



Town Clerk

Les Trigg

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STONE
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9 February 2026

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** will be held in the **Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone**, on **TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2026 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 and Declarations under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992**
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 9 December 2025, Minute Numbers C26/065 – C26/073 (attached).**

6. **To receive the draft minutes and decisions of the under mentioned Committees:**
 - a) General Purposes Committee meeting held on 9 December 2025, Minute Numbers GP26/092 – GP26/103 (attached).
 - b) Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 9 December 2025, Minute Numbers PC26/037 – PC26/042 (attached).
 - c) Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 13 January 2026, Minute Numbers PC26/043 – PC26/048 (attached).
 - d) General Purposes Committee meeting held on 3 February 2026, Minute Numbers GP26/104 – GP26/118 (attached). The recommendations included in Minute GP26/113 will be considered as part of agenda item 7 below.
7. **To consider the Council's Budget for 2026-27 to 2028-29 and to set the Precept and Council Tax for the Year**

To consider the report of the Town Clerk (attached).
8. **Local Government Transparency Code 2015
Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014**

Information for Quarter ending 31 December 2025 (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).

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 9 December 2025

PRESENT: Councillor J. Metters in the Chair and
Councillors: J. Battrick, J. Davies, L. Davies, I. Fordham (from Minute Number C26/071) J. Hood, T. Kelt, R. Kenney, P. Leason, J. Powell, N. Powell, C. Thornicroft and R. Townsend

ABSENT: Officers: L. Trigg (attended virtually via Teams), R. Edwards and T. Williams

Councillors: A. Best, A. Burgess, K. Dawson, I. Fordham (to Minute Number C26/070), B. Kenney and A. Mottershead

Prayers

Before the meeting began, Reverend Paul Kingman, led prayers.

C26/065 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: A. Best, A. Burgess, K. Dawson, I. Fordham (to Minute Number C26/070), B. Kenney and A. Mottershead

C26/066 Declarations of Interest

None made.

C26/067 Requests for Dispensations

None received.

C26/068 Representations from Members of the Public

None

C26/069 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 4 November 2025 (Minute Numbers C26/055 – C26/064), 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.

C26/070 Committee Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) The draft minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4 November 2025 (Minute Numbers GP26/079 – GP26/091), were noted.
- b) The draft minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 4 November 2025 (Minute Numbers PC26/031 – PC26/036), were noted.

C26/071 Friendship Arrangements with Carthage

The Town Council received gifts from Carthage, USA, in recognition of the friendship between our towns.

The Town Mayor informed Town Councillors that during Christmas 1993 John Howland from Carthage in Texas returned to Stone on the 50th anniversary of the time he had spent in the town as a member of the US Army Air Force awaiting his posting to his operational unit. He had never forgotten the wartime kindness and hospitality of the town and brought with him a proclamation from the Mayor of Carthage bestowing a number of gifts on Stone as a reminder of the lasting friendship and appreciation of the people of Stone, Staffordshire, by the people of Carthage, Texas. Stone and Carthage officially became sister towns from that time.

Earlier this year, Cary Bailey was planning a visit to an air show in the USA and made an offer to Councillor Jim Davies to take a gift to Carthage from the Council. Arrangements were made for a Council plate to be taken, accompanied by a letter from the Town Mayor. These items were presented to the Mayor of Carthage, who then arranged for gifts to be sent to the Town Council in return.

The Town Mayor presented the gifts received from Carthage (consisting of a framed flag that had been flown over the city of Carthage, Texas, and a book entitled: Loblolly Salutes – ‘Their Finest Hour’ – Combat Veterans of World War II) as a symbol of friendship and partnership between the sister cities, Carthage and Stone, to the Council.

At the same time, the Town Mayor offered the Council’s thanks to Cary Bailey (who was in attendance at the meeting) for taking the Council’s gift to Carthage to help maintain the longstanding links between our two towns.

Mr Bailey and Councillor Jim Davies were invited to step forward for photographs with the Town Mayor.

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C26/072 Civic Announcements

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

C26/073 To receive the 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 Mayor provided the Town Council with additional verbal reports on the details of his engagements.

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 – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 9 December 2025

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

Officers: L. Trigg (attended virtually via Teams), R. Edwards and T. Williams

ABSENT: Councillors: A. Best, A. Burgess, K. Dawson, B. Kenney and A. Mottershead

GP26/092 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: A. Best, A. Burgess, K. Dawson,
B. Kenney and A. Mottershead

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

GP26/093 Declarations of Interest

None

GP26/094 Requests for Dispensations

There were none

GP26/095 To receive the report of the County Councillors

The Chairman invited County Councillors to address the Committee.

County Councillor Jill Hood

Councillor Hood informed the Committee that County Councillor Ian Cooper had
resigned his leadership of Staffordshire County Council but would be continuing as
an Independent County Councillor for Tamworth.

County Councillor Andrew Mynors

Councillor Mynors was not in attendance at the meeting.

GP26/096 To receive the report of Borough Councillors

The Chairman invited Borough Councillors to address the Committee.

* 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.

Councillor Philip Leason

Councillor Leason reported on a Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee he had attended on 4 December 2025 where the annual report of waste management company, Veolia, had been presented.

He provided the Committee with facts and figures on the company's waste, recycling and garden collection rates which were marginally lower, and lower still for garden waste, than last year. He also said that Veolia ran a number of projects for schools including the offer of free fruit trees and strawberry plants for planting.

Councillor Leason advised the Committee that Freedom Leisure had given a report with information about Stone Leisure Centre. He said that fitness membership had increased by 44 this year, the learning to swim programme had seen an increase of 3, gym visits had rocketed by an enormous 12,979, and group exercise classes were more popular by around 200 this year.

Councillor Leason reported that the Borough Council was introducing a food waste collection service commencing from April 2026. The Cabinet had agreed the purchase of caddies and plastic liners as well as the literature for issue to residents.

The working group had expressed concern about the use of plastic liners as a small percentage of the plastic was not getting removed and had gone through to the recycling process.

Councillor Ian Fordham

Councillor Fordham advised the Committee that the Borough Council's recommendations for the reorganisation of local government had been approved by Cabinet and submitted to central Government. The Council would now await Government feedback which was expected in March or April 2026.

Councillor Jill Hood

Councillor Hood advised the Committee that when Homes Plus closed their housing waiting list there were 2,000 people registered. Following a new call for people to express their interest in securing rented accommodation only 64 people had come forward. A paper was scheduled to be presented to Cabinet on 11 December 2025.

Councillor Hood said she was very pleased to report that there were currently no homeless people in Stone as the Borough Council had found permanent homes for them all.

GP26/097 Representations from Members of the Public

None

GP26/098 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4 November 2025 (Minute Numbers GP26/079 – GP26/091), 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.

