 No business shall be dealt with unless at least three voting members of the Sub-Committee, or at least one third of the voting members of the Sub-Committee if higher,

are present and able to vote. If there is no quorum, all items for which the Sub-Committee would be inquorate shall be deferred until the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

- 6.10 No meeting should be held without the Town Mayor present, however it is accepted that there may be times when the Town Mayor is present at a meeting, but will need to declare an interest on an individual agenda item. This would not result in the meeting becoming inquorate unless it would be otherwise inquorate under the provisions of paragraph 6.9 above.

ATTENDANCE BY COUNCILLORS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

- 6.11 Any member of the Council who is not a member of the Sub-Committee may attend the meeting and may speak on any item, with the permission of the Chairman in advance of the meeting. Such a member may not make or second any proposals or amendments, and may not vote.
- 6.12 The requirements of the Council's Code of Conduct will apply to all Councillors present at the meeting, whether members of the Sub-Committee or not.

ATTENDANCE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- 6.13 Meetings will normally be open to the public throughout unless there is a specific resolution of the Sub-Committee to consider an item of business in private.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

- 6.14 There shall be a minimum of one meeting per year, to determine the incoming Town Mayor's charities for the year and to determine the distribution of funds raised during the outgoing Mayor's term of office. Other meetings will be called at times to be agreed between the Town Mayor and the Town Clerk.

AGENDA AND PROCEEDINGS

- 6.15 The agenda shall be drawn up and circulated by the Town Clerk. The provisions of the Council's Standing Orders for Business shall apply to meetings of the Sub-Committee.

REPORTING

- 6.16 Decisions of the Committee shall have the status of resolutions except:
- a. Where there is a financial or other impact on the Council outside the use of funds already accumulated by the Mayor's Charity Fund. In this case decisions will have the status of recommendations to the General Purposes Committee.
 - b. Where the item cannot be legally delegated by the Council, in which case decisions shall have the status of recommendations to the full Council.

- 6.17 The Sub-Committee's minutes shall be reported to the General Purposes Committee in accordance with Standing Orders. Draft minutes shall be reported if not yet approved by the Sub-Committee.

FUNCTIONS

- 6.18 To determine:
- a. The charities to be supported by the Town Mayor during their term of office.
 - b. The distribution of funds to the supported charities.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER SUB-COMMITTEES

- 6.19 The responsibilities of this Sub-Committee are unlikely to overlap with those of other Sub-Committees.
- 6.20 If a difference of opinion develops between Sub-Committees, the General Purposes Committee shall determine how the matter will be resolved.

7 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

PURPOSE

- 7.1 The purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is to oversee the preparation of the Council's Neighbourhood Plan, and to make recommendations to the General Purposes Committee accordingly.

MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT

- 7.2 The Steering Group shall consist of up to ten members drawn from the membership of the Town Council and up to five non-Councillor members. These members shall be appointed by the General Purposes Committee in May to serve until the following May's meeting of that Committee. Appointments to fill any casual vacancies that may arise during the year shall be made by the General Purposes Committee to serve until the following May's meeting of that Committee.
- 7.3 The Town Mayor and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee shall be ex-officio members of the Steering Group.

CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

- 7.4 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be appointed by the General Purposes Committee in May to serve until the following May's meeting of that Committee. Appointments to fill any casual vacancies that may arise in these posts during the year shall be made by the General Purposes Committee to serve until the following May's meeting of that Committee. If neither the Chairman nor the Vice-Chairman are able to preside at a meeting of the Steering Group, the members of the Steering Group present shall elect a temporary Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

QUORUM

- 7.5 No business shall be dealt with unless at least five members of the Steering Group are present, at least three of which shall be Councillor members. If there is no quorum, all items for which the Steering Group would be inquorate shall be deferred until the next meeting of the Steering Group.

ATTENDANCE BY COUNCILLORS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE STEERING GROUP

- 7.6 Any member of the Council who is not a member of the Steering Group may attend the meeting and may speak on any item, with the permission of the Chairman in advance of the meeting. Such a member may not make or second any proposals or amendments, and may not vote.

- 7.7 The requirements of the Council's Code of Conduct will apply to all Councillors and non-Councillor members present at the meeting, whether members of the Steering Group or not.

ATTENDANCE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- 7.8 Meetings will not be open to the public.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

- 7.9 Meetings will normally be held on dates determined by the Steering Group. Where changes are required to these dates, this shall be determined by the Steering Group. If a decision on a meeting date needs to be made outside a meeting, it shall be determined by the Town Clerk following consultation with the Chairman whenever possible.

