



Town Clerk

Les Trigg

15 Station Road
STONE
ST15 8JP

Tel: 01785 619740

Email: clerk@stonetowncouncil.gov.uk

27 May 2026

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** will be held in the **Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone**, on **TUESDAY 2 JUNE 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 Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 12 May 2026, Minute Numbers C27/001 – C27/011 (attached).**

6. To receive the draft minutes and decisions of the under mentioned Committees:

- a) Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 19 May 2026, Minute Numbers PC27/001 – PC27/006 (attached).

7. Internal Auditor's Report 2025-26

The Council is required to consider an Internal Audit Report before approving the accounts for submission to the External Auditors. The following reports have been enclosed:

- a. Formal Internal Audit submission to the External Auditors
- b. Report from Internal Auditor

Members are asked to consider the reports.

8. Annual Governance Statement 2025-26

To consider the Annual Governance Statement for submission to the external auditor (attached).

9. Council Accounts & Audit Submission 2025-26

To consider the report of the Town Clerk (attached) and the accounting statement for submission to the external auditor.

**10. Local Government Transparency Code 2015
Openness of Public Bodies Regulations 2014**

Information for Quarter ending 31 March 2026 (attached).

11. To receive the forthcoming Civic Announcements (attached).

12. To receive the Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's Reports of Engagements (attached).

On this occasion reports are enclosed for the Deputy Town Mayor 2025-26 (Town Mayor's Report 2025-26 to follow) and Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor 2026-27.

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 Annual Meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 12 May 2026

PRESENT: Councillor J. Metters in the Chair for Minute Number C27/001
Councillor A. Best in the Chair thereafter and
Councillors: J. Battrick, J. Hood, T. Kelt, B. Kenney, R. Kenney, P. Leason, J. Powell,
N. Powell and C. Thornicroft

Officers: L. Trigg and T. Williams

ABSENT: Councillors: J. Davies, L. Davies, I. Fordham, A. Burgess, K. Dawson,
A. Mottershead and R. Townsend

Prayers

The Town Mayor's Chaplain was unable to be present to lead prayers on this occasion.

In the absence of Councillor Lin Davies, who would normally lead prayers on occasions when the Mayor's Chaplain wasn't able to be present, the Town Mayor expressed his good wishes to her and to Councillor Jim Davies, and wished them both a speedy recovery to good health.

C27/001 To appoint the Town Mayor for the ensuing year

Councillor J. Metters invited nominations for Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor J. Hood nominated Councillor Andrew Best as Town Mayor, which was seconded by Councillor P. Leason.

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor Andrew Best as Stone Town Mayor for the year 2026-27.

Councillor Best received his Town Mayor's Chain of Office and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor Best took the Chair and announced that his wife, Mrs Rosalind Best, would be his Consort.

Councillor Best advised the Council that Reverend Paul Kingman would be asked to take on the role of Mayor's Chaplain for the ensuing year.

* 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 Best thanked the Council for appointing him to the position of Town Mayor and said he was very much looking forward to a memorable year representing Stone.

C27/002 To appoint the Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year

The Town Mayor, Councillor Best, invited nominations for Deputy Town Mayor.

Councillor A. Best proposed Councillor Robert Townsend as Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

The nomination was seconded by Councillor T. Kelt, and with no further nominations all members were in support of the motion.

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor Robert Townsend as Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2026-27.

The Town Mayor advised the Council that Councillor Townsend had been unable to attend the meeting. The Town Clerk said that Councillor Townsend's signing of his Declaration of Acceptance of Office would be confirmed at the next meeting of the Council.

The Town Mayor informed the Council that Mrs Helen Townsend would be Councillor Townsend's Consort.

C27/003 To thank and record the Town Council's appreciation of the services of the retiring Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and their Consorts

The Town Mayor invited Town Councillors to speak and express their thanks.

Councillor Jill Hood said that ahead of Councillor Metters becoming Town Mayor she had expressed her view that he would make a worthy Mayor and he had more than lived up to that expectation. She said he had been an incredible Mayor, performing every duty with absolute passion, and that it had been lovely to see Sarah by his side.

She said Councillor Metters had been amazing, referencing his dedication and expertise in delivering speeches which were inciteful and informative, demonstrating that he had researched every location he had visited. She said she was extremely proud of him along with everyone else who was also impressed.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Best, informed the Council that in his role as Deputy Town Mayor, he had found it a joy to attend engagements that the Town Mayor had been unable to accept and had immensely enjoyed working alongside Councillor Metters.

Councillor Metters extended a special thank you to Councillor Best for his dedication to the deputy role and for the support he had shown Jason while

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standing in for him at engagements. He said he was thrilled Andrew had decided to put himself forward for the mayoral role and articulated robustly that he would do the town proud.

C27/004 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors: J. Davies, L. Davies, K. Dawson, I. Fordham and R. Townsend

C27/005 Declarations of Interest

None received.

C27/006 Requests for Dispensations

None received.

C27/007 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 7 April 2026 (Minute Numbers C26/092 – C26/099), be approved as a correct record.

C27/008 Committee Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) The draft minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7 April 2026 (Minute Numbers GP26/137 – GP26/156), were noted.
- b) The draft minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 7 April 2026 (Minute Numbers PC26/061 – PC26/066), were noted.