GP26/099 Minutes of Sub-Committees

- a) Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee held on 18 November 2025 (Minute Numbers TTP26/017 – TTP26/023), that the draft minutes be noted.
- b) Environment Sub-Committee held on 18 November 2025 (Minute Numbers ENV26/018 – ENV26/025), that the draft minutes be noted.
- c) Estates Sub-Committee held on 18 November 2025 (Minute Numbers EST26/001 – EST26/010), that the draft minutes be noted.

GP26/100 Budget 2026-27 to 2028-29 Overview

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk* (which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting) commencing the process for examining the budget and precept level for the financial year 2026-27 for recommendation to the Council.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that the figures in the report set the scene for the budget preparation. They were based on a standstill position (after looking at potential levels of inflation and fees and charges) and represented the continuation of the Council's existing activity and policies.

The Town Clerk reminded the Committee of the budget process, beginning with the Committee's consideration of the overall position of the Council followed by each of the sub-committees considering (in January 2026) the details of their own budgets and any changes they might want to make. The budget details for all sub-committees would then be brought back together at the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee for determination of the budget recommendation to the Council.

The Council would determine the budget and precept to be requested from Stafford Borough Council in February 2026.

The Committee did not propose any further recommendations in addition to those detailed in the Town Clerk's report.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee notes the standstill budget position for 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29 and the issues related to setting the precept, and:

- a. Authorises the reallocation of the inflation contingency, in accordance with the figures in the Town Clerk's report.
- b. Asks each sub-committee to consider its financial needs for the next three years and report back to the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee with its budget proposals.
- c. Agrees to consider its own budgets at the next meeting of this Committee.

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- d. Did not give any specific instructions to sub-committees to which they would need to have regard while preparing their proposed budgets.

GP26/101 Town Council Payments

RESOLVED: To note the list* of Town Council payments made during the period 1 to 31 October 2025.

GP26/102 Update from Working Groups:

Stone Heritage Centre Steering Group

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that a meeting of the new Heritage Centre Steering Group would be arranged in the New Year.

GP26/103 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 a meeting of the Liaison Group would be called when more information was available on the direction that Local Government was moving in. Additional information would enable discussions to progress on the implications for town and parish councils.

Stone ATC

Councillor J. Davies advised the Committee that he had been unable to attend the last meeting of Stone ATC on 18 November 2025 (same evening as Town Council meetings). The next meeting would be taking place on 13 January 2026.

Age Concern Stone & District

Councillor Thornicroft advised the Committee that there had been no meeting.

Stafford District Access Group

Councillor Kelt advised the Committee that a meeting had taken place on 8 December 2025 and Chief Inspector Giles Parsons had attended. Most of the discussion was related to the use of e-scooters and e-bikes and the problems they cause.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

Councillor Thornicroft advised the Committee that he had attended a meeting of Stone Common Plot Trustees on 12 November 2025 where reports had been given on the following:

The play plot trip rail had been installed, a new water metre had been installed at the plot house, tree work had been undertaken (including installation of a metal access gate), and next year's grazing rights charges agreed by Trustees. The Chairman said he would like to organise a small working party to undertake pond improvements and cut back ivy (which had since been done).

Councillor Thornicroft advised that a funding sub-committee had reported on the current funding arrangements and were looking at new and alternative funding opportunities.

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Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

Councillor Townsend advised the Committee that he had attended the Hub's Annual General Meeting which was well attended. The Group had appointed a new trustee, reported on the continued popularity of their services, talked about funding/ways of securing new funding, and how they could broaden their customer base to offer more services to a wider group of people in Stone.

SPCA Executive Committee

Councillor Kelt informed the Committee that a normal meeting of the Executive Committee had taken place (since the last General Purposes Committee meeting), as well as the Annual General Meeting on 24 November 2025.

The AGM contained the usual items and was followed by presentations from various groups/organisations who had an interest in the local council sector.

West Midlands Railway and other Rail Matters

Councillor Kelt advised the Committee that a meeting had taken place with representatives of Network Rail, Sir Gavin Williamson MP, and Town Council representatives to discuss the maintenance of Stone Station, and afterwards items related to the train timetable and routes.

He said Network Rail were very positive and willing to assist with items that were the train operating company's responsibility.

Councillor Kelt had been unable to attend the last meeting of the Rail Users Group but had noted from the agenda that the track of Stone Station had been moved a few inches closer to the platform, although it still necessitated a large step off. There was the possibility that a Harrington Hump would be installed for disabled access.

CHAIRMAN

Stone Town Council – Planning Consultative Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 9 December 2025

PRESENT: Councillor T. Kelt in the Chair, and
Councillors: J. Battrick, J. Davies, L. Davies, I. Fordham (to Minute Number PC26/040), J. Hood (to Minute Number PC26/040), R. Kenney (to Minute Number PC26/040), P. Leason, J. Metters, J. Powell, N. Powell, C. Thornicroft and R. Townsend

Officers: L. Trigg (attended the meeting virtually on Teams), R. Edwards and T. Williams

ABSENT: Councillors: A. Best, A. Burgess, K. Dawson, B. Kenney, A. Mottershead

PC26/037 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: A. Best, A. Burgess, K. Dawson, B. Kenney and A. Mottershead

PC26/038 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

Councillor R. Kenney advised the Committee that, as a member of Stafford Borough Council's Planning Committee, he would retire from the meeting prior to the discussion of planning application 25/41229/OUT (Land off Eccleshall Road, Stone). Minute Reference PC26/041.

Councillor J. Hood advised the Committee that, as a member of Stafford Borough Council's Planning Committee, she would retire from the meeting prior to the discussion of planning application 25/41229/OUT (Land off Eccleshall Road, Stone). Minute Reference PC26/041.

Councillor I. Fordham advised the Committee that, as a member of Stafford Borough Council's Planning Committee, he would retire from the meeting prior to the discussion of planning application 25/41229/OUT (Land off Eccleshall Road, Stone). Minute Reference PC26/041.

PC26/039 Representations from Members of the Public

None

PC26/040 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on

4 November 2025, Minute Numbers PC26/031 – PC26/036), be approved as a correct record.

Councillors I. Fordham, J. Hood and R. Kenney left the Council Chamber and meeting (Prior to agenda item 5. Minute Number PC26/041).

PC26/041

Planning Applications

Application Number – 25/41229/OUT

Applicant – Bloor Homes Ltd, Mr Bryan Deane and Mr Roger Deane

Location – Land off Eccleshall Road, Stone

Development – Outline planning application with all matters reserved (except for principal means of access) for development comprising up to 510 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), specialist housing for older people (Use Class C2 or C3) and first school (Use Class F.1), with associated open space, landscaping and other associated works including infrastructure, earthworks and drainage.