AGENDA AND PROCEEDINGS

- 7.10 The agenda, if any, shall be drawn up and circulated by the Town Clerk. The provisions of the Council's Standing Orders for Business shall apply to meetings of the Sub-Committee.

REPORTING

- 7.11 Decisions of the Steering Group shall have the status of recommendations to the General Purposes Committee, other than where they represent guidance to the Town Clerk in the exercise of delegated powers.
- 7.12 At each scheduled meeting of the General Purposes Committee, the Chairman or their nominated representative will be expected to report on the work of the Group, and to present any recommendations to the Committee. Such recommendations will not be considered by the Committee without a full written report or detailed minutes circulated with the meeting agenda and setting out the nature of the recommendations and their implications for the Council.

FUNCTIONS

- 7.13 To oversee the preparation of the Council's Neighbourhood Plan, and to make recommendations to the General Purposes Committee accordingly.
- 7.14 To recommend to the General Purposes Committee the budget required for the ongoing provision of the Neighbourhood Plan.

RELATIONSHIP WITH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEES

- 7.15 Whilst the Steering Group is responsible for overseeing the preparation of the Council's Neighbourhood Plan, it should be noted that policy issues related to management,

staffing and finance fall under the purview of the General Purposes Committee, even where they relate to the Neighbourhood Plan.

- 7.16 If a difference of opinion develops between this Steering Group and any Council Sub-Committee, the General Purposes Committee shall determine how the matter will be resolved.

8 HERITAGE CENTRE STEERING GROUP

PURPOSE

- 8.1 The purpose of the Heritage Centre Steering Group is to oversee the establishment of the Stone Heritage Centre, and to make recommendations to the General Purposes Committee accordingly.

MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT

- 8.2 The Steering Group shall consist of up to ten members in total, drawn from the membership of the Town Council and co-opted, non-Councillor members. These members shall be appointed by the General Purposes Committee to serve until the completion of the project, but may be changed by that Committee at any time.
- 8.3 In addition to the above, the Town Mayor and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee shall be ex-officio members of the Steering Group if not directly appointed in their own right.

CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

- 8.4 The Chairman of the Group shall be the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, if directly appointed as a member of the Group¹. If this is not the case, the Chairman shall be a Town Councillor who would be appointed by the General Purposes Committee for the duration of the project, but whose appointment may be reviewed by the Committee at any time.
- 8.5 The Vice Chairman shall be a Town Councillor who would be appointed by the General Purposes Committee for the duration of the project, but whose appointment may be reviewed by the Committee at any time.
- 8.6 If neither the Chairman nor the Vice Chairman are able to preside at a meeting of the Steering Group, the members of the Steering Group present shall elect a Town Councillor as a temporary Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

QUORUM

- 8.7 No business shall be dealt with unless at least three members of the Steering Group are present, including at least three Councillor members. If there is no quorum, all items for which the Steering Group would be inquorate shall be deferred until the next meeting of the Steering Group.

¹ But not if an ex-officio member only.

ATTENDANCE BY COUNCILLORS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE STEERING GROUP

- 8.8 Any member of the Council who is not a member of the Steering Group may attend the meeting and may speak on any item, if invited by the Chairman in advance of the meeting. Such a member may not make or second any proposals or amendments, and may not vote.
- 8.9 The requirements of the Council's Code of Conduct will apply to all Councillors and non-Councillor members present at the meeting, whether members of the Steering Group or not.

ATTENDANCE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- 8.10 Meetings will not be open to the public.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

- 8.11 Meetings will normally be held on dates determined by the Steering Group. Where changes are required to these dates, this shall be determined by the Steering Group. If a decision on a meeting date needs to be made outside a meeting, it shall be determined by the Town Clerk following consultation with the Chairman whenever possible.

AGENDA AND PROCEEDINGS

- 8.12 There is no requirement for either a formal agenda or minutes.
- 8.13 The agenda, if any, shall be drawn up and circulated by the Town Clerk.
- 8.14 If the Steering Group wishes to prepare minutes it will be a matter for the Group's members. Steering Group minutes will not form part of the official minutes of the Council.
- 8.15 Other than as outlined above, or on an exceptional basis as agreed with the Chairman, the calling of meetings, booking of venues, preparation of agendas and minutes etc. will not normally be undertaken by the Town Council's staff.
- 8.16 The provisions of the Council's Standing Orders for Business shall not apply to meetings of the Steering Group other than to the extent determined by the Chairman to ensure the orderly and efficient conduct of business.
- 8.17 Where appropriate, the Steering Group has the power to establish sub-groups from within its membership to deal with specific work streams. Recommendations to the General Purposes Committee must, however, be considered and agreed by the Steering Group prior to presentation.

