



**Town Clerk**  
Les Trigg

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24 February 2026

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** will be held in the **Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone**, on **TUESDAY 3 MARCH 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**
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 17 February 2026, Minute Numbers C26/074 – C26/083 (attached).**

6. **To receive the draft minutes and decisions of the under mentioned Committees:**
  - a) Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 17 February 2026, Minute Numbers PC26/049 – PC26/054 (attached).
7. **To receive the forthcoming Civic Announcements (attached).**
8. **To receive the Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Reports of Engagements (attached).**

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Town Council meeting as observers and/or to make representations to the committee in accordance with the Council's scheme of public participation. Details of the scheme are displayed in the Council's notice boards and website.

Please access the Council Chamber from the rear of the building.

# Stone Town Council

## Minutes of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 17 February 2026

**PRESENT:** Councillor J. Metters in the Chair and  
Councillors: A. Burgess, J. Davies, L. Davies, B. Kenney, P. Leason and  
C. Thornicroft

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

Councillors: J. Battrick, A. Best, K. Dawson, I. Fordham, J. Hood, T. Kelt, R. Kenney,  
A. Mottershead, J. Powell, N. Powell and R. Townsend

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### **Prayers**

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

### **C26/074 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: A. Best, K. Dawson, I. Fordham,  
J. Hood, T. Kelt, R. Kenney, A. Mottershead, J. Powell, N. Powell and  
R. Townsend

### **C26/075 Declarations of Interest and Declarations under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992**

None made.

### **C26/076 Requests for Dispensations**

None received.

### **C26/077 Representations from Members of the Public**

None

### **C26/078 Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 9 December 2025 (Minute Numbers C26/065 – C26/073), be approved as a correct record.

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\* 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.

**C26/079 Committee Minutes**

RESOLVED:

- a) The minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 9 December 2025 (Minute Numbers GP26/092 – GP26/103), were noted.
- b) The Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 9 December 2025 (Minute Numbers PC26/037 – PC26/042), were noted.
- c) The draft Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 13 January 2026 (Minute Numbers PC26/043 – PC26/048), were noted.
- d) The draft Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 3 February 2026 (Minute Numbers GP26/104 – GP26/118), were noted. The recommendations included in Minute GP26/113 were considered as part of agenda item 7 (Minute Number C26/080).

**C26/080 To consider the Council's Budget for 2026-27 to 2028-29 and to set the Precept and Council Tax for the Year**

The Town Council considered the Town Clerk's budget report\*, which reflected the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee on 3 February 2026.

The Town Council considered a Proposal\* on the 'Revenue Budget 2026-27 to 2028-29' including the budget, precept and Council Tax for 2026-27, indicative budgets for 2026-27 and 2028-29, and recommendation for the wording of the Council Tax leaflet.

RESOLVED:

In respect of the Town Council's budget for 2026-27 to 2028-29:

1. The Budget recommended by the General Purposes Committee on 3rd February 2026, as included in the draft minutes at Council agenda item 6(d) and set out in the Clerk's report to this meeting, is agreed.
2. The 2026-27 Council Tax for this Council's purposes should be £66.99 for a Band D property, an increase for the year of £3.00, with indicative Council Tax levels of £70.27 and £73.71 for the following two years. This would result in a precept on Stafford Borough Council for 2026-27 of £431,362.01. Local Council Tax Support Grant of £29,184.05 would be added to this.
3. The wording for the 2026-27 Council Tax leaflet should be:

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*“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 2026-27 budget includes additional funding to provide support further improvements at Crown Meadow, the replacement of outdated Christmas Light decorations, additional support for the summer children’s event and improvements to the Frank Jordan Centre car park.*

*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, 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 Stone Heritage Centre has seen an encouraging start, with well over 2,500 visitors to date. Exhibitions have included Remembrance Sunday, VE Day, VJ Day and Railway 200, alongside a number of art exhibitions and a number of well attended talks.*

*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.”*

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

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**C26/081**    **Local Government Transparency Code 2015**  
**Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014**

The information for Quarter ending 31 December 2025 was noted.