C27/009 Committee Terms of Reference

The Council considered the terms of reference for the Council's General Purposes and Planning Committees (which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting).

The Town Clerk advised the Council that the content of the terms of Reference for these Committees was unchanged, other than for dates.

RESOLVED: That the terms of reference for the Council's General Purposes and Planning Committees be approved.

* 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.

C27/010 **To determine membership and elect the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of General Purposes Committee and Planning Committee for 2025-26**

Membership of the General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That all Members be appointed to the General Purposes Committee for the year 2026-27.

Chairman of the General Purposes Committee:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Rob Kenney be appointed as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for the year 2026-27.

Vice Chairman of the General Purposes Committee:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Ian Fordham be appointed as Vice Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for the year 2026-27.

Membership of the Planning Consultative Committee:

RESOLVED: That all Members be appointed to the Planning Consultative Committee for the year 2026-27.

Chairman of the Planning Consultative Committee:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Tom Kelt be appointed as Chairman of the Planning Consultative Committee for the year 2026-27.

Vice Chairman of the Planning Consultative Committee:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Clive Thornicroft be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Planning Consultative Committee for the year 2026-27.

C27/011 **To defer other business under Standing Order 2, paragraph (j) to an appropriate meeting of the General Purposes Committee**

RESOLVED: That all other business under this Standing Order be deferred to the General Purposes Committee

TOWN MAYOR

* Items marked with an asterisk refer to reports or papers circulated with the agenda or distributed at the meeting. They are attached as an appendix to the signed copy of the Council minutes.

Stone Town Council – Planning Consultative Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 19 May 2026

PRESENT: Councillor C. Thornicroft in the Chair, and
Councillors: J. Battrick, A. Best, I. Fordham, J. Hood, B. Kenney, R. Kenney,
J. Metters, J. Powell and R. Townsend

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

ABSENT: Councillors: A. Burgess, J. Davies, L. Davies, K. Dawson, T. Kelt, P. Leason,
A. Mottershead and N. Powell

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman took the chair for the meeting.

PC27/001 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: J. Davies, L. Davies, K. Dawson, T. Kelt,
P. Leason and N. Powell

PC27/002 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

Councillors R. Kenney, I. Fordham and J. Hood advised the Committee that, as
members of Stafford Borough Council's Planning Committee, they would not
speak or vote on the planning applications listed on the agenda.

Councillor C. Thornicroft declared a pecuniary interest in planning application
25/41556/OUT (Land South of Uttoxeter Road).

Councillors: R. Kenney, I. Fordham, J. Hood and C. Thornicroft left the meeting
during the discussion of planning application 25/41556/OUT and returned when
it had concluded.

PC27/003 Representations from Members of the Public

None

PC27/004 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on
7 April 2026 (Minute Numbers PC26/061 – PC26/066), be approved as a correct
record.

PC27/005 **Planning Applications**

Councillors: R. Kenney, I. Fordham, J. Hood and C. Thornicroft left the Council Chamber prior to discussion of planning application 25/41556/OUT.

After a vote the Town Mayor, Councillor Andrew Best, was appointed Chairman for this planning application:

Application Number – 25/41556/OUT

Applicant – Richborough Estates

Location – Land South of Uttoxeter Road, Stone

Development – Outline planning application for the development of up to 95 dwellings, including landscaping and associated infrastructure with all matters reserved save for access.

Observations: The Town Council objects to this planning application for the development of up to 95 new homes and supports the points of concern raised by local people and consultee agencies/organisations.

The objections include the following points:

- The proposed development is outside the settlement boundary as defined within the Stone Neighbourhood Plan which remains in place and should be observed. Stone already has a plan to meet its quota of new build homes and this additional proposal will exceed the requirement over that period.
- The development proposal will put strain on the existing infrastructure in Stone including roads, utilities, schools and healthcare which is already considered at capacity and not able to keep pace with demand. There are currently only two GP practices delivering primary healthcare services in the town and around four dental practices.

The existing infrastructure in Stone will not support the recent influx of large scale planning applications coming through which do 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.

- At peak times there is a significant traffic congestion issue on the Uttoxeter Road where the exit and entrance point to the new estate is located. The Uttoxeter Road is a well-used route out of town to surrounding villages as well as providing the only access point to residents of the 700 houses on Aston Lodge Park. The closing of the level crossing at regular intervals already causes long lines of traffic on both sides of the railway, along the Uttoxeter Road and around the nearby traffic lights on the Lichfield Road.

The railway closes four times an hour at peak times for three or four minutes at a time, not the two minutes that is stated in the planning application. The queuing traffic can contain as many as fifty cars backing up to Aston Lodge and past the Cricket Club. There is a real issue here as the congestion is not only at peak times but is also dependent on how long the barriers are down. The barriers regularly have faults on them and are closed for long periods with regular repairs scheduled to cause a huge diversion. The development proposal will lead to higher volumes of traffic congestion and corresponding air pollution, to heighten these issues.

- There is an outline proposal for construction of another 150 houses a short distance further along the Uttoxeter Road, opposite Little Stoke Cricket Club, which is also outside the settlement boundary. If both estates get the go ahead there will be an even greater traffic congestion issue in this area.
- The response times of emergency vehicles is affected by the congestion at the railway crossing and traffic lights as ambulance staff often have to decide whether to go all the way around via Sandon or to wait in the traffic, to service calls on the other side of the crossing.
- The data included in the planning application projecting the profile of the people who will live there such as car owners and pre and post-secondary age school children is considered an underestimate.

