

Stonehouse Town Council



MINUTES of

the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING held on MONDAY 19TH MAY 2014 at 7pm in the Town Hall,
High Street

Present: Town Mayor Chris Brine
Deputy Town Mayor Simon Lewis

Also Present: Town Clerk, County Councillor Lesley Williams, District Councillor Mattie Ross, Councillor John Aldis, David Drew, Roger Govier, Carol Kambites, Gary Powell, Paul Stephens, Pam Swain, Rob Waite, Theresa Watt, Sarah Yates (Stroud News), 42 members of the public

1. Welcome from the Chair of Council

The Council opened the meeting by thanking Members of the Council for their hard work and dedication over the past year. The Council is moving forward with exciting ideas for the future.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from resident John West, Cllrs. Vcky Redding & Anthony Howarth, June Hennell

3. Chair and Committee Annual Reports

A compiled report was circulated and will be included in Stonehouse News

4. Public Question Time

Rick Jordan asked what the long term plans were for development of Oldends Lane. Councillor Brine explained that various options were being considered, the main aim was to create a community building which can be shared by current groups and the wider community. This might include housing provision.

Mattie Ross mentioned that sadly Carol Powell who had tended the Horsetrough for many years had passed away. The meeting noted this sad loss of someone dedicated to improving an area of Stonehouse for residents to enjoy. Resident Penny Sweet stated that whilst everyone could not always agree with what the Town Council did they were to be thanked for what they do.

5. Speakers:

Police Sergeant Jason Charles and PCSO Tracey Wren of Gloucestershire Constabulary

attended to give the latest crime figures for Stonehouse. From 7th May 13 to the end of April 14 the most prevalent crimes were: theft from motor vehicles 37, non dwelling burglaries 20, assault 34, and out of 308 crimes, 121 were detected. The police will strive to be more visible and proactive going forward.

County Councillor Lesley Williams requested that the Constabulary provide year on year figures on a regular basis so that a proper comparison can be made.

June Hennell from Stonehouse Memory Link

Mrs Hennell was unavailable therefore Cllr. Simon Lewis read a report:

The sad news is that Brian Hennell died from cancer in June 2013. The Memory Link Group have continued with their work with a dementia awareness campaign. Five residents in Stonehouse have benefited so far. In addition the Keep Safe campaign led by the Police and Crime Commissioner is helping vulnerable groups.

www.keepsafeglos.org

Will Mansell from Foodbank

Will explained that Foodbank had been set up as a local charity by the churches within the Douglas Morley Hall and people were referred to them by GPs, Glos County Council, Citizens Advice Bureau. During 2013-14 there were 826 customers, 426 of which were children. The services are monitored and needs based. Donations of food are always welcome (through The Light in Stonehouse) and also by way of school harvest festivals. Another part of Foodbank is Kids Stuff which collects and recycles 2nd hand children's toys and equipment. Foodbank is always actively looking for volunteers to help out in the drop-in centre.

6. The following Grant Recipients have been invited to give a short presentation on the benefits derived from their Grant:

Park Junior School - The PTA wanted to take the entire school on a trip to the theatre and set about raising funds. The grant monies from the Council helped towards this. 219 children were transported on 4 coaches to Bristol and enjoyed a theatre performance and icecream. This was so successful that the PTA have started a fund so that every child will get a chance to experience this.

P.S.A.L.M.S. – Corrine Aldis explained that this group was largely funded by the churches but could not entirely meet the cost of a youth worker. The funds from the Town Council helped in the provision of services. This year PSALMS will be employing a replacement for Odelle Harding, who is moving out of the county.

Stroud & District Citizens Advice Bureau

Cllr David Drew gave a report that the Stroud branch have recently absorbed Cotswolds and are trying to become more customer focused with an improved telephone and on-line service. The manager Nick Lee is shortly leaving to take up another post.

Homestart

No report available.

Stonehouse Community Partnership

John Jeynes reported that good progress has been made utilising the funding towards an Arts Festival in Stonehouse. Park Junior School have been very supportive with use of their facilities. The Festival intends to create 10 community murals.

7. Presentation of Civic Awards 2013-14

The Town Mayor presented the Awards and Councillor Lewis read out the following citations:

Community Group of the Year – Itchy Feet

The group founder, Diane King, began dancing at Stonehouse Youth Club in 1978 and formed the group Itchy Feet with Heather Morgan as a parent volunteer. Heather was impressed with all Diane's hard work in nurturing the young people and her support allowed Diane to focus on teaching and choreography and their partnership underpins the success of the group. Over 32 years the dancers have achieved national recognition representing Stonehouse in competitions in Plymouth, Birmingham, London and Manchester including performing in front of Royalty and national TV. Many former members have gone on to dance professionally including Diane's eldest daughter, Jaye Marshall currently performing in the West End.

The group have won many awards, recently winning 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in Dancetec together with gold and silver medals for stunning individual and group performances.

Business of the Year – Feel Good Factor

This business received 9 nominations with comments such as "FGF is forward thinking, a wonderful friendly atmosphere and amazing treatments, the owner clearly want this place to be exceptional, is an enthusiastic and positive business, in developing a multitude of interconnected services they are to be applauded, they are all such lovely happy people it really is a "feel good" experience".

Vicky Wakefield-Heath Young Person of the Year Award – James Laughlan

James who is 15 in year 10 at Maidenhill School was presented with a cup and medal for his dedication to Cubs and Stonehouse Action4Youth. He keenly attends events of the District Youth Forum and takes on responsibility for projects and surveys. He has been an excellent role model.

8. Close and Refreshments

Reports were circulated by:

Pop-In

Stonehouse Community Partnership

RBL Women's Section

Stonehouse RVS Lunch Club

Stonehouse Rotary Club

Clare Sheridan gave a report of the Neighbourhood Plan event held on the 10th May and encouraged those present to get involved in the next event to be held at Park Junior School on Saturday 5th July.

Town Mayor Chris Brine closed the meeting by thanking Clare for her work as Councillor over the past 2 years.