



STONEHOUSE

TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Town Council Meeting)
of a **MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held at 7pm on 17th December 2018 in the Town Hall,
High Street, Stonehouse GL10 2NG.

Councillors Present: Councillors Becky Amor, Gwen Atkinson, Leigh Binns, , Deborah Curtis, Mike Davis, Neil Gibbs (Vice Chair/Deputy Mayor), Tim Jackson, Carol Kambites Sally Pickering, Pam Swain, David Thorpe, Theresa Watt (Chair/Town Mayor)

Also Present: Committee Clerk Rachel Russell, County Councillor Lesley Williams, District Councillors Mattie Ross and Chris Brine, seven residents.

Attendees were reminded that the Proceedings of this meeting may be recorded, filmed or photographed but that any person requiring such a record is asked to give polite notice at the start of the meeting.

TC2093 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from District Councillor Gary Powell and from Gill Jennings, Town Clerk.

TC2094 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC2095 To agree the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 22nd October 2018

The minutes were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Swain, seconded by Cllr.Kambites, subject to an addition to TC2082 of “per year” after “200 houses”, eleven in favour, one abstention.

TC2096 Public Adjournment (max 15 minutes)

A resident made various points on behalf of the SHIPS group about the future of the Ship Inn site including:

- A Planning Inspector had decided against development on the site
- Some of the plots of canal side land transferred by Gloucestershire Town Council were now in the ownership of Stroud Town Council.
- Once built over, the site will be lost
- Site unsuitable for housing due to proximity to busy roads.
- SHIPs want to work with others on ideas for the site.
- SHIPs request that:
 - Section 4.1 of the Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan is amended to include the Ship Inn site as a priority project
 - Stonehouse Town Council approach Stroud District Council and ask under what circumstances it could be transferred to the Town Council.
 - SHIPs are allowed to attend the Business Networking Event as have relevant ideas.

Another resident advised that local and national visitors will arrive in Stonehouse and the Ship Inn site is one of the only pieces of publicly owned canal side land in Stonehouse. Other canal preservation trusts such as Hereford and Gloucester have acquired land for canal side projects to provide restaurant, pub, B and B and wharf.

Chair advised that as there was no relevant item on the agenda, councillors could not discuss further but the Ship Inn site would be put on the agenda of the next Regeneration and Environment Committee meeting on 4th February.

TC2097 To receive brief reports and responses to questions on matters of importance to Stonehouse from County and District Councillors

County Cllr. Lesley Williams advised that a draft budget is being considered by cabinet this week. It includes £300,000 for Stonehouse library relocation and consultation. Precept will be set at February meeting.

Regarding use of the County Council Growing our Communities funds in Stonehouse, County Cllr. Williams asked if funding needed for outdoor table tennis at Oldends Lane. Cllr. Swain advised that this had been discussed, including with the youth services team, and that extra outdoor gym equipment might be a better use of funds for a similar age group. County Cllr. Williams then confirmed that she would be happy to offer funding of up to £7,500 towards the Town Council's Oldends Lane play area refurbishment project.

Highways funding will be used to extend footpath by Wycliffe and carry out work near railway bridge on A419 possibly with involvement by a community group. Lengthsmen scheme may not continue next year due to budget constraints.

Cllr. Pickering asked if the extended footpath could be made of a porous material. County Cllr. Williams to pass on request.

Cllr. Curtis asked if GCC Highways might resurface the footpath through the Rest Garden.

County Cllr. Williams unsure that there would be sufficient funds in budget.

Cllr. Gibbs asked if £300,000 for library relocation likely to be approved and questioned why it was less than a figure of around £400,000 which had been previously circulated? County Cllr. Williams to ask why funding less than expected.

District Councillor Brine suggested that Stonehouse Town Council might want to reconsider its priorities for Market Town Initiative Funding now that £9,000 contribution for the canal area from the District Council's Ship Inn site planning application would not be available.