The applicant suggest the houses will have a lifespan of 100 years and questions are raised about whether the homes will support all age ranges including residents with access and mobility needs.

- There is a very strong sport community nearby and potential conflicts between the Cricket Club and this development. Sport England have commented that there is the potential risk of cricket balls going over in to the development. To erect a 15 metre high net will be an eyesore and hazardous to wildlife in the area.
- Loss of farmland and heritage views will impact the whole of Stone and not just this location.
- 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 interconnectivity to infrastructure and the shape of the town, making it difficult to manage public transport and access in outlying areas.

The applications appear to focus on the development side and benefits to new residents, but are weak on solutions to mitigate the impact on existing neighbouring residents and the wider community of Stone.

Approval of this application would set another precedent for building a large number of houses outside the settlement boundary whilst showing disregard for the adequacy of the existing infrastructure and impact on neighbourhood amenity.

Upon completion of the discussion Councillors R. Kenney, I. Fordham, J. Hood and C. Thornicroft returned to the meeting, and Councillor Thornicroft returned to the Chair.

Application Number – 26/41659/FUL

Applicant – Kids Planet

Location – Mount Industrial Estate, Mount Road, Stone

Development – Erection of a detached composite building as ancillary use to the existing nursery

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 26/41746/FUL

Applicant – Melvyn John Ltd

Location – Crown Street Garage, Crown Street, Stone

Development – Retrospective consent for the erection of fence and gates

Observations: Whilst acknowledging the need for improved security the Town Council objects to this planning application on the grounds that the fencing and gates do not comply with the Conservation requirements.

Application Number – 26/42190/HOU

Applicant – S & J Huyton Williams

Location – Stonefield House, Newcastle Road, Stone

Development – Installation of electric vehicle charger

Observations: The Town Council notes the details of the planning application and questions whether an application for Listed Building Consent should also have been submitted in respect of this development proposal.

Application Number – 26/41813/FUL

Applicant – Mr J. Lester (Switchtec Ltd)

Location – Switchtec Electronics Limited, Stone Business Park, Brooms Road, Stone

Development – Steel framed extension to commercial building

Observations: No objections

PC27/006

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

Application Number – 26/41822/HOU

Applicant – Mr & Mrs S & V Price

Location – 8 Bakewell Drive, Stone

Development – Porch extension to front

Observations: No objections

Application Number – 25/41559/FUL

Applicant – JSE Estates Limited

Location – First and Second floors at 48-60 High Street, Stone

Development – Change of use of first and second floors at 48-60 High Street to residential use (Class C3) comprising 21no. apartments (in conjunction with 26/41968/LBC)

Observations:

The Council has concerns over this application in the following areas:

1. Density of occupancy - 21 residences seems high, although the application states that each apartment satisfies minimum building regulation requirements
2. Health and safety, in the event of evacuation
3. Access during building works
4. The relocation of some businesses
5. Who are the target audience – if it is low income individuals there appear to be insufficient affordable homes, but if it is young professionals, there appears to be no provision for parking.
6. The provision for waste removal is only clear for 6 of the apartments
7. There is no provision for active transport considering there are no parking facilities

CHAIRMAN



Black Rose Solutions Limited

74 Leacroft Road
Penkridge
Staffs
ST19 5BU
0781 321 7576
sandie.morris@blackrosesolutions.co.uk
19th May 2026

Dear Les,

Stone Town Council – Internal Audit 2025/26

I confirm that I have carried out an examination of your accounts and procedures, in line with the Practitioners Guide 2025 and in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

I can state that I found no material errors, omissions or irregularities in your financial records and I have no significant concerns about your internal control procedures.

Please refer to the enclosed report for further details of the audit work covered.

I would also confirm that I am totally independent of your Council and have no contact with any Member or employee.

Yours sincerely,

S Morris

Mrs Sandra Morris ACMA

Enc
Full Internal Audit Report

Comments marked **REC** denote an issue recommended for action as it may affect the Internal Audit response on the AGAR (Annual Governance and Accounting Return).

Comments marked **note** are included for reference or information.

Items referenced **FR** – relates to clause in the council's financial regulations.

Items reference **PG** – relates to a clause in the practitioners Guide.

Items reference **TBC** – to be reviewed at the final visit

Black Rose Solutions Ltd

Internal Audit - Report

Name of Council - **Stone Town Council**

Date of Audit - **3rd March and 19th May 2026**

Annual Return - Internal Control Objectives

A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	YES
Is the cashbook maintained and up to date?	yes
Is the cashbook arithmetic correct?	yes
Is the cashbook regularly balanced?	yes
The council uses the Sage accounting system, no errors or omissions were noted	
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	YES
Are payments supported by invoices?	yes
Is all expenditure approved?	yes
Is VAT appropriately accounted for?	yes
Does the Council hold Power of Competence?	yes
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	YES
Does a review of the minutes identify any unusual financial activity?	no
Do minutes record the council carrying out an annual risk assessment?	yes
Is Insurance cover appropriate and adequate?	yes
Are internal financial controls documented and regularly reviewed?	yes
	Review
	Risk Assessment 03/03/2026
	Financial Regulations 20/05/2025
	Standing Orders 20/05/2025

