

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

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

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

GP27/001 **Apologies**

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

GP27/002 **Declarations of Interest and Declarations**

None made

GP27/003 **Requests for Dispensations**

None received

GP27/004 **To receive the report of the County Councillors**

The Chairman invited County Councillors to address the Committee:

County Councillor Jill Hood

Councillor Hood advised the Committee that the Council had not met for some
weeks while the local elections were taking place. She said there had been a lot of
enquiries made about potholes with replies suggesting they were not a priority.

Councillor Hood forewarned Town Councillors that a number of roadworks would
be in operation in Stone during July and August.

County Councillor A. Mynors

Councillor Mynors was not in attendance at the meeting.

GP27/005 **To receive the report of Borough Councillors**

The Chairman invited Borough Councillors to address the Committee but there
were no reports on this occasion.

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GP27/006 Representations from Members of the Public

None

GP27/007 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7 April 2026 (Minute Numbers GP26/137 – GP26/156), be approved as a correct record.

GP27/008 Minutes of Sub-Committees

There were no Sub-Committee draft minutes.

GP27/009 Sub-Committee Terms of Reference

The Committee considered the terms of reference* for the Council's Sub Committees, Steering Groups and Working Groups (which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting).

The Town Clerk advised the Council that after review he was not proposing any changes other than the dates and inclusion of the new Heritage Centre Steering Group and Community Hub Liaison Group terms of reference that had previously been agreed by the General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Terms of Reference for the Council's Sub-Committees, Steering Groups and Working Groups be accepted.

GP27/010 Dissolution of Estates Sub-Committee

The Committee considered the report* of the Town Clerk (which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting) with a proposal for dissolution of the Estates Sub-Committee after a review of the consequences.

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that after cancellation of a number of Estates Sub-Committee meetings questions had been raised about whether the Sub-Committee was needed and whether its work could be absorbed into the General Purposes Committee.

He said that dissolution of the Estates Sub-Committee would also offer an opportunity to streamline the Council's meetings schedule, potentially reduce the number of programmed meeting nights for 2026-27 from 17 to 13.

The Committee supported the proposal and welcomed simplification of the system.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agrees that:

- a. The Estates Sub-Committee be dissolved with immediate effect.

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- b. All current responsibilities of the Estates Sub-Committee should be absorbed into the General Purposes Committee.
- c. The revised programme of meetings enclosed with the Town Clerk's report should be adopted for the remainder of the 2026-27 civic year.

GP27/011 Appointment of Members, Chairmen and Vice Chairmen to the following Sub-Committees

RESOLVED: To appoint the following Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and Members to the Sub Committees for the municipal year 2026-27:

Tourism & Town Promotion

Chairman: Councillor J. Hood

Vice Chairman: Councillor A. Mottershead

Members: Councillors: J. Battrick, J. Davies, L. Davies, K. Dawson, B. Kenney, P. Leason, J. Metters and J. Powell

Co-opted Member: J. Cook

Environment

Chairman: Councillor R. Townsend

Vice Chairman: Councillor T. Kelt

Members: Councillors: A. Burgess, I. Fordham, J. Hood, J. Metters, J. Powell, N. Powell and C. Thornicroft

Mayor's Charity

Chairman: Councillor A. Best

Vice Chairman: Councillor R. Townsend

Members: Councillors: J. Davies, L. Davies, I. Fordham, T. Kelt, R. Kenney, P. Leason, J. Metters and J. Powell

In addition, the Town Mayor and the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee are ex-officio voting members of all committees and sub-committees where they are not members in their own right, as set out in Standing Orders.

GP27/012 Appointment to Steering/Working Group

RESOLVED: To make the following appointments to Town Council Steering and Working Groups for the municipal year 2026-27:

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

All Councillor were appointed to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

It was agreed that a co-ordinator would be appointed at the first meeting.

Stone Heritage Centre Steering Group

Councillor Members: R. Kenney (Co-ordinator), P. Leason (Vice Co-ordinator), J. Davies and J. Hood

GP27/013 Appointment to Outside Bodies

RESOLVED: To make the following appointments of Council representatives on outside bodies:

Stone ATC (Town Mayor plus 1 member)

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Councillors: Town Mayor and J. Davies

Age Concern Stone & District (2 members)

Councillors: J. Davies and C. Thornicroft

Stafford & Stone Access Group (1 member)

Councillor T. Kelt

Trustees of the Town Hall Charity (all members)

All Councillors

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group (3 members)

Councillors: J. Battrick, J. Hood and R. Townsend

Stone Area Parish Liaison Group (1 member)

Councillor J. Davies

NOTE: Current membership of the following bodies will continue until the stated dates, or until retirement by an individual member, even if the members cease to be members of the Council

Stone Common Plot Trustees (5 Members for a four-year term)

Councillor C. Thornicroft (term runs to May 2030) and Councillors:

A. Burgess, J. Hood, T. Kelt and R. Townsend (terms run to May 2027)

Richard Vernon Trust (3 members for a four-year term)

Councillors: J. Davies, P. Leason and J. Powell (all members' terms run to May 2027)

SPCA Executive Committee (1 member for a two-year term)

Councillor: T. Kelt (to December 2027)

West Midlands Railway and other rail matters

Councillor T. Kelt

GP27/014 Town Council Payments

RESOLVED: To note the list* of Town Council payments made during the period 1 March to 30 April 2026.

GP27/015 Update from Working Groups:

Stone Heritage Centre Steering Group

The Chairman advised the Committee about a meeting that had taken place last week. Talks were in progress with various schools about having a photographic display and to use the facility more for their history walks and talks throughout town. Various art exhibitions were programmed and the Heritage Centre Manager was continuing to work on the Story of Stone. The Steering Group was dealing with some new signage.

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GP27/016 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 was not available to give a report.

Stone ATC

Councillor Metters advised the Committee that no meeting had taken place.

Age Concern Stone & District

Councillor Thornicroft advised the Committee that no meeting had taken place.

Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor Kelt was not available to give a report.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

Councillor Townsend advised the Committee that no meeting had taken place since the Annual General Meeting.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

Councillor Townsend gave a report on a meeting today (19 May). A number of items were discussed. One of their staff members was leaving and the Manager had advertised for a replacement (20 hours a week). They were also looking for a volunteer minute taker at board meetings. He said that some interesting data had been shared on the number of clients they were servicing and new initiatives started six months ago.

SPCA Executive Committee

Councillor Kelt was not available to give his report.

West Midlands Railway and other Rail Matters

Councillor Kelt was not available to give his report.

The meeting was temporarily suspended and then reconvened after the Planning Consultative Committee meeting had taken place.

GP27/017 Exclusion of the Press and Public

To resolve, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting whilst the next items of business are discussed on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the debate.

GP27/018 Markets

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk on the Town's Market provision which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting.

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report for a new trial market to take place in the town.

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GP27/019 **Information Technology**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Committee accepts the recommendations in the Town Clerk's report to implement a new and updated information technology system.

CHAIRMAN