Observations: The Town Council strongly objects to this planning application and supports the points of concern raised by local people and consultee agencies/organisations.

The Town Council asks that the grounds detailed in its representations dated 10 October 2025, in response to planning application 25/40959/OUT (for the erection of 240 residential dwellings on land off Eccleshall Road), and grounds detailed in its representation dated 11 November 2025, in response to planning application 25/41057/OUT (for the erection of 140 dwellings on land at Marlborough Road, Walton) are restated and that the relevant objections are recorded against this newest planning application, reference number 25/41229/OUT.

The observations previously given in response to planning application 25/40959/OUT are as follows:

- The development proposal will put strain on the existing infrastructure in Stone including roads, utilities, schools and healthcare which will not be able to keep pace with demand for the services. For example, there are currently only two GP practices delivering primary healthcare services in the town and around four dental practices.

The Town Council would like to be consulted on the infrastructure that Section 106 monies may support.

Staffordshire County Council project there will be an insufficient number of school places in the local area to mitigate the impact of the development at first phase education.

- The development proposal will lead to significantly higher volumes of traffic, congestion and corresponding poor air quality/pollution, particularly along the Eccleshall Road. There is already significant traffic congestion here at peak times.

- Support for Severn Trent Water Authority's request for a holding objection as the proposal may have a detrimental impact on the surrounding Network and Treatment works, with the potential to cause flooding or pollution. Sewer outflows or spills into the River Trent and its tributaries are already a big concern.
- Support for the Environment Agency's observations about potential contamination from a previous landfill site situated within the development boundary.
- The development site is located within the 'Zone of Influence' of the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation creating the risk of increased recreational pressure, requiring appropriate mitigation.
- Support of Staffordshire County Council's observations that insufficient information has been submitted to demonstrate that an acceptable drainage strategy is proposed. The County is also concerned about the proposed connection with the Fillybrooks and risks of flooding.
- Support of Active Travel England's observations not to support the application without further assessment, evidence, revisions and dialogue as set out in their representation.
- There appears to be no evidence that disabled access and adequate parking provision has been incorporated into the design to ensure the lifespan of the development extends to 2125 as suggested by the applicant.
- Stone has already been the subject of large scale residential development in recent years, especially in the area off the Eccleshall Road.

Another new planning application has recently been submitted to Stafford Borough Council for a housing development in Marlborough Road. Adding two new sizeable developments in this area will amount to overdevelopment and have a big negative impact on residential amenity.

Concern is expressed that the Government is giving the green light to large scale development with insufficient consideration to local communities.

There is the potential for over subscription of planning applications in the Stafford Borough, inflicting undesirable issues within Stone.

- Some major changes to the town are happening piecemeal without consideration for interconnectivity to infrastructure and the shape of the town, making it difficult to manage public transport and access in outlying areas.

The observations previously given in response to planning application 25/41057/OUT are as follows:

- The Walton side of Stone town has already been subject to major housing development in the form of Udall Grange and now has three new planning applications pending for the further development of nearly 1000 homes (25/40959/OUT, 25/41057/OUT and 25/41229/OUT).
- The two largest of the three new planning applications will rely on the Eccleshall Road for access and this smaller development (of 140 homes) will be accessed through an existing residential area.

The development proposal will have only one access point in and out through Marlborough Road which is a quiet residential road. Beyond Marlborough Road traffic will have just two exit points onto the main road via Pirehill Lane (which is already difficult to exit at busy times) or a detour through the housing estate on to Tilling Drive. Higher volumes of general residential traffic on these routes will impact the health and safety of children at local schools.

- Heavy construction vehicles and new residential traffic will be driving along Marlborough Road and directly past two schools.

There appears to be no consideration for existing local communities and preserving neighbourhood amenity where residents have lived peaceably in their homes for many years.

- It is extremely concerning that these large scale planning applications are coming through to the Planning Department separately with the possibility that an application could be approved without consideration for the totality of what is happening to the town in terms of housing density and the call on services. Development on this scale is significantly changing the shape of the town making it difficult for existing services to adequately support new homes.

The Town Council would also add the following observations/points of objection in response to this planning application, reference 25/41229/OUT:

- There have already been four applications/proposals for large scale housing development on the western side of Stone in recent years, namely: Udall Grange comprising 478 homes, Langdon Green comprising 80 homes, Land at Marlborough Road with 140 homes and Land off Eccleshall Road with 240 homes. Adding this latest and largest application for 510 residential dwellings represents overdevelopment and collectively equates to a small village with one main access route in and out.
- The existing infrastructure in Stone will not support development on this scale and the planning application does not address or mitigate the impact on local services such as roads, connections to the sewage/drainage network, education and schooling, GP and primary

care services as well as pressures on other facilities and amenities in the town.

These applications appear to focus on the development side and on the benefits to new residents, but are weak on solutions to mitigate the impact on existing neighbouring residents and wider communities in Walton and Stone.

Town Councillors have consulted as many residents as possible about the development proposals and have not spoken to a single person who is in support of them and doesn't have concerns about the pressures placed on existing infrastructure and public services.

- Concern is expressed about references to drainage from the land into a subsidiary of Fillybrooks. The brook is already flooding downstream in times of heavy rain. Severn Trent Water Authority are noted to have serious doubts about the proposal and recommend the application is deferred.
- Staffordshire County Council suggests the developer would have to fund the whole of the school construction at a cost of £7.1million unless the other two developments are in agreement where S.106 money can be used. This is concerning as the school may not be a feasible proposition.

The development proposal incorporates the construction of a primary school but there is only one secondary school in Stone which is believed to be at capacity. The additional number of new homes from all planning applications will impact the demand for secondary school provision as well as primary.

- The plans make reference to the development having a special focus on housing for older people but there is no specific detail referencing disabled access, pedestrian connectivity or access to services.
- Access to GP services will become more difficult as the town expands. GP practices are overwhelmed as it is and there is already a recruitment issue nationally.
- It is suggested the recent developments are being proposed when the Local Plan is under review which makes the applications feel opportunistic. The Local Plan should provide for the infrastructure to support the numbers of houses that need to be built. These developments are not supported by an infrastructure plan as far as Councillors can see.
- The Town Council supports the objections raised by consultee, Active Travel, relating to the impact on transportation including roads, motor vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. The current proposal will force traffic on to the Eccleshall Road because of the lack of pedestrian and cycle connectivity.

- Active Travel is concerned about accessibility to shops, GPs and other public services suggesting that residents may have less opportunity for mobility, leading to isolation.
- There is a need to understand what is happening with the potential new Meecebrook Garden Settlement (which may support 6,000 homes) before adding more pressure to Stone in an unplanned way.

