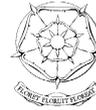


Stonehouse Town Council

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



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next meeting) of a meeting of **STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2015 **COMMENCING AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE.****

Present: Chairman/Town Mayor Theresa Watt
Vice Chairman/Deputy Town Mayor Pam Swain
Councillors Gwen Atkinson, Jo Byrne, Amy Coombs, Debbie Curtis,
Neil Gibbs, Carol Kambites, Gary Powell, Vicky Redding, Paul Stephens
Also Present: Town Clerk, County Councillor Lesley Williams, District Councillors
Mattie Ross, Chris Brine, Scott Tompkins (Gloucestershire Highways)
2 representatives from Amey, 6 residents

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

TC1658 To Receive Apologies for Absence
Tim Jackson, Rob Waite

TC1659 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.

There were no declarations of interest

TC1660 To agree the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th October 2015
The Minutes were agreed as a true record

TC1661 To agree an amendment to Standing Order 3.L

The Council agreed to amend Standing Order 3.L and agreed not to have a separate protocol policy

The existing wording to be deleted and amended to:

A person may not orally report or comment about a meeting as it takes place if he is present at the meeting of the town council or its committees but otherwise may:

- a) film, photograph or make an audio recording of a meeting;**
- b) use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later;**
- c) report or comment on the proceedings in writing during or after a meeting or orally report or comment after the meeting.**

TC1662 High Street Improvements

Presentation by Gloucestershire County Council. Council is requested to approve or reject the proposals at this meeting

Scott Tompkins explained the proposed refreshed layout. It will have hot rolled coloured asphalt edge to edge and will feature pophyree stone at the exit points from the emerging roads and overrun. New planters at the start and end of the shared space will be provided and better quality tactile paving with metal studs. With a 12 week lead in period it was likely that the works would not start until after March 2016 and this might lead to a clash with In Bloom.

Councillor Debbie Curtis offered to investigate whether this would penalise the In Bloom efforts in any way. The Council reminded Scott that they had concerns about parking outside the funeral home and hoped that the parking review might be carried out before works commenced so that any adjustments to parking could be incorporated. In answer to questions Scott advised that the utility companies would be coming back to replace tarmac in the right colour on pavements but total renewal of the pavements might be dealt with at a later date. He agreed to ensure communication about the works to businesses and the Town Council and would liaise regarding the parking review. He confirmed that the shared space was working in terms of slowing the traffic down and that the refresh would enhance the look of the High Street.

The Council confirmed their approval of the scheme subject to any amendments required under the parking review.

TC1663 Adjournment for Public Participation

Residents from Rosedale Avenue were present to deliver a petition regarding inconsiderate parking by commuters using the station. They stated that 61/75 homes surveyed wanted parking restrictions. Cllr Watt requested that the Regeneration Committee looked at the detail of the petition before support of the Council. Cllr Brine interjected and requested that the Council supports the residents. **The Regeneration & Environment Committee were tasked with looking at the petition details and offering support or comment in forwarding it on to the County Council.**

TC1664 To receive reports from County/District Councillors on matters of concern to Stonehouse

Councillor Mattie Ross reported that the District Council were set to lose up to £9,000,000 in revenue from the decrease in rents and this may affect the house building programme. Housing Committee were also concerned about the cap on housing benefit and introduction of the right to buy. She mentioned that she had attended an enjoyable sheltered housing talent contest which had been won by a 91 year old lady.

Councillor Brine advised that brown bins will be available soon and fortnightly collections will commence.

Councillor Williams advised that the County Council is considering an increase in rates by 1.99% which might also be increased by a further 2% due to the needs for adult care. There was an increase in children being taken into care which meant £2,000,000 would be set aside to fund additional children's social workers. The County were conducting a Total Transport Project to look at ways people travel to services and she will provide details.

She had attended a site visit to discuss amendments to 3 junctions for West of Stonehouse.

Councillor Powell confirmed he has also attended this visit and had raised concern about access into Stonehouse and Oldends Lane level crossing but had not received any assurances.