REPORTING

- 8.18 Decisions of the Steering Group shall have the status of recommendations to the General Purposes Committee, other than where they represent guidance to the Town Clerk in the exercise of delegated powers.
- 8.19 At each scheduled meeting of the General Purposes Committee, the Chairman or their nominated representative will be expected to report on the work of the Group, and to present any recommendations to the Committee. Such recommendations will not be considered by the Committee without a full written report or detailed minutes circulated with the meeting agenda and setting out the nature of the recommendations and their implications for the Council.

FUNCTIONS

- 8.20 To oversee the establishment of the Stone Heritage Centre and to make recommendations to the General Purposes Committee accordingly.
- 8.21 To advise the General Purposes Committee on its strategic policies relating to the establishment of the Heritage Centre
- 8.22 To provide guidance to the Town Clerk in respect of the operational aspects of establishing the Heritage Centre.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER COUNCIL BODIES

- 8.23 Whilst the Steering Group is responsible for overseeing the establishment of the Heritage Centre, it should be noted that policy issues related to management, staffing and finance fall under the purview of the General Purposes Committee, even where they relate to the Heritage Centre.
- 8.24 If a difference of opinion develops between this Steering Group and any other Council body, the General Purposes Committee shall determine how the matter will be resolved.

DURATION

- 8.25 The Steering Group will be automatically disbanded if it is still in existence at the date the Heritage Centre commences operation.

9 WORKING GROUPS (ALL)

PURPOSE

- 9.1 The purpose of each Council working group is to give a level of in-depth consideration to specific issues beyond that which would normally be possible in larger forums such as a committee or sub-committee, and to make recommendations to their parent body (committee or sub-committee) accordingly.
- 9.2 In most cases, working groups should operate on a “task and finish” basis.

MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT

- 9.3 Working group numbers are not prescribed, but groups are unlikely to be effective with less than three or more than five members.
- 9.4 Working group members are appointed by the parent body that requires the in-depth consideration to be undertaken, and may be drawn from the membership of the Town Council. The Town Mayor and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee are ex-officio members of all working groups.
- 9.5 The working group or parent body may make recommendations for the co-option of non-Councillor members to the working group due to the particular expertise they are able to offer. All such appointments will require the approval of the General Purposes Committee, and all co-opted members will be required to comply with the Council’s code of conduct.

CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

- 9.6 Working groups will determine their own chairmanship arrangements, and need not appoint a chairman or vice. The parent (sub-)committee will, however, identify a Councillor member of the group who is also a member of the parent body to act as the working group “co-ordinator”. This co-ordinator will have responsibility for arranging meetings and reporting back to the parent body on the work of the group.

QUORUM

- 9.7 As working groups have no decision making powers, there is no requirement for quoracy.

ATTENDANCE BY COUNCILLORS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP

- 9.8 Any member of the Council who is not a member of a working group may attend a meeting and may speak on any item if invited by the group. Such a member should not take part in the formulation of the group’s recommendations.

- 9.9 The requirements of the Council's Code of Conduct will apply to everyone present at a meeting, whether members of the working group or not.

ATTENDANCE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- 9.10 Working group meetings will not be open to the public.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

- 9.11 Working groups will arrange their own meeting timetable, in order to meet any reporting requirements placed upon them by their parent body.

AGENDA AND PROCEEDINGS

- 9.12 The calling of meetings, booking of venues, preparation of agendas and minutes etc. will not be undertaken by the Town Council's staff. Attendance of Town Council staff at working groups will be on an exceptional basis, if their expertise may be required to inform the group's discussions.
- 9.13 There is no requirement for either a formal agenda or minutes, but if a working group wishes to prepare these it will be a matter for the group's members. Working group minutes will not form part of the official minutes of the Council.
- 9.14 The provisions of the Council's Standing Orders for Business shall not apply to meetings of working groups.

REPORTING

- 9.15 Working groups have no powers to make any decision or to act in any way on behalf of the Council.
- 9.16 At each meeting of its parent body, the working group co-ordinator will be expected to report on the work of the group, and to present any recommendations. Such recommendations will not be considered by the parent body without a full written report circulated with the meeting agenda and setting out the nature of the recommendations and their implications for the Council.

FUNCTIONS

- 9.17 The function of each working group is to give a level of in-depth consideration to specific issues beyond that which would normally be possible in larger forums such as a committee or sub-committee, and to make recommendations to their parent body accordingly.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER WORKING GROUPS

- 9.18 Where the terms of reference of individual working groups may overlap, it is the responsibility of the parent body to provide clarification. Where the overlap applies to working groups appointed by different parent bodies this responsibility will fall to the General Purposes Committee.