Application Number – 25/41359/FUL

Applicant – Mr S. Virani, Crown Property Services

Location – Former Maltings, 2 Crown Street, Stone

Development – Urgent structural works to dangerous structure

25/00180/DANSTR comprising partial demolition/renewal to stabilise west flank wall, with associated repairs and alterations.

Observations: The Town Council welcomes this development proposal and urges the applicant to proceed with the works as quickly as possible. The closure of Adies Alley has had a long term negative impact on business owners, residents and the general public who have been unable to access shops on the Alley and the High Street, directly from Crown Street.

The Town Council asks that all materials used are in keeping with the fabric and heritage of the building.

Application Number – 25/41360/LBC

Applicant – Mr S. Virani, Crown Property Services

Location – Former Maltings, 2 Crown Street, Stone

Development – Urgent structural works to dangerous structure

25/00180/DANSTR comprising partial demolition/renewal to stabilise west flank wall, with associated repairs and alterations.

Observations: The Town Council welcomes this development proposal and urges the applicant to proceed with the works as quickly as possible. The closure of Adies Alley has had a long term negative impact on business owners, residents and the general public who have been unable to access shops on the Alley and the High Street, directly from Crown Street.

The Town Council asks that all materials used are in keeping with the fabric and heritage of the building.

Application Number – 25/41267/HOU

Applicant – Mr Alan Stubbs

Location – 1 Oak Road, Stone

Development – Removal of existing single storey side garden store and erection of new single storey side extension.

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 25/41336/HOU

Applicant – Clare Cartwright (Housing Plus Group)

Location – 6 Coppice Gardens, Stone

Development – Alteration to the existing single storey extension to the gable elevation.

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 25/41427/FUL

Applicant – Mrs L. Gibbons (LMGG Property Ltd)

Location – 18A Victor Street, Stone

Development – Extensions to the rear to create, two, three bedroom dwellings

Observations: The Town Council made no comment on this planning application.

Application Number – 24/40078/FUL (amended plans)

Applicant – Mr C. Croft (Croft Architecture)

Location – 58 – 60 Old Road, Stone

Development – Restoration of the main ground floor class E commercial premises including remodelling the internal layout to use as offices with meeting rooms and staff facilities. The proposal includes creating an open plan office with additional windows to maximise the natural light into the office space. Sub dividing the Class E premises so that the storage and workshop building to the rear which is to have a change of use to a C3 dwelling. This is to be converted, creating an open plan kitchen/diner with a good-sized lounge on the ground floor and a good-sized bedroom, bathroom and dressing room on the first floor. The existing first floor class C3 dwelling is to be remodelled with a modern living internal layout, creating an open plan kitchen/diner, a good-sized lounge and family bathroom, maintaining the same number of bedrooms.

Observations: The Town Council made no comment on the amended plans.

PC26/042

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

Stone Town Council – Planning Consultative Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 13 January 2026

PRESENT: Councillor T. Kelt in the Chair, and
Councillors: J. Battrick, A. Best, J. Davies, P. Leason, J. Metters, J. Powell,
N. Powell, C. Thornicroft and R. Townsend

Officers: L. Trigg (attended the meeting virtually on Teams), R. Edwards,
L. Fleetwood and T. Williams

ABSENT: Councillors: A. Burgess, L. Davies, K. Dawson, I. Fordham, J. Hood, B. Kenney,
R. Kenney, A. Mottershead

PC26/043 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: L. Davies, K. Dawson, I. Fordham,
J. Hood, B. Kenney, R. Kenney and A. Mottershead

PC26/044 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None

PC26/045 Representations from Members of the Public

None

PC26/046 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on
9 December 2025 (Minute Numbers PC26/037 – PC26/042), be approved as a
correct record.

PC26/047 Planning Applications

Application Number – 25/41276/FUL

Applicant – Ms A. Boyce (AMP Clean Energy)

Location – Land North East of Brooms Road, Stone

Development – Construction and operation of a micro energy storage project

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 25/40501/HOU (amended plans)

Applicant – Mrs S. Yates

Location – 39 Hill Drive, Stone

Development – Retrospective application for the retention of 1.746m boundary fence, alteration of ground levels and retaining walls within the garden, to include removal of elements of the unauthorised fence and gates, repositioning of fence and extension of driveway.

Observations: In response to the amended plans put forward in respect of this application, the Town Council wishes to restate the observations given in its representation dated 2 July 2025:

‘The Town Council supports the objections raised by residents and the County Highways Department in response to this planning application. As a general principle the Council is not in support of retrospective planning applications’.

PC26/048

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

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 3 February 2026

PRESENT: Councillor R. Kenney in the Chair, and
Councillors: J. Battrick, A. Best, I. Fordham, J. Hood, T. Kelt, B. Kenney, P. Leason,
C. Thornicroft and R. Townsend

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

ABSENT: Councillors: A. Burgess, J. Davies, L. Davies, K. Dawson, J. Metters, A. Mottershead
J. Powell and N. Powell

GP26/104 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: A. Burgess, J. Davies, L. Davies,
K. Dawson, J. Metters, A. Mottershead, J. Powell and N. 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.

GP26/105 Declarations of Interest and Declarations under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that as Councillor Townsend was a Council
appointed representative to Stone Community Hub Liaison Group he did not need
to declare an interest in agenda item 11d. (Minute Number GP26/114) – Grants to
Local Organisations, and was able to speak and vote at the meeting.

Councillor R. Kenney and Councillor Hood advised the Committee that although
they were members of St Michael's Hall Committee they did not have any
involvement in the finances and were not required to declare an interest in agenda
item 11e. (Minute Number GP26/114) – Grants to Local Organisations.

Councillor Hood declared a personal interest in item 11f. – Grants to Local
Organisations, but stated that she was intending to seek a dispensation under the
next agenda item.

GP26/106 Requests for Dispensations

The Committee considered a request for a dispensation from Councillor Hood in
relation to agenda item 11f. – Grants to Local Organisations.

Councillor Hood had in advance of the meeting requested a dispensation* to allow
her to speak and vote in consideration of the grant application from Alleyne's
Academy, as she was a school governor.

* 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.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Hood be granted a dispensation to speak and vote on agenda item 11f. (Minute Number GP26/114) – Grants to Local Organisations: Alleyne's Academy.

GP26/107 To receive the report of the County Councillors

The Chairman invited County Councillors to address the Committee.

County Councillor Jill Hood

Councillor Hood informed the Committee that Staffordshire County Council had invited County Councillors to put out a call to residents about a service improvement plan that was underway jointly with Staffordshire Enhanced Partnership. The plan included a review of the County's bus services for the purpose of identifying how well they were operating, whether they were meeting the needs of communities and whether there were gaps in service that needed to be addressed.