D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	YES
Has the council prepared an annual budget in support of its precept?	yes
Is actual expenditure against the budget regularly reported to the council?	yes
Are there any significant unexplained variances from budget?	no
Does the precept recorded agree to the Council Tax authority's notification?	yes
Are reserves appropriate?	yes
Earmarked Reserves	170,567
General Reserves	272,062
Months of Income	6
Months of expenditure	7
The council holds general reserves within guidelines (3 to 12 months of Net Revenue Expenditure)	

E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	YES
Is income properly recorded and promptly banked?	yes
Are security controls over cash and near-cash adequate and effective?	yes
Is the council VAT registered?	yes
Are returns submitted in a timely manner?	yes
Is VAT reclaimed on exempt business activities reviewed and considered insignificant?	yes
Are receipts for business activities within the registration threshold?	n/a

F. Cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	N/a
The council holds no cash	

G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	YES
Do all employees have contracts or employment with clear terms and conditions?	yes
Do salaries paid agree with those approved by the council?	yes
Are other payments to employees reasonable and approved by the council?	yes
Have PAYE/NIC been properly operated by the council as an employer?	yes
Does line 4 include only Salary, NI & Pension	yes
Does the council monitor off payroll working (IR35)	yes

H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	YES
Does the council maintain a register of all material assets owned or in its care?	yes
Are the assets and investments registers up to date?	yes
Do asset insurance valuations agree with those in the asset register?	yes

I. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	YES
Is there a bank reconciliation for each account?	yes
Is a bank reconciliation carried out regularly and in a timely fashion and approved by council?	yes
Are there any unexplained balancing entries in any reconciliation?	no
Is the value of investments held summarised on the reconciliation?	n/a

J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	YES
Are year end accounts prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure) ?	I&E
Are debtors and creditors properly recorded?	yes
Do accounts agree with the cashbook?	yes
Is there an audit trail from underlying financial records to the accounts?	yes

K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 24/25, it met the exemption criteria and correctly certified itself exempt	N/a
The council did not certify itself exempt	

L. The authority publishes information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	YES
All councils - Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015	
Accounts remain published for 5 years	yes
ICO Publication Scheme	yes
Transparency Code for Larger Authorities (income/expenditure >£200k)	
Quarterly:-	
All items of expenditure above £500	yes
Procurement information (initiations to tender > £5k)	yes
Annually:-	
local authority land	yes
grants to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations	yes
organisation chart	yes
senior salaries (>£50k)	n/a
constitution (standing orders)	yes
pay multiple	no
The council falls into large authority thresholds for Transparency Code guidelines, so the code details what advised to be published. But this is not a legal requirement.	

M. The authority has demonstrated that during summer 2025 it correctly provided for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations. (Evidenced by website or minutes)	YES
Approval Date (meeting)	28/05/2025
Publication Date (announcement date)	02/06/2025
Date from (commencement date)	03/06/2025
Date to	14/07/2025

N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2024/25 AGAR.	YES
Notice of Period for Exercise of Electors Rights	yes
Section 1 Annual Governance Statement	yes
Section 2 Accounting Statements	yes
Notice of Conclusion of Audit	yes
Section 3 External Audit Report & Certificate	yes
Internal Audit Report	yes

O. The authority complied with laws, regulations & proper practices relating to digital and data compliance.	YES
Use a single generic email address on an authority owned domain.	yes WCAG v2.2
Website Accessibility tested and published annually	Feb 2026
Data Audit Completed	Mar-26
Data Protection Policy Reviewed	07/04/2026
IT policy Reviewed	03/03/2026

P. Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	YES
The council has oversight of two charities Town Hall Charity (505718) - Sole Trustee Richard Vernon Trust (236666) - 3 councillors appointed	
Filings for both are up to date, finances and meetings are separate from the council.	

Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26

ENT Stone Town Council


www.stonetowncouncil.gov.uk PUBLICLY AVAILABLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

During the financial year ended 31 March 2026, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2025/26 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for. NO CASH HELD			✓
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2024/25, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2024/25 AGAR tick "not covered")			✓
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	✓		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2025/26 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2024-25 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2024/25 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
O. The authority has complied with laws, regulations & proper practices relating to digital and data compliance.	✓		
P. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes ✓	No*	Not applicable

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).
Date(s) internal audit undertaken: 03/03/2026, 19/05/2026
Name of person who carried out the internal audit: EN S. MORRIS ACMA

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit:  Date: 19/05/2026

*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

We acknowledge as the members of:

ENT Stone Town Council NTY

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026, that:

	Agreed			'Yes' means that this authority:
	Yes	No*		
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓			<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓			<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
3. We have assured ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✓			<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓			<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓			<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓			<i>arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓			<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓			<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A	<i>has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.</i>
	✓			
10. We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review.	✓			<i>has made suitable arrangements for its IT and data management and has complied with proper practices in doing so.</i>

***Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.**

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

02/06/2026

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chair

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Clerk

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

www.stonetowncouncil.gov.uk CLY AVAILABLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

Introduction

1. This report sets out the Council's accounts for 2025-26. It compares the final outturn figures with the original budget for the year and the forecast produced as part of the budget process.
2. The proposed financial submission to the Council's external auditors is also attached for approval.