**C26/082**    **Civic Announcements**

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

**C26/083**    **To receive the Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Reports of Engagements**

The Deputy Town Mayor's reports of engagements, which had previously been circulated, were noted.

The Town Mayor's report will be issued with the agenda for the next Council meeting.

**TOWN MAYOR**

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# Stone Town Council – Planning Consultative Committee

## Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 17 February 2026

**PRESENT:** Councillor C. Thornicroft in the Chair, and  
Councillors: A. Burgess, J. Davies, L. Davies, B. Kenney, P. Leason and J. Metters

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

**ABSENT:** Councillors: J. Battrick, A. Best, K. Dawson, I. Fordham, J. Hood, T. Kelt, R. Kenney,  
A. Mottershead, J. Powell, N. Powell and R. Townsend

**PC26/049**      **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: A. Best, K. Dawson, I. Fordham,  
J. Hood, T. Kelt, R. Kenney, A. Mottershead, J. Powell, N. Powell and  
R. Townsend

**PC26/050**      **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

Councillor C. Thornicroft declared a pecuniary interest in planning application  
25/41467/HOU – agenda item 5 (Minute Reference PC26/053) – 141 Lichfield  
Road

**PC26/051**      **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

**PC26/052**      **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on  
13 January 2026 (Minute Numbers PC26/043 – PC26/048), be approved as a  
correct record.

**PC26/053**      **Planning Applications**

**Application Number** – 25/41303/FUL

**Applicant** – Mancot Limited

**Location** – Unit 2 TDG Logistics Cold Store, Stone Business park, Opal Way, Stone

**Development** – Side extension to warehouse, internal alterations and external  
fire escapes to offices with elevations alterations and replacement cladding to  
building.

**Observations:** No objections

**Application Number** – 25/41479/HOU

**Applicant** – Mr & Mrs Hadley

**Location** – Stoneygate House, 14 Eccleshall Road, Stone

**Development** – Two storey side/rear extension

**Observations:** No objections

As the Chairman, Councillor Thornicroft, had declared a pecuniary interest in planning application 25/41467/HOU, he left the meeting and the Town Mayor, Councillor Metters, was nominated to take the chair.

**Application Number** – 25/41467/HOU

**Applicant** – Mr J. Hunt

**Location** – Harwood House, 141 Lichfield Road, Stone

**Development** – Two storey extension to the rear of the house with two Juliet balconies. Demolition of existing garage. Single storey side extension to the house to include replacement garage. Internal alterations.

**Observations:** The Town Council objects to this planning application on the grounds that residents of neighbouring homes have raised some legitimate concerns which it asks the Local Planning Authority to consider carefully. Town Councillors believe the maintenance and preservation of the street scene to be extremely important.

After the discussion on planning application 25/41467/HOU had concluded, Councillor Thornicroft returned to the meeting and to the chair.

**Application Number** – 25/41505/HOU

**Applicant** – Ms J. Eames

**Location** – 24 Airdale Road, Stone

**Development** – Replacement of flat roof with pitched roof. Demolish existing rear lean to building.

**Observations:** No objections

**Application Number** – 26/41647/HOU

**Applicant** – Mr & Mrs W. & E. Flanagan

**Location** – 19 Oakleigh Court, Stone

**Development** – Two storey part single storey extension at rear, porch extension to front together with internal remodelling

**Observations:** No objections

**Application Number** – 26/41683/POTH

**Applicant** – Plantcare Foliage Display Specialists Limited

**Location** – Unit 4 Stone Enterprise Centre, Emerald Way, Stone

**Development** – Prior Approval: 6kw roof solar installation

**Observations:** No objections

**Application Number** – 25/41421/FUL

**Applicant** – Bright Stars Education & Training Ltd

**Location** – 1 - 3 Radford Street, Stone

**Development** – Change of use from a drinking establishment/restaurant (Use Class E(b)) to an education and examination centre for special educational needs (SEN) and home-schooled (F1)

**Observations:** No objections

**Application Number** – 25/41347/FUL

**Applicant** – George Developments Limited

**Location** – Land off A34, Opposite George and Dragon PH, Stone Road, Meaford

**Development** – Creation of an Electric Vehicle Charging Hub comprising 31 charging bays equipped with solar panels and a substation (Sui Generis), picnic areas and a drive-through restaurant (Use Class E), with associated access, car and cycle parking, and landscaping.