Councillor Hood asked that Town Councillors inform their contacts (stressing the imminent close date of Friday 6 February 2026) and expressed her hope that something positive would come out of the review for Stone and the surrounding areas.

County Councillor Andrew Mynors

Councillor Mynors was not in attendance at the meeting.

GP26/108 To receive the report of Borough Councillors

The Chairman invited Borough Councillors to address the Committee.

Councillor Jill Hood

Councillor Hood advised the Committee that the Borough Council's Housing Options Team was aware that a homeless person was sleeping in the bus shelter in Walton. Housing Officers had done everything in their power to persuade the person to accept accommodation but the offer of help had been declined.

Councillor Philip Leason

Councillor Leason advised the Committee that the Borough Council was implementing a food waste service from April 2026 but a lot of negative comments had been received, particularly in respect of costs. He said the Borough Council was implementing a government funded strategy and not a local initiative. Borough Councillors were in support of the new service.

GP26/109 Representations from Members of the Public

None received.

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GP26/110 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 9 December 2025 (Minute Numbers GP26/092 – GP26/103), be approved as a correct record.

GP26/111 Minutes of Sub-Committees

- a) Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee held on 13 January 2026 (Minute Numbers TTP26/024 – TTP26/033), that the draft minutes be noted, and the recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in Minute Number TTP26/030 be adopted.

The recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in Minute Number TTP26/032 was considered as part of Minute Number GP26/101 (agenda item 10).

- b) Environment Sub-Committee held on 13 January 2026 (Minute Numbers ENV26/026 – ENV26/034), that the draft minutes be noted.

The recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in Minute Number ENV26/031 and ENV26/032 had been fed into the budget discussion which formed part of Minute Number ENV26/033.

The recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in Minute Number ENV26/033 was considered as part of Minute Number GP26/101 (agenda item 10).

- c) Estates Sub-Committee held on 13 January 2026 (Minute Numbers EST26/011 – EST26/018), that the draft minutes be noted.

The recommendation of the Sub-Committee contained in Minute Number EST26/016 was considered as part of Minute Number GP26/101 (agenda item 10).

GP26/112 General Purposes Committee – Budget 2026-27 to 2028-29

The Committee received the report of the Town Clerk* (which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting) examining the 2026-27 to 2028-29 budget requirements for the specific services managed directly by the General Purposes Committee, including those which had previously been the responsibility of the former Management Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee recommends for consideration later in the meeting alongside the proposals from Sub-Committees, the adoption of the standstill Committee budget for 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29, as detailed in the Clerk's report, with the following adjustments:

- a. An increased inflation provision of £208 in 2026-27, £248 in 2027-28 and £364 in 2028-29 for the Council as a whole as a result of

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budget changes put forward by Sub-Committees. *(NOTE: These figures will need to be recalculated if any of the budget proposals are changed when the overall budget for recommendation to the Council is considered later in the meeting).*

GP26/113 Budget 2026-27 to 2028-29 for recommendation to the Council

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk* (which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting) alongside the budget proposals from Sub-Committees and from this Committee.

RESOLVED: In respect of the Town Council's budget for 2026-27 to 2028-29, it is proposed that the following recommendations be made to the Council:

1. The Standstill Budget included in the Clerk's report to this meeting be recommended to the Council for adoption with the following amendments:
 - a. Estates:
 - i. A one-off contingency provision of £500 should be made in the Frank Jordan Centre 2026-27 budget for improvements to parking arrangements.
 - b. Environment:
 - i. A provision of £1,100 should be made in the current year's budget for the repair/replacement of the boundary fence at Mount Road Allotments.
 - ii. A provision of £2,000 in 2026-27 and £3,000 per annum in subsequent years should be added to the Environmental Initiatives budget to provide funding for the proposed Crown Meadow Management Plan.
 - c. Tourism and Town Promotion:
 - i. A one-off provision of £3,000 should be made in 2026-27 for the replacement of outdated Christmas lighting display features.
 - ii. An ongoing increase of £1,000 per annum should be made to the Tourism and Town Promotion budget to provide additional funding for a summer holiday children's event.
 - d. General Purposes:
 - i. An increased inflation provision of £208 in 2026-27, £248 in 2027-28 and £364 in 2028-29 for the Council as a whole as a result of budget changes put forward by Sub-Committees. *(NOTE: These figures will need to be recalculated if any of the other budget proposals for recommendation to the Council are changed at the Council meeting).*
2. As a consequence of the above, the precept on Stafford Borough Council for 2026-27 would be £431,362.01, with Local Council Tax Support Grant of £29,184.05 to be added. This would result in a 2026-27 Council Tax for this Council's purposes of £66.99 for a Band D property, an increase for the

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year of £3.00, with indicative Council Tax levels of £70.27 and £73.71 for the following two years.

GP26/114 Grants to Local Organisations

The Committee considered requests for grant aid from local organisations. Before consideration, the Town Clerk informed the Committee that £3,111 remained within the Grants budget.

The following organisations met the eligibility criteria within the Council's grants policy:

- a. **Organisation:** Stone Alzheimer's Club
 Amount Requested: £350
 Reason: To purchase a speaker and microphone system to aid communication and to play music at meetings.

 RESOLVED: To award a grant of £300 to Stone Alzheimer's Club.

- b. **Organisation:** Tilling Drive Allotments
 Amount Requested: £500
 Reason: To support the replacement of a self-laid water pipe system which is showing signs of wear.

 RESOLVED: To award a grant of £400 to Tilling Drive Allotments.

- c. **Organisation:** Stone Lions Club
 Amount Requested: £500
 Reason: Prostate screening.

 RESOLVED: To award a grant of £500 to Stone Lions Club.

- d. **Organisation:** Stone Community Hub
 Amount Requested: £500
 Reason: To start a series of activities in 2026 to promote health and wellbeing.

 RESOLVED: To award a grant of £400 to Stone Community Hub.

The following organisations did not meet the eligibility criteria within the Council's grants policy for the reasons stated but the Committee agreed to instigate a discussion about making an award of a grant:

- e. **Organisation:** St Michael's Hall
 Amount Requested: £500
 Reason: To support redecoration of the hall.
 - i. Level of reserves
 RESOLVED: To award a grant of £400 to St Michael's Hall.

- f. **Organisation:** Alleyne's Academy
 Amount Requested: £250
 Reason: To purchase materials to start a gardening club.
 - i. Turnover in excess of £100,000

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RESOLVED: To award a grant of £250 to Alleyne's Academy.