Background

3. The Council's financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March. It is required to keep its accounts for that period in accordance with legal requirements, to report them for approval by the Council within three months of the year end, and to submit an annual return to its external auditors to a similar timescale.
4. The Council is also required to employ the services of an internal auditor, who examines the accounts, reviews the Council's internal control, completes the internal audit section of the annual return, and may produce a report identifying any areas of concern to Members. This internal audit has been performed by Sandie Morris, who will be reporting independently to the Council, as required.
5. Subject to certain limited requirements, councils which turn-over less than £6.5 million per annum are not expected to comply with the accounting standards required of larger local authorities and have more freedom to determine their own form of accounts, subject to some national requirements on proper practices.

Accounts 2025-26

6. The Council's net revenue spending for 2025-26 was £395,912. This can be seen in detail in the Income and Expenditure Account set out at Appendix 1. The resulting effect on the Council's balance sheet can be seen at Appendix 2.
7. This net spending of £395,912 compares with £400,301 in the previous year, an approved budget of £609,579 and a forecast made at the time the 2026-27 budget was prepared of £566,649. This is set out in more detail in Appendix 3.
8. Explanations of the major variations between the original budget and the forecast were included in a series of budget reports to this Committee and its Sub-Committees during

December 2025 and January 2026. Details of the major variations from the forecast that was made at the time the 2026-27 budget was prepared are set out later in the report.

9. In a number of cases identified below, spending was originally anticipated and provided for in 2025-26, but that expenditure has been delayed until the current year. In such cases I have recommended that the budgets be rolled forward to the new financial year to meet the costs when they are incurred. A figure of £59,065 has been contributed to the Rollover Reserve to allow this transfer between years to happen. The details of the makeup of this reserve are set out in the explanation of variances below.

Explanation of Variances from Forecast

10. Appendix 3 shows that the Council's net expenditure for 2025-26 was £170,737 less than forecast at the time the budget was prepared in January. Of this, £162,987 relates to budgets carried forward into the current financial year either via rollovers of a contribution to earmarked reserves, leaving a true variance of £7,750 underspent.
11. Details of significant variances from forecast and proposals for rollover are set out below:
12. **Frank Jordan Centre (net £1,540 overspent)** – This was mainly due to a large one-off water bill, partially offset by additional income.
13. **Stone Station (net £15,239 underspent)** – This is largely due to the final phase of the Council planned work on roof repairs not taking place, and planned painting not taking place due to delays in making suitable arrangements with Network Rail. A sum of £17,000 to complete this work has been rolled forward into 2026-27. In addition, unexpected boiler repairs added £1,687 to costs in the year.
14. **Bus Shelters and Street Furniture (£2,706 underspent)** – Some recurring maintenance tasks and repairs were not undertaken in the year, including painting benches and washing bus shelters. A sum of £1,300 for bus shelters has been rolled forward to 2026-27.
15. **Building Maintenance (£18,000 underspent)** – This unspent provision has been rolled forward into 2026-27.
16. **Grounds Maintenance (£1,158 underspent)** – Annual bridge painting not undertaken in 2025-26.
17. **Crown Meadow Improvements (£4,000 underspent)** – This was due to the new pathway project, replanting of borders and replacement of the lock gate were not undertaken in 2025-26. £4,160 has been rolled forward into the 2026-27 budget to cover the cost of these items.
18. **Allotments (£2,828 underspent)** – This largely relates to an unused allotment clearance contingency provision (£500) and an underspending against the provision for asbestos removal (£1,825). This latter amount of £1,825 has been rolled forward into 2026-27.

19. **Accommodation (£5,243 underspent)** – The underspending is due to the Borough Council not having yet prepared a lease for the Town Council’s use of additional office space. The Town Council is currently paying at the previous rate until the lease is signed.
20. **Insurances (£1,627 underspent)** – This largely relates to a credit received due to the revaluation of the Frank Jordan Centre, Stone Station and the Heritage Centre.
21. **Administration (£16,780 underspent)** – Expenditure against this budget is irregular between years due mainly to IT lifecycles. In this case, the Council’s four-year IT refresh was delayed from 2025-26 into 2026-27, and the provision for spending on the costs of setting up the additional accommodation has been delayed due to the delay in the lease being prepared by Stafford Borough. The underspend has been rolled forward into 2026-27.
22. **Stone Heritage Centre Capital (£73,922 underspent)** – There has been no capital spending on this project in 2025-26, with all spending being met from the running costs budget. This sum has been transferred into an earmarked reserve, rather than being rolled forward. Spending from this reserve will need the specific approval of the General Purposes Committee.
23. **Town Centre Improvements (£30,000 underspent)** – There has also been no spending on this project in 2025-26. This sum has also been transferred into an earmarked reserve, rather than being rolled forward. Spending from this reserve will again need the specific approval of the General Purposes Committee.

Audit Submission

24. The completed financial statement to be submitted to the Council’s external auditors is attached at Appendix 4 and the summary year-end bank reconciliation which will accompany it is at Appendix 5. It should be noted that the net expenditure shown in the audit return is £532 different than set out in other parts of this report. This is because the Mayor’s Charity Fund is required to be included within the accounts for external reporting purposes, but it is excluded from internal income and expenditure reports for the sake of clarity.

Recommendations

25. The Council are recommended to:
 - a. Approve the Council’s Accounts for 2025-26 as set out in this document, including:
 - i. the use of the rollover reserve to allow the transfer of budgets between financial years and the proposed use of those budgets in 2026-27, and,
 - ii. The transfers to earmarked reserves.
 - b. Note the variances between the forecast outturn for 2025-26 and the actual outturn, and the reasons identified for the major variances.
 - c. Approve the financial statement for submission to the Council’s external auditors.

Stone Town Council

Income and Expenditure Account 2025-26

2024-25			2025-26	
£	£		£	£
Income				
55,973		Frank Jordan Centre	41,710	
6,279		Stone Station	10,036	
14,089		Town Market	15,580	
4,379		Allotments	4,813	
6,665		Tourism & Town Promotion	6,831	
117		Administration	88	
1,292		Civic Dinner & Hospitality	1,314	
-		Miscellaneous	-	
6,640		Interest	5,379	
	95,433	Total Income		85,750
Expenditure				
22,737		Frank Jordan Centre	26,751	
33,933		Stone Station	24,397	
7,754		Stone Heretage Centre	13,645	
11,950		Town Market	11,256	
3,497		Bus Shelters & Street Furniture	3,314	
940		Street Lighting	844	
864		Dog & Litter Bins	890	
100		Joules Clock	-	
660		Town Electricity Supply	561	
20,455		Grounds Maintenance	22,882	
7,959		Crown Meadow Improvements	930	
1,756		Allotments	2,675	
-		Environmental Initiatives	2,185	
20,153		Christmas Lights	20,978	
35,255		Tourism & Town Promotion	32,580	
2,389		Grants to Outside Bodies	5,600	
228,007		Salaries & Employment Costs	252,899	
8,087		Accommodation	4,757	
9,289		Insurances	7,373	
29,303		Administration	33,404	
2,063		Audit & Legal Fees	1,701	
-		Town Council Elections	-	
2,941		Allowances - Mayor & Deputy Mayor	3,262	
601		Regalia & Presentations	30	
3,579		Civic Dinner & Hospitality	3,973	
2,893		Remembrance Sunday & War Memorials	4,260	
492		Miscellaneous	516	
-		Neighbourhood Plan	-	
38,078		Stone Heritage Centre (Setup)	-	
	495,734	Total Expenditure		481,663
	400,301	Total Net Expenditure		395,912
Financing				
393,645		Precept	409,788	
23,739		Council Tax Support Grant	26,210	
11,461		Concurrent Functions Allowance	11,461	
37,206		Transfer from (to) Earmarked Reserves	-49,305	
	466,051	Total Financing		398,154
	65,749	Net Surplus for Year		2,242

Stone Town Council

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2026

<u>2024-25</u>			<u>2025-26</u>	
£	£		£	£
		Current Assets		
4,897		Debtors	1,803	
3,177		Payments in Advance	2,699	
2,175		VAT Recoverable	3,498	
424,133		Cash at Bank and In Hand	469,649	
	434,381	Total Current Assets		477,650
		Current Liabilities		
32,080		Creditors	21,085	
2,639		Receipts in Advance	4,789	
8,049		Payroll Taxation	9,147	
	42,767	Total Current Liabilities		35,021
	<u>391,614</u>	Total Net Assets		<u>442,629</u>
		Represented by		
267,740		General Fund Balances	269,982	
121,262		Earmarked Reserves	170,567	
2,612		Mayor's Charity Fund	2,080	
	<u>391,614</u>	Total Reserves and Balances		<u>442,629</u>

Stone Town Council

Comparison of Actual 2025-26 with Budget and Forecast

Actual 2024-25 £		Actual Compared With Approved Budget		Actual Compared With Forecast Outturn		Report Paragraph
		Actual 2025-26 £	Variance 2025-26 £	Forecast 2025-26 £	Variance 2025-26 £	
-33,236	Frank Jordan Centre	-14,960	+8,690	-16,500	+1,540	12
27,654	Stone Station	14,361	-20,764	29,600	-15,239	13
7,754	Stone Heritage Centre	13,645	-31,605	13,650	-5	
-2,139	Town Market	-4,324	-2,304	-3,940	-384	
3,497	Bus Shelters & Street Furniture	3,314	-2,526	6,020	-2,706	14
940	Street Lighting	844	-156	1,000	-156	
864	Dog & Litter Bins	890	-10	890	-0	
100	Joules Clock	-	-	-	-	
660	Town Electricity Supply	561	-89	650	-89	
-	Building Maintenance	-	-18,000	18,000	-18,000	15
20,455	Grounds Maintenance	22,882	-2,683	24,040	-1,158	16
7,959	Crown Meadow Improvements	930	-3,190	4,930	-4,000	17
-2,623	Allotments	-2,138	-2,088	690	-2,828	18
-	Environmental Initiatives	2,185	+185	2,000	+185	
20,153	Christmas Lights	20,978	-282	20,000	+978	
28,590	Tourism & Town Promotion	25,749	-4,251	26,490	-741	
2,389	Grants to Outside Bodies	5,600	-11	5,611	-11	
228,007	Salaries & Employment Costs	252,899	-901	252,900	-1	
8,087	Accommodation	4,757	-10,253	10,000	-5,243	19
9,289	Insurances	7,373	-3,387	9,000	-1,627	20
29,186	Administration	33,316	-16,780	50,096	-16,780	21
2,063	Audit & Legal Fees	1,701	+251	1,800	-99	
-	Town Council Elections	-	-	-	-	
2,941	Allowances - Mayor & Deputy Mayor	3,262	-178	3,500	-238	
601	Regalia & Presentations	30	-170	300	-270	
2,287	Civic Dinner & Hospitality	2,659	+59	3,000	-341	
2,893	Remembrance Sunday & War Memorials	4,260	+760	3,500	+760	
492	Miscellaneous	516	-284	800	-284	
-6,640	Interest	-5,379	+221	-5,300	-79	
-	Neighbourhood Plan	-	-	0	-	
38,078	Stone Heritage Centre (Capital)	73,922	-73,922	73,922	-73,922	22
-	Town Centre Improvements	-	-30,000	30,000	-30,000	23
-	Inflation Contingency	-	-	-	-	
400,301		395,912	-213,667	566,649	-170,737	