**Observations:** The Town Council wishes to submit its previous objections in response to planning application 24/39125/FUL (for a similar development proposal at this site), in response to this application, except to the extent that these matters have already been resolved to the satisfaction of the Borough Council in application 25/41347/FUL.

The observations made in response to planning application 24/39125/FUL (in the Town Council's representation dated 4 July 2024) were:

- The proposed development will have a harmful effect on the openness of the Green Belt and the natural environment, including the loss of green space, trees and natural habitats for wildlife.
- The proposal constitutes inappropriate development in the Green Belt with no special circumstances that justify the need for a drive through restaurant to outweigh the harm to the green landscape.
- There is no Environmental Impact Assessment identifying, evaluating and mitigating the environmental impacts of the development.
- There are many alternative and more suitable brownfield sites, and a network of existing service stations that could be expanded to accommodate the installation of an Electric Vehicle Charging Hub.
- The application site is within Flood Zones 2 and 3 with risk of flooding from the River Trent. The rising water levels and removal of foliage – which act as a sponge for the existing water table – raise further questions about the suitability of the location.
- Concerns are expressed about the impact of light on the river ecosystem and rural landscape to the west.
- The development will create a significant increase in traffic volumes on the A34, impacting road safety and generating unwanted noise and pollution control issues.

The Town Council would be interested to know the views of the County Highways Authority but there doesn't appear to be a report available on the planning portal.

- The application is presented as a green project with the installation of electric charging points when its purpose appears to be more in line with opening another fast-food restaurant.
- The Town Council supports the many concerns that have been expressed in response to this planning application by local people.

PC26/054

**To note the following items considered under delegated powers where no objections were forwarded to Stafford Borough Council due to no Member asking for the item to be considered by a special meeting of the Committee**

None

**CHAIRMAN**

**STONE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**3 March 2026**  
**CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Town Mayor**

Thursday 5 March	Stone Trefoil Guild Annual General Meeting
Saturday 7 March	Texas Flag Raising in Stone High Street
Saturday 21 March	Newcastle under Lyme Mayor's Ball at Keele University
Tuesday 31 March	Girlguiding Stone Division: 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Production of 'A Handful of Songs'
Wednesday 1 April	St Dominic's Priory School Play at St Dominic's Social Centre
Saturday 4 April	Town Mayor's Street Collection & Easter Egg Trail

**Deputy Mayor**

No engagements on this occasion

**TOWN MAYOR**

## **TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 3 March 2026**

### **Friday 5th December 2025 – Stone Scout Group Christmas Performance**

The Stone Scout Group performed some lovely nativity and carol songs at Saint Michael's. It was entertaining to see the parents and leaders allowing just the right amount of mischief to ensure that the scouts (as well as those in the audience) had big grins on our faces! Some of the choir performances were very beautiful and a reminder of how much children love and anticipate Christmas. Matthew, the organist, was very patient and accommodating when the youngsters wanted to have a look at the organ towards the end. I was glad to see other guests in attendance and to speak with many of the proud parents after the performance.

### **Sunday 7th December 2025 – Stone Civic Carol Service**

I had the great pleasure of attending St Michael's again for this year's Civic Carol Service. I took the opportunity to thank our community for making it the "happiest town in Staffordshire" and for all of the wonderful work of our church groups, volunteer organisations, families, and individuals. It was wonderful to hear the organist play "I Saw Three Ships". My favourite Christmas instrumental. Civic guests from around the area came together, and I was grateful to be so well supported and I look forward to seeing them at their respective events over the Christmas period. A wonderful event towards the end of a wonderful year for Stone and our warm community.

### **Wednesday 10th December 2025 – Stone Stroke Club Christmas Party**

I had the nice opportunity to visit Little Stoke Cricket Club for a drink and nibbles with the Stone Stroke Club. I was greeted by the service users and thought I would be enjoying a couple of quiet Christmas Carols. By the second song the whole room was roaring Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer with actions too! I really appreciated their lively personalities and ended up staying much longer than I had originally expected!

### **Thursday 11th December 2025 – Stone Choral Society Christmas Concert**

The Stone Choral Society have become my "new favourite band" this year. Having seen them twice prior, I am always impressed at how quickly they can turn around and perform new material with such polish and professionalism. The Crown Wharf Theatre was the perfect venue for their wonderful acoustics, and I was greeted with kindness once more. It is always great to see a sell out at the wharf. This shows the popularity of our new venue, as well as our quality performers and social clubs in the area. An immaculate performance with the assistance of the "Acceler8" band who put their own flair and spin on some Christmas classics.

### **Sunday 14th December 2025 – Ashbourne Christmas Concert**

Sarah and I visited St Oswald's "Cathedral" Church in Ashbourne and were blown away by the magnitude and splendour, all lending themselves very well to the acoustics of the event. The choir were a wonder to behold, and the mayor of Ashbourne, Caroline was kind enough to bake the mince pies provided for the event by herself. Great company, wonderful venue, and some lovely home baking. We hope to come back to Ashbourne in the future to see the Church again.

### **Tuesday 16th December 2025 – Cannock Christmas Concert**

The Cannock Christmas Concert was as enjoyable as the event at Ashbourne. The guests were welcomed with mulled wine, cake, mince pies, and many familiar civic guests met with cheer after the concert. I must say that I finally managed to adjust to the chorus of Ding Dong Merrily on High without completely embarrassing myself! Great fun all round!

#### **Thursday 18th December 2025 – Alzheimer's Club Christmas Party**

Sandy welcomed myself and the Deputy Mayor for a served buffet lunch with wine, song, and a raffle. The club members were all thrilled to be able to have an early Christmas with friends that they have made there. This organisation is a gem of the community and is extremely well subscribed - a testament to how well the club is run. I heard many attendees complimenting the team, and I was grateful to spend the afternoon in good company.

#### **Wednesday 24th December 2025 – Advent Calendar Windows**

The final window was revealed at Christ Church with a huge crowd, and an open door for coffee, biscuits, mince pies, and Christmas cheer. Familiar faces and new were all around and it was the culmination of a very successful advent. The volunteers from Christ Church have set a real trend, and I have been glad to enjoy several, though not all, of the window openings throughout the festive season. I have even heard that other towns have begun to copy us! A fine accolade indeed, and it is glad to think that our carols and art projects from local schools have inspired joyous events in towns further afield. The volunteers are a credit to the atmosphere of the town and contribute to the anticipation and build up to the big day!

#### **Thursday 25th December 2025 – St Mary's Care Home**

Sarah and I were pleased to spend some time with the residents, families, and carers at St Mary's Care Home on Christmas Morning. The warm welcoming atmosphere was felt by all with wonderful decoration and Christmas spirit in the room. We were even offered Baileys! A true pleasure to share the company of those who give their Christmas day in service to others, and to meet some of our towns elders. We left before dinner was served, though it was an inspiration to see how effortlessly the carers kindled the high spirits and sense of excitement for the afternoon ahead. I spoke with one resident saying "How wonderful it is to see the great effort that has been made by the carers", and they responded very matter of factly; "They are like this EVERY day." Wonderful to hear, and it put us in a great mood for the rest of the Christmas afternoon!

#### **Monday 19th January 2026 – Formal Opening of the Stafford Crown Court**

Stafford's Court Opening was a real insight into our country's traditions as it pertains to the judiciary. It was wonderful to see The High Sheriff, Tim Gillow, and learn a little more about the historic role of High Sheriff and the St Mary's Church's place within the criminal justice system in ages past. This was the first event of this kind that I had attended, though I was glad to see some familiar faces as the High Sheriffs from other counties were in attendance too. We all had a small tour of Saint Mary's afterwards and I was interested to discover that "The Compleat Angler" by Isaac Walton is the world's third most widely printed book! I thank the High Sheriff for the kind invitation.

#### **Saturday 24th January 2026 – Staffordshire Moorlands Chairman's Burns Night**

Adam and Katrina were full of their characteristic energy and kindness in welcoming Sarah and I to their Burns Night celebration. As a vegetarian, I have always found Haggis gruesome, nevertheless, this celebration was certainly a lovely opportunity to experience a little bit of Scottish history and tradition from the comfort of our own county! All in attendance were full of energy during the Scottish dancing, and it was great fun wearing a kilt along with many other civic guests and attendees. The food was lovely too - Haggis was not mandatory!

#### **Wednesday 28th January 2026 – Reverend Robert Icke's Collation Service at St Michael's**

Members of the community gathered together at St Michael's and St Wulfad's Church to welcome the new rector to our town. It was interesting to see the ceremonial elements of this larger event for the church, and it was pleasant to welcome the Bishop of Lichfield. The buffet afterwards ensured a warm welcome from members of the church and the wider community. The buffet was extremely well provisioned and plentiful with each member of the congregation bringing their own

contributions. A lovely gesture for our new rector, and I look forward to getting to know him better and seeing him in our town. The Deacons have served us beautifully this year for our civic events, and it is nice to know that Reverend Robert will be well supported by their ongoing proficiency.

#### **Wednesday 4th February 2026 – Stafford Borough Quiz**

Borough Mayor and Consort, Jenny and Ray Barron invited me to the Mayor's Parlour for refreshments prior to a wonderful pub quiz style event in the Council Chambers. It was lovely to see familiar faces as well as to enjoy a private historical tour of the chamber beforehand. The comradery between Stafford and Stone has been a true highlight of the mayoral year, and I look forward to seeing some of the attendees at my quiz event later this month.

#### **Monday 9th February 2026 – "Pitch to the Panel" - Young Enterprise**

I was welcomed at the Chamber of Commerce in Festival Park to meet high school students from the surrounding area. Six participating schools were in attendance including our Alleyne's students. Each group learned about entrepreneurship, business, marketing, and project management skills to develop a project that would be a viable business opportunity. I was glad to see the culmination of their hard work, and went to ask them some questions about their projects and other avenues to consider for their projects. Students were courteous, insightful, and very professional. Teresa Fisher hosted me, and I was impressed by how many hats she wears in service to our town and wider area. I look forward to seeing them in Stone high street on the 21st.

#### **Thursday 12th February 2026 – Stone Town Quiz Evening**

Jonathan Powell was the star of the show hosting this year's pub quiz event at the Frank Jordan Centre. Great entertainment throughout! A night of relaxed entertainment and brain teasers in a sellout event with many in attendance requesting more similar events in the future! A definite consideration for next year's town mayor, as we managed to raise roughly £800 on the night through ticket sales and the raffle. Sir Gavin Williamson kindly assisted me in selling the raffle tickets, and I was grateful to the deputy mayor, consort, and friends for ensuring that we did not come last!

#### **Saturday 14th February 2026 – Stone Lions Club Annual Dinner**

Sarah and I were absolutely blown away at the hard work that the Lions clubs are involved in, and discovered the international nature of the organisation - spanning over 200 countries. The Lions clubs and community groups from Stone and the surrounding area enjoyed a wonderful opportunity to dine together and raise more funds in the raffle. We were extremely grateful to have been invited, and I was inspired by the amount of time, money, and energy that goes into supporting our community locally, as well as hearing about the work of other groups within the county. This organisation is a real blessing to our town, and we were impressed by the years of dedication from some of the members. We even won some prizes on the very generously provisioned raffle!

#### **Saturday 21st February 2026 – Young Enterprise**

On Saturday the 21st I went to support the students from around the wider area with their project showcases on the market stall in Stone High Street. It was a privilege to present certificates for the students projects and start-up business ideas that the high school students had developed during their project.

### **DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 3 March 2026**

#### **Christ Church Advent Window Openings**

The Deputy Town Mayor attended a number of Advent Window Openings during December 2025.