- g. **Organisation:** Futures2gether
Amount Requested: £500
Reason: To purchase gardening tools to maintain a community garden.
 - i. Turnover in excess of £100,000

RESOLVED: To award a grant of £400 to Futures2gether.

- h. **Organisation:** Stone Community First Responders
Amount Requested: £500
Reason: To purchase a Laerdal Suction unit (LSU) for use in emergency medical situations to clear a patients airway.
 - i. Level of reserves

RESOLVED: To award a grant of £450 to Stone Community First Responders.

GP26/115 Meeting Schedule for 2026-27

The Committee considered a proposed meeting and civic events schedule* for the period May 2026 to April 2027 which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting.

The Committee noted that as Stafford Borough Council's 2026-27 programme of meetings was not yet available, some amendments may subsequently need to be made to avoid future clashes.

RESOLVED: To approve the Town Council's meeting schedule for 2026-27 with the August meetings removed. Any further, necessary amendments during the year would be determined by the Town Clerk in consultation with the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee Chairman, in line with the current practice.

GP26/116 Town Council Payments

RESOLVED: To note the list* of Town Council payments made during the period 1 November to 31 December 2025.

GP26/117 Update from Working Groups:

Stone Heritage Centre Steering Group

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the first meeting of the new Stone Heritage Centre Steering Group had taken place with the Heritage Centre Manager receiving direction on the Heritage Centre's next stages of development. Over the next year or so this will include themed events such as '250 years of the Trent & Mersey Canal' and the development of the 'Story of Stone'.

The Chairman said the meeting was most productive and reported that the Group would soon be taking on some new co-opted members.

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GP26/118 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

The Chairman reported on behalf of Councillor J. Davies that there had not been a recent meeting of the Stone Area Parish Liaison Group. A meeting will be called as soon as the Government's decision regarding reorganisation in Staffordshire is published.

Stone ATC

The Chairman reported on behalf of Councillor J. Davies that a meeting of the Stone ATC Civilian Welfare Committee was held on Tuesday 13 January 2026 which unfortunately clashed with the Town Council meetings that evening. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 24 February 2026.

Age Concern Stone & District

Councillor Thornicroft advised the Committee that there had been no meeting of Age Concern Stone & District. The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Friday 6 February 2026.

Stafford & District Access Group

Councillor Kelt advised the Committee that no meeting of the Stafford & District Access Group had been held.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

Councillor Townsend advised the Committee that the newly formed Funding Sub-Committee had met for a second time and was formulating proposals to access new streams of funding for the Common Plot. A meeting would be held on 9 February 2026.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

Councillor Battrick informed the Committee that he and Councillor Townsend had attended a meeting of Stone Community Hub Liaison Group (on 3 February 2026).

The group had discussed a number of items including the Frank Jordan Centre car park and flooring, and the Hub representatives confirmed at the meeting that they were happy with the service provided by the Town Council office.

The General Purposes Committee discussed the role of the Liaison Group, and it was agreed that this needed to be clarified.

SPCA Executive Committee

Councillor Kelt informed the Committee that a meeting had taken place with the usual reports given. The main topic of discussion was council elections and the likelihood of them taking place over the next two years.

West Midlands Railway and other Rail Matters

Councillor Kelt advised the Committee that he hadn't been able to attend the last meeting of West Midlands Railway. He said it did not appear there were references to Stone town directly and pointed out that the train operating companies had now reverted to public ownership.

CHAIRMAN

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Introduction

1. This report considers the setting of the Town Council's Budget for 2026-27, with indicative figures for the following two years.

Background

2. At a series of meetings during January and February 2026, the General Purposes Committee and its Sub-Committees considered their potential budgets for 2026-27 to 2028-29. As a result of this consideration, the General Purposes Committee on 3rd February 2026 recommended a budget for approval by the Council.
3. The budget proposed by the General Purposes Committee is set out at Appendix A. It can be summarised as follows:

Actual		Budget	Forecast	Budget	Budget	Budget
2024-25		2025-26	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
£		£	£	£	£	£
479	Estates	37,865	39,660	27,200	26,700	26,628
25,791	Environment	31,635	31,660	23,480	24,480	24,471
46,604	Tourism & Town Promotion	49,240	42,550	56,710	52,210	52,210
315,964	General Purposes	479,379	441,319	377,202	442,312	402,938
-37,206	Earmarked Reserves	-113,682	-113,682	-	-	-
351,633	TOTAL	484,437	441,507	484,592	545,702	506,247
	Planned Contribution to (from) Balances			-24,046	-56,249	16,794
	Precept Required (incl LCTSG)			460,546	489,453	523,041
	Band D Council Tax Equivalent			66.99	70.27	73.71

4. The Council is not required to accept the above budget, and is free to set the Council Tax at whatever level it thinks appropriate. The rest of this report does, however, assume the acceptance of the proposed budget, and a number of the comments made below may need to be reconsidered if the budget changes.

Robustness of Budget

5. In setting its budget and precept, the Council must determine:
 - The estimated expenditure for the year.
 - Such allowances as it considers appropriate for contingencies.
 - Such financial reserves as the Council considers appropriate to raise or utilise in the year.
 - Such reserves as are sufficient to meet any revenue account deficit from any earlier year.
6. These issues have been considered as part of the budget setting process so far, and have resulted in the proposed budget under consideration today.
7. The Town Clerk's role, as Responsible Financial Officer, is to advise members on the robustness of their plans, and in particular the adequacy of their reserves (balances) to meet possible future issues.
8. Excluding the reserves earmarked for the Neighbourhood Plan and rollovers, the recommended budget projects that the Council will be holding a reserve of £262,231 as at 31st March 2026. As can be seen from the table in paragraph 3 above, the three-year budget proposed by the General Purposes Committee would result in movements in these balances as follows:

	Budgeted Contribution to (from) Balances £	Estimated General Fund Balance £	Number of Months Net Expenditure
31 March 2026	-	262,231	-
31 March 2027	-24,046	238,185	5.8
31 March 2028	-56,249	181,936	3.9
31 March 2029	+16,794	198,730	4.6

9. I would normally recommend that a Council the size of Stone Town Council should hold a general reserve equivalent to around six months' net expenditure, unless there is a good, financially sound reason not to do so. Where balances are lower than this amount, they should not go below three months' net expenditure and there should be an understanding by Councillors of the increased financial risk to the Council.
10. Due to the challenges posed in recent budgets by inflation, particularly for 2023-24, I recommended to the General Purposes Committee at that time that the level of reserves held should be reduced to the equivalent of no less than three months net expenditure in the short to medium term.
11. The alternatives to the proposed approach would have been to reduce the budget, potentially endangering the delivery of the Heritage Centre and other Council services,

setting the precept/Council Tax at a significantly higher level, or taking out a loan for the capital project.