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26 for

ENTTStone Town Council RITY

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2026 £	
1. Balances brought forward	362,039	391,614	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	393,645	409,788	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	131,664	123,422	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	228,007	252,899	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	267,727	229,296	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	391,614	442,629	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	424,113	469,649	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	315,865	320,783	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	
11 Do the figures in the accounting statements above exclude any trust transactions?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	For guidance refer to the Practitioners' Guide sections 2.31 to 2.33.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2026 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED
Date 18/05/2026

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

DD/MM/YYYY
as recorded in minute reference:
MINUTE REFERENCE
Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved
SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Stone Town Council

Summary Bank Reconciliation as at 31st March 2026

BANK RECONCILIATION

Balance per bank statements as at 31 March 2026

	£	£
Current Account	1,500.00	
Business Reserve	468,148.84	
	468,148.84	469,648.84

Less: unpresented cheques at 31 March 2026

None		0.00
------	--	------

Add: unbanked cash at 31 March 2026

None		0.00
------	--	------

Net balances as at 31 March 2026 **469,648.84**

CASH BOOK

Opening Balance 1 April 2025 **424,132.97**

Add: Receipts in the year	563,664.98	
Less: Payments in the year	518,149.11	
	45,515.87	45,515.87

Closing balance per cash book as at 31 March 2026 **469,648.84**

Local Government Transparency Code 2015

Procurement Information

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

None

2. Contracted Agreements Exceeding £5,000

Network Rail re Station Painting and Roof Repairs

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: 20/05/2026
Time: 16:01:11

Stone Town Council - Payments over £250

Page: 1

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 : 01/01/2026

Payment Date To : 31/03/2026

<u>Payment Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount (£)</u>
09/01/2026	01668040	VALDA ENERGY	SSTN Gas usage 01.01.26-31.01.26	1.40
19/01/2026	01668040	VALDA ENERGY	FJC Gas usage - 01.01.26-31.01.26	1,285.89
19/01/2026	01668040	VALDA ENERGY	SSTN Gas usage 01.01.26-31.01.26	990.38
19/01/2026	01668040	VALDA ENERGY	SSTN Elec usage01.01.26-31.01.26	359.32
19/01/2026	01668040	VALDA ENERGY	FJC Elec usage- 01.01.26-31.01.26	278.91
20/01/2026	10029	Prism Solutions	Prism - billed in error	3,735.70
23/01/2026	INV-0597	Evergreen Christmas Trees	Christmas Trees x 100	1,416.67
26/01/2026	wp-INV11363353	Water Plus	Water usage - FJC to 06.01.26	412.75
26/01/2026	233417	Prism Solutions	Prism IT Managed Service - Feb 26	1,358.50
31/01/2026	SBC Rates Jan 2026	Stafford Borough Council	SBC Rates HC - Jan 2026	379.00
31/01/2026	SBC Rates Jan 2026	Stafford Borough Council	SBC Rates FJC - Jan 2026	279.00
03/02/2026	10029	Prism Solutions	Prism - billed in error	225.78
03/02/2026	138253	B Hygienic Ltd	SSTN - Annual hygiene contract to 31.01.27	336.00
05/02/2026	5682	Christmas Plus	Dismantle Christmas lights 2025	2,250.00
05/02/2026	26477	Stone Gazette Ltd	3 page advert on ST15 2026 Directory	645.00
11/02/2026	2602006	Crown Highways	Remove and store polls, Walton lights 2025	749.75
18/02/2026	03576	Griffin Environmental Asbestos	SSTN - Asbestos Survey	340.00