TC1665 To receive reports from interim meetings and discuss further action:

1. Report of a meeting held on the 23rd November with David Lowin (West of Stonehouse)
A report of this meeting had been circulated. The Council had met with David Lowin regarding their concerns about the impacts of West of Stonehouse. His responses indicated that mitigating works to the A419 already in hand with LEP. He felt that a footbridge scheme at Oldends was not viable. There would be no S106 provision for Stonehouse but he felt that funding should be available from the business rates. He did not agree that S106 funding should be made available towards a feasibility study of the reopening of Bristol Road station
2. Report of a meeting held on the 30th November with Eastington Parish Council (West of Stonehouse) and to discuss whether to part fund a further traffic study total cost £350
Councillor Kambites and Councillor Watt had met with 2 representatives from Eastington Parish Council and 1 representative from their neighbourhood plan group. Stonehouse

Town Council unhappy that CILS policy in draft form therefore infrastructure improvements might not be enforced. Developer's own traffic study makes light of traffic problems. Parishes have similar concerns and would want to support their planning objections with a traffic study of their own. Councillor Redding asked the Clerk if the views of Eastington concurred with that of Stonehouse. The Clerk responded that it appeared that Eastington felt the new settlement would be a separate entity. Ward Councillors were asked whether they felt the settlement would be separated from Stonehouse. Cllr. Brine alluded to the settlement as being awkwardly located and that really development would have been better on the A38.

The Council agreed to fund a study up to £350 provided that a project brief can be given to the consultant to cover the Town Council's concerns. (B/F Regeneration Committee)

3. Report of a meeting held on 7th December with Stroud District Council (Ship Inn Site, West of Stonehouse).

Councillors had attended a meeting with Alison Fisk and Ward Councillors to be advised that the District Council will transfer land at Wharfdale for private development and develop the Ship Inn site to replace 9 social housing units. There would be an opportunity for some amenity land to be provided at Wharfdale. **(B/F Regeneration Committee)** The same group had met with David Lowin and Mark Russell at the request of the Town Council Chairman to discuss mitigating the effects of West of Stonehouse. Cllr Mattie Ross enquired why no Minutes had been circulated. Cllr Watt advised that Mark Russell had taken notes and a report would be obtained from him.

4. Councillor Gibbs to give a report on progress with the Defibrillator – Councillor Gibbs advised that approximately £1000 had been raised in a joint fundraising activity by the Co-operative, Council and Rotary. The Co-operative had since advised that they were short by £300 to provide training and replacement pads. **(B/F Finance & Strategy)**

He asked the Council to consider handing the equipment over to Community Heartbeat who will insure and maintain the equipment. **The Council had no objection to this.**

5. Councillor Swain to give a report on Goodwill Festival – The adverse weather had enforced the early closure of the event. Thanks were expressed to the volunteers who had stayed on to clear away.
6. Councillor Redding to give a report on the Standish Partnership Board – The Board have only received 1 bid for the site and are now actively marketing. They are still seeking a developer with the right experience to develop the site sympathetically.

TC1666 To consider 14/0810/OUT West of Stonehouse - Further submitted plans for access & Environmental Statement Addendum and any further representation following adoption of the Local Plan

The Council agreed to submit an objection to the plan. The wording of the objection was agreed. Councillor Kambites raised concern that there were no Ward Members on the Planning Committee to represent Stonehouse. Councillor Brine responded to say that either he or Cllr Ross attended almost every planning meeting where Stonehouse was mentioned. He advised that objections could be sent right up until the day before the Committee meeting. **Councillor Kambites was appointed to attend the planning meeting to speak about the council's concerns.**

TC1667 Finance

1. To consider spending plans and agree draft budget for 2016-17

The Council were presented with the budgets which had been through the Committee cycle which might incur a 5 – 6.8% increase in the precept depending on the level of Local Council Tax Support. (The District Council had advised parishes to consider an 8% increase if they wanted to maintain their current precept level.)

TC1667 (continued)

The RFO had also drawn up an alternative budget with cuts needed to achieve a 2 - 4.3% increase. The Council were then advised that the Neighbourhood Plan group were seeking additional funding. The Council debated the real cost of an 8% rise which might equate to a few pence per month and did not consider an 8% increase excessive in the circumstances. Committee are to review their budgets once the LCTS has been confirmed. During these discussions Ward Councillors held their own conversation regarding the level of increase and Cllr Brine stated to the Town Council Chairman that an increase would not be fair on households which would also face an increase in rates from the county and police. He suggested that staff salaries should be cut.