District Councillor Ross advised that the Market Town Initiative proposals would now go to Strategy and Resources Committee. She reported that every other town council involved their ward councillors in proposals for Market Town Initiative Funding but Stonehouse chose not to. She suggested it was important for town and district councillors to get together and talk. She advised that the District Council had had to consider the Ship Inn site for housing because Stonehouse Town Council had objected to an application for housing on the Wharfdale Way site. Cllrs. Swain and Kambites advised that Stonehouse Town Council had not objected to housing on the Wharfdale Way site but had commented on the proposed design. District Councillor Ross advised that District Council land at Burdett Close previously used by Network Rail may be available for Stonehouse Town Council.

TC2098 To consider setting up quarterly liaison meetings between ward members/town councillors and terms of reference

It was agreed to set up regular, informal meetings between ward members and town councillors, terms of reference to be decided, proposed by Cllr. Jackson, seconded by Cllr. Pickering. All in favour.

Ward Councillors to liaise with Committee Clerk re date for first meeting. Meetings to be timed before Town Council or District Council meetings.

TC2099 To be updated on the Community Governance Review/West of Stonehouse

An initial approach in the consultation has been made to increase the parish boundary to include West of Stonehouse and small areas adjacent to Oldends and Stagholt.

The full response included in the Regeneration and Environment Committee minutes of 5th November 2018 was noted. Cllr. Kambites advised that she had informally told Standish Parish Councillors about the proposal to include the Athletics Field within Stonehouse parish.

Ward Councillors Brine and Ross advised they have been appointed to a Task and Finish Group for the governance review which is meeting on 9th January.

TC2100 To receive brief reports from the Chair and Town Councillors on external meetings attended and to receive the appropriate minutes

Cllr. Watt apologised for the cancellation of the carols on the Town Green on 15th December due to bad weather. Those involved may be asked if possible to rearrange for 21st December.

Cllr. Watt read a letter of thanks from the Branch Secretary of the Royal British Legion for the Town Council's participation in Remembrance Sunday, 2018. Cllr. Pickering asked if consideration could be given to commemorating civilian casualties of conflict for Remembrance Day, 2019.

Cllr. Atkinson had attended a Joint Cluster Group meeting for parishes of police, fire and GCC Highways services at Ebley Mill. Cllr. Amor advised that there had been a number of car break ins recently.

Cllr Binns advised that attending a seminar on Adverse Childhood Experiences recently had confirmed that it was beneficial that providing youth services was a priority for Stonehouse Town Council.

Cllr. Pickering and Davies had attended induction training for new councillors which was very worthwhile.

TC2101 To accept the Minutes of the Development Control Panel meeting held on 5th November 2018

The minutes were accepted.

TC2102 To accept the Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee meeting held on 5th November 2018

The minutes were accepted.

Regarding K2/728/3, Councillors advised that the bin near the Junior School had been removed, also one by the scout hut on Oldends Lane. Ward Councillors offered to investigate.

TC2103 Consultations:

- 1. To comment on the Stroud District Council Parking Variation Order proposal to abolish car park charges in the town centre car park**
Regeneration and Environment Committee meeting of 10th December had agreed a response in order to meet the consultation deadline.
- 2. To provide a collective response to Stroud District Council Local Plan Review**
Committee Clerk had circulated a collation of comments received so far. Cllr Kambites to draw up list of issues which the Town Council needs to take a view on. Cllr Watt called for an Extraordinary Town Council meeting on 21st January 2018 to agree a response. Committee Clerk to ask SDC for extension of time.
- 3. To provide a response to Stroud District Council's statement of community involvement**
Regeneration and Environment Committee meeting of 10th December had considered this consultation and had no observations.

TC2104 To accept the Minutes of the Amenities and Recreation Committee meeting held on 12th November 2018

The minutes were accepted.

TC2105 To accept the Minutes of the Finance and Strategy meeting held on 19th November 2018

The minutes were accepted.

Regarding K1/544, Cllr. Pickering advised that it is legal for a Town Council to set up a Community Interest Company.