Date: 20/05/2026

Time: 16:01:11

Stone Town Council - Payments over £250

Page: 2

<u>Payment Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount (£)</u>
18/02/2026	INV6002146	MEB Total Ltd	SSTN Boiler repairs	1,572.72
19/02/2026	01716432	VALDA ENERGY	FJC Gas Usage 01.02.26-28.02.26	1,280.62
19/02/2026	01716432	VALDA ENERGY	SSTN Gas Usage 01.02.26-28.02.26	726.85
19/02/2026	01716432	VALDA ENERGY	FJC Elec Usage 01.02.26-28.02.26	272.45
19/02/2026	01716432	VALDA ENERGY	SSTN Elec Usage 01.02.26-28.02.26	343.72
20/02/2026	201615202698020	Pozitive Energy	Gas Usage - HC 01.01 to 30.01.26	112.13
24/02/2026	B34/41827	BEB Property Services Limited	SSTN - Repairs to flashing & clean gutter	980.00
25/02/2026	235317	Prism Solutions	Prism IT Managed Service - Mar 26	1,353.43
26/02/2026	wp-INV11637973	Water Plus	Water usage - FJC to 06.02.26	412.75
03/03/2026	SBC Rates HC	Stafford Borough Council	SBC Rates HC - Feb 2026	379.00
09/03/2026	01762435	VALDA ENERGY	FJC Gas usage 01.02.26-31.03.26	1,280.62
09/03/2026	01762435	VALDA ENERGY	FJC Gas usage 01.02.26-31.03.26	548.01
09/03/2026	01762435	VALDA ENERGY	SSTN Gas Usage 01.02-31.03.26	272.45
09/03/2026	01762435	VALDA ENERGY	FJC Gas usage 01.02.26-31.03.26	300.76
09/03/2026	01762435	VALDA ENERGY	SSTN Gas Usage 01.02-31.03.26	178.84
11/03/2026	INV-1938	IG Stage Hire	Stage Hire Summer Music Event 15.08.26	280.00
18/03/2026	201615202699845	Pozitive Energy	Gas Usage - HC 01.02 to 28.02.26	112.31
19/03/2026	01762435	VALDA ENERGY	SSTN Gas Usage 01.02-31.03.26	982.16
19/03/2026	01762435	VALDA ENERGY	FJC Elec usage- 01.02.26-31.03.26	578.87
19/03/2026	01762435	VALDA ENERGY	SSTN Elec usage 01.02.26-31.03.26	695.60
23/03/2026	201615202698020	Pozitive Energy	Gas Usage - HC 01.01 to 30.01.26	400.97
25/03/2026	5813476/CE/57170	The Arch Rent Collectors	SSTN rent 25.03.26 to 23.06.26	1,550.00
25/03/2026	236996	Prism Solutions	Prism IT Managed Service - Apr 26	1,305.10
25/03/2026	3401046654	Adobe Systems Software	Adobe Acrobat Subscription x 3 to 18.03.27	727.92
25/03/2026	7070298378	Stafford Borough Council	Install/remove bollards Jan-Mar 26	485.96

37,625.07

STONE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
2 June 2026
CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Mayor

Saturday 6 June	Stone Carnival Weekend in Westbridge Park beginning with a Parade
Sunday 7 June	Stone Carnival in Westbridge Park
Sunday 14 June	Chairman of Staffordshire Moorlands Civic Service
Sunday 21 June	Stone 10K Road Race
Thursday 25 June	Stone Town Mayor's Quiz Night at the Frank Jordan Centre

Deputy Mayor

Saturday 6 June	Stone Carnival Weekend in Westbridge Park beginning with a Parade
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TOWN MAYOR

TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 1 April to 12 May 2026

Councillor Jason Metters

Report to follow

DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 1 April to 12 May 2026

Councillor Andrew Best

Thursday 2 April 2026 – Girlguiding Stone Division: 50th Anniversary Production of 'A Handful of Songs' at Stoke Repertory Theatre

I attended a handful of songs and it did not disappoint. My daughter Matilda performed in the show as one of their 'old ladies' group. This year's performance was their 25th show and Maureen Recines last. She started it 50 years ago and the show has been a part of all brownies, guides and leaders lives ever since. The show this year is amazing, the girls sing hits from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat to the Lion King and many more.

I was honoured to meet and talk to the cast and crew afterwards and my family and I had a wonderful time. Thank you.

Friday 8 May 2026 – Stone Food & Drink Festival Opening in Westbridge Park

It was an honour to be asked to open this year's festival. It was a lovely sunny day to begin with. Ed Stant showed me around before the opening and I met the team organising the event. It was very interesting to learn everyone's roles. I cut the bunting and pronounced the festival open. Afterwards I enjoyed meeting the people at the different stalls and the food was delicious. Thank you for a great day.

TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 2 June 2026

Councillor Andrew Best

Saturday 16 May 2026 – Stafford Borough Council Annual Meeting

I attend the AGM for the new mayor. It was a lovely send off for Jenny and a lovely welcome for Mark Winnington. In attendance was Captain John Cromie from HMS Collingwood. It was a delight to meet him and his wife, Nicky. It was Nicky's birthday and they both had a lovely time.

Sunday 17 May 2026 – Church Service at St Michael & St Wulfad's Church

Attended the church service at St Michael's church with Captain John Cromie and his wife. He laid a wreath for John Jervis and we had a guided tour of the Mausoleum thanks to Cllr Philip Leason. It was a lovely weekend and an absolute honour to meet and spend time with the captain and his wife.

Thursday 21 May 2026 – Launch Evening of the Craig Sumner Art Exhibition at Stone Heritage Centre

It was amazing. Craig's work is picture perfect. His views from pubs and scenic areas of Stone and Oulton are faultless. He was particularly excited to show me the one he had done from in the Poste of Stone.

See Photographs below

DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 2 June 2026

Councillor Robert Townsend

No engagements on this occasion