12. This budget continues with the replenishment of general reserves from that “three-month” level and back towards the recommended “six-month” level, with the estimated reserves for 31st March 2027 and 31st March 2028 both being higher than estimated when the current year’s budget was set in February 2025. The level of reserves does fall back to a low of only 3.9 months net expenditure at 31st March 2028, but that is often the case in an election year due to the costs of the election itself and related spending.
13. In conclusion, the General Purposes Committee’s recommended use of reserves in these circumstances represents, in my view, a financially responsible approach to setting the Council’s budget. On this basis, I am able to advise the Council that the proposed level of reserves should be adequate to ensure that the Council’s current plans can be reasonably sustained into the future. This will, however, need to be monitored throughout the year and examined very closely when the 2027-28 budget is considered next January/February.

Council Tax Leaflet

14. The Council also needs to determine the wording to be used on the Council Tax leaflet.
15. The wording for 2025-26 was:

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

16. Councillors are asked to consider the wording for the 2026-27 leaflet.

Recommendations

17. That the Council determines its budget, precept and Council Tax for 2026-27, indicative budgets for 2027-28 and 2028-29, and the wording of the Council Tax leaflet.

Stone Town Council

Proposed Budget 2025-26 to 2027-28

Actual 2024-25 £		Budget 2025-26 £	Forecast 2025-26 £	Budget 2026-27 £	Budget 2027-28 £	Budget 2028-29 £
-33,236	Frank Jordan Centre	-23,650	-16,500	-10,000	-10,500	-10,500
27,653	Stone Station	35,125	29,600	18,780	18,780	18,708
7,754	Stone Heritage Centre (Running)	45,250	13,650	45,000	45,000	45,000
-2,139	Town Market	-2,020	-3,940	-2,090	-2,090	-2,090
3,497	Bus Shelters & Street Furniture	5,840	6,020	5,870	5,870	5,870
940	Street Lighting	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
864	Dog & Litter Bins	900	890	900	900	900
100	Joules Clock	-	-	-	-	-
660	Town Electricity Supply	650	650	650	650	650
-	Building Maintenance	18,000	18,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
20,455	Grounds Maintenance	25,565	24,040	23,650	23,650	23,650
7,959	Crown Meadow Improvements	4,120	4,930	-	-	-
-2,623	Allotments	-50	690	-2,170	-2,170	-2,179
-	Environmental Initiatives	2,000	2,000	2,000	3,000	3,000
20,153	Christmas Lights	21,260	20,000	26,500	22,000	22,000
28,590	Tourism & Town Promotion	30,000	26,490	32,300	32,300	32,300
2,389	Grants	5,611	5,611	4,000	4,000	4,000
228,007	Salaries & Employment Costs	253,800	252,900	249,600	251,000	251,000
8,087	Accommodation	15,010	10,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
9,289	Insurances	10,760	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
29,186	Administration	50,096	50,096	40,400	55,400	40,400
2,063	Audit & Legal Fees	1,450	1,800	1,765	1,765	1,765
-	Town Council Elections	-	-	-	35,000	-
2,941	Allowances - Mayor & Deputy Mayor	3,440	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
601	Regalia & Presentations	200	300	4,200	800	300
2,287	Civic Dinner & Hospitality	2,600	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
2,893	Remembrance Sunday & War Memorials	3,500	3,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
492	Miscellaneous	800	800	800	800	800
-6,640	Interest	-5,600	-5,300	-4,500	-4,500	-4,500
-	Neighbourhood Plan	-	-	-	-	-
38,078	Stone Heritage Centre (Setup)	73,922	73,922	-	-	-
-	Market Square Improvements	30,000	30,000	-	-	-
-	General Contingency	-	-	-	-	-
-	Inflation Contingency	-	-	14,398	31,508	42,634
-11,461	Concurrent Functions Allowance	-11,460	-11,460	-11,461	-11,461	-11,461
-37,206	Rollover Reserve	-113,682	-113,682	-	-	-
-	Neighbourhood Plan Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
351,633		484,437	441,507	484,592	545,702	506,247
	Planned Contribution to (from) Balances			-24,046	-56,249	16,794
	Precept Required (incl LCTSG)			460,546	489,453	523,041
	Band D Council Tax Equivalent			66.99	70.27	73.71

Local Government Transparency Code 2015

Procurement Information

1. Invitations to Tender for Contracts Exceeding £5,000

None

2. Contracted Agreements Exceeding £5,000

None

Payment Information

The attached appendix sets out all Council payments for the period over £250, excluding salary and related payments, payments from the Mayor's Charity and transfers between the Council's bank accounts.

Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

Decisions that would otherwise have been taken by the Town Council or one of its Committees that have been delegated to an officer:

1. Under a specific express authorisation; or
2. Under a general authorisation to officers to take such decisions and, the effect of the decision is to:
 - a. grant a permission or licence;
 - b. affect the rights of an individual; or
 - c. award a contract or incur expenditure which, in either case, materially affects the Town Council's financial position.

- None

Date: 21/01/2026
Time: 13:25:27

Stone Town Council - Payments over £250

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The table below lists payments over £250 made by the Council in the period identified.

Where the actual amounts shown are below £250, these payments represent adjustments to items over £250 shown elsewhere in the list.

The table includes payments by cheque, direct debit, payment card, telephone banking and online banking. It excludes salary and related payments, payments from the Mayor's Charity, and transfers between the Council's bank accounts. All amounts exclude VAT.

Payment Date From : 01/10/2025

Payment Date To : 31/12/2025

<u>Payment Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount (£)</u>
08/10/2025	82	MJ Plant	Grounds Maint - Aug of Amp, Cm, MR, Abbey St and	1,784.00
08/10/2025	81	MJ Plant	Grounds Maint - July 25	1,784.00
08/10/2025	83	MJ Plant	Grounds Maint - Sept - Amp,CM, MR, Allotments, Abbey	1,784.00
08/10/2025	85	MJ Plant	Marquee Set Up July	835.00
08/10/2025	86	MJ Plant	Marquee setup - Aug 25	895.00
08/10/2025	87	MJ Plant	Marquee Set Up - Sept 25	735.00
08/10/2025	41UG031-0009	Geosphere TA Parish Online	Parish Online Digital Mapping Subscription 25/26	600.00
14/10/2025	5616	Christmas Plus	Clusterline extension, Spheres, tree brackets	190.00
15/10/2025	5616	Christmas Plus	Clusterline extension, Spheres, tree brackets	1,400.00
18/10/2025	33624	Joules Brewery	Trafalgar dinner x 78 persons	1,950.00
20/10/2025	01529072	VALDA ENERGY	SSTN Elec 1.10-31.10.2025	323.59
20/10/2025	01529072	VALDA ENERGY	FJC Elec Usage 1.10-31.10.2025	327.68
20/10/2025	01529072	VALDA ENERGY	FJC Gas Usage 1.10-31.10.2025	436.89
20/10/2025	01529072	VALDA ENERGY	SSTN Gas 1.10-31.10.2025	354.67
27/10/2025	227955	Prism Solutions	Prism IT Managed Service - Nov 25	1,405.20
29/10/2025	2510039	Crown Highways	Installation of poles at Walton for Christmas lights	749.75
03/11/2025	SBC Rates	Stafford Borough Council	SBC Rates HC - Nov 25	379.00