2. To agree payments November and bank reconciliation to 30th November 2015

Payments were agreed £193619.87 which included a 2nd interim payment for works to the pavilion £28274 and investment of £143056. Receipts were agreed at £132842 which included rolling investment £80283, transfer from deposit £30,000 and S106 funding £18789. The bank balance to 30th November was agreed at £91050.24.

3. To agree payments to date (December)

Payments to cheque no. 8118 £10365 were authorised.

Please note that Members may ask for an explanation of wording but not raise new matters or amendments which are to be referred to the Committee Chair for the next Agenda:

TC1668 To receive the Minutes of the Development Control Panel Meeting of 2nd and 30th November 2015

The Minutes were noted.

TC1669 To receive the Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee of 2nd November 2015

The Minutes were noted

TC1670 To receive the Minutes of the Amenities Recreation & Tourism Committee of 9th November 2015

The Minutes were Noted

a. K3/335 To consider & agree the fixed fee arrangement

Further to the proposal the Football Club have asked for a fixed fee of £1550 for the pavilion. The lease of the stadium to remain on current terms. The additional toilets originally priced at £4600 have been revised and will now cost £6770.

Councillor Powell proposed/Councillor Swain seconded, The Council passed a Resolution to allow hire of the pavilion to Stonehouse Football Club on a fixed fee arrangement of £1550 for 2 seasons effective from 9th November 2015.

b. To agree costs of finishing works to the pavilion

Further to the Committee meeting revised costs had been received. The Council reviewed these against budget and agreed to the adjusted contract price of £117000.

TC1671 To receive the Minutes of the Finance & Strategy Committee of 23rd November 2015

The Minutes were noted.

K1/252 Council to pass a resolution regarding the recommended change to meeting dates

The Council resolved to change the meeting dates as recommended.

TC1672 To receive the Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Group of 26th November and to note the Referendum timetable

The Minutes were noted.

TC1673 To receive proposals from Councillors regarding development of Recreation Facilities and to review Council Strategy Document

Following the Council's departure from the plan to develop Oldends Lane with a large housing scheme, the Housing Association has withdrawn their offer to develop Stagholt.

Council to confirm ongoing strategy and appoint a lead Councillor and Working Groups to achieve strategy aims.

The Council did not have a firm proposal to consider and tasked the Finance & Strategy Committee to put this together for the next Council meeting.

TC1674 Community Assets

Verney Field

Stroud District Council have advised that they would refuse the nomination. The application was withdrawn and further advice sought from Locality. The advice is that there are no grounds for refusal. Agricultural land is permitted where it has had a recreational use i.e. walking. Council to decide whether to proceed with application. Councillor Watt asked the Clerk to explain. The Clerk explained that the District Council (Ricardo Rios) had advised that the reasons given in the application were not sufficient. Locality had confirmed that they were sufficient grounds. The officer has now said that there is not enough evidence of public use, or when it ceased to be grazed, and that he has to check whether the land is operational land for the County Council. The Clerk advised the Council to survey residents and obtain the support of Ward Councillors. Cllr Mattie Ross interjected that she had not been consulted so how was she expected to offer support. The Clerk responded that a consultation would follow whereupon the Councillor told the Clerk not to interrupt her and went back to her complaint about lack of consultation.

The Council agreed to proceed with an application following a period of consultation with the community to gather evidence.

Elm Road Former Youth Centre

Stroud District Council have refused the nomination made by Elm Road Community Project

TC1675 Consultations:

Gloucestershire County Council are consulting on the Local Transport Plan until 5th February 2015 www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ltp3

A representative may be sent to the Town & Parish Meeting in the Council Chamber Stroud District Council on 14th January at 7pm. **Council to agree any issues to be raised.**

Councillors were asked to send their representations to Cllr Kambites who will collate these and offer a response.

TC1676 Correspondence

1.To receive correspondence from Network Rail and the Office of Rail and Road regarding Oldends Lane Crossing

The correspondence advising the removal of objection to West of Stonehouse subject to monitoring of the level crossing was noted.

TC 1677 The Council will pass a resolution to adjourn to receive notice of a legal challenge.
The Council passed a resolution to adjourn public participation by Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and publicity of the item would be prejudicial to the public interest.

Councillor Mattie Ross left the meeting with an aside to the Clerk that she expected to receive a copy of the secret matter to be discussed.

The Council considered a claim for costs and agreed to pass this to Finance & Strategy Committee for response.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm