



Stonehouse Town Council

Town Hall, High Street, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 2NG

**MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Town Council meeting)
OF A MEETING OF STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12th JANUARY 2015 COMMENCING AT 6PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE.**

Members of the public will be excluded due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed

Present: Vice Chair Councillor Theresa Watt (Chair)
Councillors John Aldis, David Drew, Roger Govier, Carol Kambites,
Pam Swain, Paul Stephens, Gary Powell, Simon Lewis, Rob Waite, Neil
Gibbs

Also Present: Town Clerk Gill Jennings

The meeting was joined by John Paterson of Ark Consultancy

TC1566 Redevelopment of Oldends Lane

Members of Council are asked to attend to view plans and discuss the programme schedule. The Council will also be asked to underwrite survey costs. The Council will receive a dilapidations report on the existing buildings.

The Council viewed two option plans. Plan B was preferred but some adjustment required in the position of the stadium and community facilities. This plan presented the best option for car-parking, landscaping and maximised the land value. The architect would meet with members of the Recreation Working Group to tweak the plan.

The Council agreed to underwrite the survey costs of up to £2000 in the event that the survey findings prevented development.

The Council discussed the negative impact the West of Stonehouse development would have on the level crossing, and the need for a cul-de-sac solution was suggested.

The Council has received a dilapidations report on the existing buildings at Oldends Lane which confirms the need to redevelop these facilities in the short term.

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7pm Full Council – Public Meeting

Attendees are reminded that the PROCEEDINGS of this part of the meeting may be filmed, photographed or recorded

The meeting was joined by County Councillor Lesley Williams. Sarah Yates of Stroud News & Journal

TC1567 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Brine, Councillor Jan Dyer

TC1568 Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded of their obligation within the requirements of the Adopted Model Code of Conduct, to declare personal or disclosable pecuniary interests where applicable

Councillor Simon Lewis declared an interest in TC1571 in so far as it involved the Post Office

TC1568 Declarations of Interest (continued)

Councillor Rob Waite declared an interest in TC1575 (payment to Hostpipe) and took no part in the vote on the matter.

TC1569 To agree the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th December 2014

The Minutes were agreed with amendment to:

TC1555 add “funding for other purposes towards the Neighbourhood Plan”

TC1557 delete “problem with repairs to one of the railway bridges” and substitute “a need for a better bridge at Ocean”.

TC1570 Adjournment for Public Participation

None requested

TC1571 Council to discuss future use of Town Hall premises

Before setting the precept the Council will consider the ongoing cost of maintaining the Town Hall and its potential to achieve an income

The Council were given a report by the Town Clerk regarding the fragility of the Town Hall income in supporting the ongoing overheads on the Town Hall. The Council were advised to enable income generating activities rather than merely considering services which might inevitably increase costs. Councillor Watt moved that this item be considered alongside TC1577.

Councillor Vicky Redding joined the meeting.

TC1572 Council to Resolve the Precept Request for 2015-16

This item was discussed following discussion of TC1573 and TC1574. The Council were presented with a draft budget of £231600. The LCTS has been reduced by 23.94% giving only £16035 to be deducted from the budget total. It is unlikely that this sum will be available in 2016-17. Given that the estimated carried forward figure to general reserves was quite low the Council agreed to increase the budget by £2000 to allow an additional £1000 for clerks training to Level 5 and £1000 for street furniture.

The Council Resolved to request a Precept of £217560. The overall budget would also be increased to allow for legal representation at the Enquiry In Public of the Local Plan in the sum of £7000 – this sum would not be added to the precept but would be taken from the reserve of LCTS set aside from 2012-13.

TC 1573 To agree costs of tender documentation

In view of the changes to the layout of the pavilion the Council are asked to agree costs of preparing tender documentation and subsequent planning application

Cost of preparing tender documentation was agreed up to £600.

TC1574 Changes to the Local Plan – Invitation to take part in the January Hearing

The Council are asked to prepare a submission and appoint a representative.

Councillor Drew was appointed for the 29th Jan Hearing. Councillor Kambites could attend on the 30th Jan. The Strategic Planning Alliance were appointed to make a joint representation but would be asked to add points specific to Stonehouse. The SPA will meet on the 26th January to discuss tactics.

The Council agreed that there should be a strategy and funding for opposing West of Stonehouse development.

TC1575 To agree the bank reconciliation to 31st December and Committee payments/receipts to 31st December. To agree payments to date.

The current bank balance to end of December was agreed at £117,523.49. The Clerk advised the Council that the investment with Santander could not go ahead due to the Council not meeting the investment criteria therefore £70,000 would be reinvested in Lloyd Treasury Deposits. This was agreed. The Council agreed the payments total £31783.38 and receipts £4198.94 to end of December 2014.

TC1576 Date of Next Meeting

16th February 2015

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8pm – Members of the public will be excluded due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed:

The Meeting was joined by Sue Lawrence (Head of Library Services) and Mark Parker (Head of Property Services)

TC1577 Meeting with Gloucestershire County Library Services

Mark Parker explained that the scale of budget cuts being made by the County Council were huge and the library service a small part of that. Cuts in services have been made by offering buildings and land to the community for community run facilities and by introducing volunteer assistance and self-service facilities. For example Bourton on the Water library now integrated into the community hub. Lone working staff were supported by volunteers. Co-location increases opening hours and reduces overhead costs. County Council not willing to pay rent but might look at purchase if it is feasible to release capital tied up in an existing building. Capital was available for building alterations.

Town Councillors accepted an opportunity to visit small scale library facilities to assess what can be achieved. The Clerk is to provide Town Hall overhead costs to GCC library services.
