

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 1 September 2026

PRESENT: Councillor R. Kenney in the Chair, and
Councillors: A. Best, J. Davies, K. Dawson, J. Hood, I. Fordham, T. Kelt, P. Leason,
J. Metters, and C. Thornicroft

Officers: L. Trigg, R. Edwards, L. Fleetwood, H. Pickford and T. Williams

ABSENT: Councillors: J. Battrick, A. Burgess, L. Davies, B. Kenney,
A. Mottershead, A. Mynors, J. Powell, N. Powell and R. Townsend

GP27/038 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: J. Battrick, L. Davies, B. Kenney,
J. Powell, N. Powell and R. Townsend

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

GP27/039 Declarations of Interest and Declarations

None made.

GP27/040 Requests for Dispensations

None received.

GP27/041 The Reports of the County Councillors Representing Stone Town

The Chairman invited County Councillors to address the Committee:

County Councillor J Hood

Councillor Hood informed the Committee that there is a growing issue with the
use of electric scooters in the town and expressed concern regarding the potential
risk to pedestrian safety.

County Councillor A. Mynors

Councillor Mynors was not in attendance at the meeting.

GP27/042 The Reports of Borough Councillors representing Stone Town

Councillor Leason advised the Committee that he had attended a briefing on
Planning for the New Local Rules.

Councillor Hood advised the Committee that the consultation period had closed in
relation to the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs).

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GP27/043 Representations from Members of the Public

None.

GP27/044 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7 July 2026 (Minute Numbers GP27/020 – GP27/037), be approved as a correct record.

GP27/045 Minutes of Sub-Committees

RESOLVED:

- a) To note the minutes of the Environment Sub-Committee meeting held on 2 June 2026, Minute Numbers ENV27/001 - ENV27/009.
- b) To note the minutes of the Town Mayor's Chairty Sub-Committee meeting held on 2 June 2026, Minute Numbers MC27/001 – MC27/006.

GP27/046 Grants to Local Organisations

The Committee considered an exceptional request for Grant Aid from the following organisation, which met the criteria within the Council's Grants Policy:

- a) **Organisation: Stone Town Football Club**
Amount Requested: £500
Reason: To purchase a replacement football pitch mower

RESOLVED: To award a grant of £500 to Stone Town Football Club

GP27/047 Data (Use and Access) Act 2025

The Committee considered a revised Complaints Procedure (which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting). The revisions reflected new legislation and introduced a 30-day deadline for acknowledging complaints.

RESOLVED:

- a) To approve the revised Complaints Procedure.

GP27/048 Call for Evidence: Shaping the Future of Local Government in Staffordshire

The Chairman asked the Committee how it would like to proceed with preparing a response to the document received from Staffordshire Parish Council Association (SPCA).

RESOLVED:

That a draft proposal be drawn up by the Chairman and the Town Clerk and then circulated to Committee members for approval.

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GP27/049 Town Council Payments

RESOLVED:

To note the list of Town Council payments* made during the period 1 to 31 May 2026.

GP27/050 Update from Working Groups

Updates were received from the Councils Working Group Co-Ordinators as follows:

a. Stone Heritage Centre Steering Group

The group had not met but a meeting is planned in the near future.

GP27/051 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 had sent his apologies so was not able to report.

Stone ATC

Town Mayor & One Councillor – Councillors: A. Best and J. Davies

Councillor Best reported that the organisation continued to operate successfully.

Age Concern Stone & District

Councillors: J. Davies and C. Thornicroft

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

Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor: T. Kelt

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

Stone Common Plot Trustees

Councillors: A. Burgess, J. Hood, T. Kelt, C. Thornicroft and R. Townsend

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

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

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

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

SPCA Executive Committee

Councillor: T. Kelt

Councillor Kelt advised the Committee that a meeting had not taken place but had been asked to use a forum to investigate any voluntary group across the Country, particularly in the area of sustainability. This has been actioned and in progress.

West Midlands Railway and other Rail Matters

Councillor: T. Kelt

Councillor Kelt advised the Committee that discussions were ongoing.

Councillor Kelt advised the Committee that a meeting to discuss the Station approach was widely attended and that Geoff Grant from West Midlands Rail was also in attendance. It was requested executive attendance from the TOC. Jon Heal

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has been tasked to set up a meeting with the Director of Property and Parking Manager and has requested dates from the group.
It was stated that the plan to extend the route at both ends could possibly commence in December.

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

GP27/052 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.

GP27/053 Application to add public footpaths at Stone - Reference: LD604G

The Committee considered the confidential correspondence received from Stafford Borough Council*, which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that there was a report published in 1974 and that it was raised again in November 1994.

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that Page 4, Paragraph 3 – referring to the routes of the footpath were incorrect.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agrees that:

- The Council should recommend that both footpaths be included in the Borough's published report.

CHAIRMAN

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