Date: 21/01/2026

Time: 13:25:27

Stone Town Council - Payments over £250

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<u>Payment Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount (£)</u>
03/11/2025	SBC Rates	Stafford Borough Council	SBC Rates FJC - Nov 25	279.00
06/11/2025	Inv2110	The Secret Kitchen	Buffet for 110 - Remembrance Sunday	1,080.00
06/11/2025	26302	Stone Gazette Ltd	Half page advert Nov/Dec	320.00
06/11/2025	53824	Panda Press (Stone) Ltd	Remembrance Day order of service sheets	259.00
07/11/2025	INV-1880	IG Stage Hire	Stage Hire Christmas Lights - 50%	425.00
13/11/2025	INV-1218	CE & PS Ltd	Barrier hire for Remembrance 2025	483.91
13/11/2025	210267703	Steve's Sound Systems	PA System for Remembrance 2025	280.00
19/11/2025	03547	Griffin Environmental Asbestos	SSTN - Asbestos Survey	680.00
20/11/2025	01575247	VALDA ENERGY	FJC Gas Usage 01.11 - 30.11.2025	599.97
20/11/2025	01575247	VALDA ENERGY	SSTN Gas Usage-01.11 - 30.11.2025	555.54
20/11/2025	01575247	VALDA ENERGY	SSTN Elec Usage - 01.11 - 30.11.2025	316.87
20/11/2025	01575247	VALDA ENERGY	FJC Elec Usage-01.11 - 30.11.2025	309.01
21/11/2025	210083472	Kath Stanway	Compere for Christmas switch on 2025	450.00
25/11/2025	230622	Prism Solutions	Prism IT Managed Service - Dec 25	1,338.22
26/11/2025	597	Hazzard Promotions	Sound system hire for Switch on 2025	400.00
26/11/2025	INV000276	Hearts Cross Medical	Medical support at Christmas switch on 2025	350.00
28/11/2025	13136623	British Gas	Elec Usage - 61 High St -28.10.19 to 25.11.2025	1,300.40
01/12/2025	wp-INV10844015	Water Plus	Water Usage - Mount Road - 09.10 to 09.11	368.54
02/12/2025	INV-1256	CE & PS Ltd	Christmas Switch on 2025 - barrier hire and electrics	1,140.24
04/12/2025	5646	Christmas Plus	Plane Tree additional spheres and snowfall tubes	991.00
04/12/2025	5681	Christmas Plus	Installation of Festive display 2025 -70%	5,347.20
09/12/2025	MEM256385-1	Society of Local Council Clerks	SLCC Membership 2026	316.00
11/12/2025	94	MJ Plant	Annual maint of Town borders and Walton Roundabout	4,642.00
11/12/2025	92	MJ Plant	Grounds maint - Oct- Amp, CM, MR, Abbey St	1,784.00
11/12/2025	96	MJ Plant	FJC Weed Control x 8 visits	338.00

Date: 21/01/2026

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Stone Town Council - Payments over £250

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<u>Payment Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount (£)</u>
11/12/2025	95	MJ Plant	Weed Control CM, Amp and surrounding area	338.00
11/12/2025	97	MJ Plant	Maint of war memorial, maint of stand and removal of	548.00
11/12/2025	93	MJ Plant	Annual grass cutting and removal Crown Meadow	568.00
11/12/2025	99	MJ Plant	Marquee set up - Oct 25	307.50
11/12/2025	100	MJ Plant	Marquee Setup - Nov 25	905.00
11/12/2025	98	MJ Plant	Cenotaph stand	1,000.00
12/12/2025	13136623	British Gas	Elec Usage - 61 High St -28.10.19 to 25.11.2025	36.77
19/12/2025	01620730	VALDA ENERGY	SSTN Elec Usage 1.12-30.12.2025	343.33
19/12/2025	01620730	VALDA ENERGY	FJC Elec Usage 1.12-30.12.2025	322.63
19/12/2025	01620730	VALDA ENERGY	SSTN Gas Usage 1.12-30.12.2025	789.59
19/12/2025	01620730	VALDA ENERGY	FJC Gas Usage 1.12-30.12.2025	683.08
23/12/2025	6018813501	E On	Highways Lighting Maint and Energy 2025/26	843.88
23/12/2025	5813476/CE/56059	The Arch Rent Collectors	SSTN Rent 25.12 to 24.03.26	1,550.00
23/12/2025	7070297920	Stafford Borough Council	Install/remove bollards Oct-Dec25	485.96
29/12/2025	231884	Prism Solutions	Prism IT Managed Service - Jan 26	1,336.07
31/12/2025	Stafford BC Rates	Stafford Borough Council	SBC Rates HC - Dec 2025	379.00
31/12/2025	Stafford BC Rates	Stafford Borough Council	SBC Rates FJC - Dec 2025	279.00
31/12/2025	wp-INV11093835	Water Plus	Water usage - FJC to 19.11 to 06.12.25	3,934.53
				60,054.02

STONE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
17 February 2026
CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Mayor

Saturday 21 February

Stone Community First Responders Trade Fair in Stone High Street

Deputy Mayor

No engagements on this occasion

TOWN MAYOR

TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 17 February 2026

The Town Mayor's Report will follow

DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 17 February 2026

Sunday 18 December 2025 – Alzheimer's Club Christmas Party

I was invited to the Alzheimer's club Christmas party. It was very well attended with over 60 members now. Christchurch's hall was full and everyone enjoyed themselves. Members of Alzheimer's Society came to show their support and offer any advice. Sandie and the volunteers work so hard each week and the Christmas party was the peak of their hard work. Well done to everyone and good luck in the new year.

Sunday 21 December 2025 – Christchurch Christmas Carol Service

Rev Kingman invited me to the service which was the perfect way to get into the Christmas mood. My family and I attended and we thoroughly enjoyed all the hymns and the 9 lessons from the bible. The choir sung beautifully. It was a joy to hear their voices and harmonies. I thought the advent window carol was very well put together, I enjoyed it immensely. Thank you.