TC2106 Finance

- a. **To consider a report on co-location building works and discuss risks to council business**

Report not available. A copy of an e-mail from GCC Libraries advising that Stonehouse Library unlikely to be suitable as temporary accommodation for Town Council staff had been circulated with the agenda.

- b. **To consider agree a draft budget for 2019-20 subject to notification of the tax base**
Town Clerk had advised that draft budget would result in an increase of £8.45 per annum for a Band D Council Tax payer.

The draft budget was noted and councillors expect to approve the budget at the full Town Council meeting in January.

- c. **To agree the Bank Reconciliation to end of October**
Bank reconciliation not available.

- d. **To agree payments in November**

Cllr. Pickering requested that comparison of budget against expenditure was provided. Councillors advised that this was usually provided.

Payments to date agreed on the basis that expenditure against budget had been checked by committees. Proposed by Cllr. Kambites, seconded by Cllr. Swain. All in favour.

- e. **To consider a report from the Recreation Working Group and agree whether to proceed to order on any of the tenders for new play equipment**

Cllr Swain, Chair of the Recreation Working Group, outlined the public consultation and tender process carried out for a project to provide new and refurbished equipment at the Oldends Lane play area. Reports detailing the process and funding available had been circulated by the Committee Clerk with copies available at the meeting. The Committee Clerk advised funding now available to meet the total cost: section 106 funding £31,573, Stonehouse Town Council contribution of £7,000, grants awarded of £4,000 and County Councillor Williams' agreement to fund the project up to £7,500.

Resolution to accept the tender from Kompan of £50,000, as revised by Kompan on 30th November to include re-surfacing work in the contract, and place an order; proposed by Cllr. Kambites, seconded by Cllr. Jackson. All in favour.

- f. **To Resolve that the Council is committed to proceed with the co-location project subject to the outcome of the public consultation.**

The resolution was proposed by Cllr. Pickering, seconded by Cllr. Binns. All in favour.

- g. **To Resolve that the Council will instruct solicitors at a cost of £795 to raise an Agreement for Lease (and Lease) and prepare a Licence for Alterations (at GCC's expense)**

The resolution was proposed by Cllr Swain, seconded by Cllr Kambites. All in favour.

TC2107 To consider advertising the Ebley seat vacancy for co-option

Cllr. Watt read out Cllr Powell's letter of resignation. All joined the Chair in thanking Gary Powell for his long years of service and valued contribution to the Town Council and Stonehouse. The vacancy has been advertised and an election could be called. The Ebley vacancy arose as a result of not being filled at an ordinary election and so can only be filled by co-option.

A resolution to advertise the Ebley seat vacancy for co-option as soon as possible was proposed by Cllr. Pickering, seconded by Cllr. Kambites. All in favour.

TC2108 Items for consideration by Committees

Councillors may propose items for Committees to consider but these must be supported by explanatory reports. The final decision whether to place these on an agenda will be made by the Town Clerk.

Councillors discussed the second sentence of this agenda item. Cllr. Gibbs referred to section 9 of Standing Orders which he suggested only concerns motions for the agenda, whereas not all agenda items are motions. Cllr. Pickering advised information from a recent training course for new councillors was that the Clerk has the authority to word the agenda correctly, elected councillors decide what is on an agenda. Committee Clerk advised that the Clerk has a statutory role in the preparation of the agenda. **Proposed by Cllr. Pickering, seconded by Cllr. Jackson that the second sentence of agenda item TC2108 is inaccurate. All in favour. Staffing Committee and Chair to pass these comments to Town Clerk on her return.**

Items for Committees:

Staffing Committee: Agenda preparation and role of Clerk and Councillors.

Regeneration and Environment Committee: Future of Ship Inn site.

Finance and Strategy Committee: Cllr Pickering to provide motion and report regarding climate change, Cllr. Binns has requested item on GDPR and provided additional information to Clerk.

TC2109 Date of Next Meeting & Adjusted Calendar for 2019

Extraordinary Town Council meeting to be held on 21st January 2019 (7.30pm after Business Networking meeting), full Town Council on 28th January 2019. The calendar for 2019 was noted.
