

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2015  
COMMENCING AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE.**

**Present: Chairman/Town Mayor Councillor Theresa Watt  
Councillors: Jo Byrne, Amy Coombs, Debbie Curtis, Neil Gibbs, Tim Jackson  
Carol Kambites, Gary Powell, Vicky Redding, Paul Stephens, Robin Waite  
Also Present: County Councillor Lesley Williams, District Councillor Chris Brine,  
1 member of the public  
Gill Jennings Town Clerk**

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

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TC1641 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Gwen Atkinson (illness) Pam Swain (holiday) District Councillor Mrs Mattie Ross

TC1642 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 Waite and Councillor Byrne declared an interest in 1653.1 in so far as payments were due to them**

TC1643 To agree the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015

**Cllr Powell proposed/Cllr Waite seconded The Minutes were agreed as a true record**

TC1644 To consider Candidates for Co-option and agree their appointment

**There were no candidates for co-option**

TC1645 Adjournment for Public Participation

A member of the public attended to congratulate the Council on the Stonehouse In Bloom success and the quality of the newsletter. The resident was invited to participate in the next In Bloom meeting.

TC1646 To receive brief written reports from County/District Councillors on matters of concern to Stonehouse

Cllr Brine congratulated Cllr Powell on his appointment as Vice Chair of Stroud District Council. He stated that the Autumn statement was awaited with some interest as coupled with loss of income from social rents the council was facing difficult times. A sheltered housing review had been carried out which highlighted problems with the Willows and Burdett Road accommodation. County Cllr Williams asked for a definition of sheltered housing which Cllr Brine had indicated included anyone over 55 years. Cllr Brine explain that it meant there was some level of support for the tenants. Cllr Redding asked if the District Council could refer to the neighbourhood plan responses to advise their housing provision and whether the DC could provide their own statistics for Stonehouse.

TC1646 (continued)

Cllr Jackson asked what the waiting list was in Stonehouse. Cllr Brine stated that Stroud has a surplus of sheltered accommodation, mainly bedsits which were not popular, whereas 2 bedroom accommodation had a waiting list. He was not sure of the exact figures but would obtain them. County Councillor Williams stated she was aware of the current issue of BT putting a cabinet in front of the town hall without consultation. She would investigate this and other planned installations. She assured the Council that Glos County Council would have the pavements resurfaced correctly and that they would provide a plan of the High Street repairs for the Town Council December meeting. She urged the Council to look at the devolution proposals on the GCC website under "We are Gloucestershire". Adult services were currently £7,000,000 overspent. There were more demands on children's services with more children living in care this year than last year. A recent survey has shown that 55000 people in the county do not get a living wage.

TC1647 To receive Chairman's report and External Representative Reports

Councillor Vicky Redding that a further meeting has taken place of the Standish Partnership Board. Only 1 single bid received to date for the site.

County Councillor Williams left the meeting.

*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:*

TC1648 To receive the Minutes of the Development Control Panel Meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015

The Minutes were noted.

TC1649 To receive the Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee of 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015

The Minutes were Noted

**Resolution Required:**

**K2/241 To agree Delegated Authority to Council Officers**

**The Council resolved that should the Development Control Panel be inquorate and as a result be unable to deal with an application within due time, or where an extension for a response cannot be secured in time for the next Panel meeting, the Proper Officer and Committee Clerk in consultation with the Convenor and Deputy Convenor may submit a response on behalf of the Council.**

TC1650 To receive the Minutes of the Amenities Recreation & Tourism Committee of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015

The Minutes were Noted

**Resolution Required:**

**K3/320 That the Council pays the sum of £4600 for the additional two toilets and to specify the method of repayment by the Football Club**

**This Resolution was not agreed. The Council requested that the Recreation Working Group advises the Football Club that a minimum contribution of £3000 would be required in a lump sum and that this contribution should be unconditional and give the Club no special privileges of use of the changing rooms. Upon receipt of an agreement and funding, ART committee will confirm the order for the works.**

TC1651 To receive the Minutes of the Finance & Strategy Committee of 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015

The Minutes were Noted. Cllr Byrne stated that she had declared an interest in K1/233 which had not been recorded. F & S to amend at next meeting.

**Resolution Required:**

**To appoint a member of the Town Council to the Staffing Committee**

The Committee had asked for an additional member in order to ensure a quorum.

**Carol Kambites proposed, Paul Stephens seconded Cllr Swain. This motion was carried.**

TC1652 To receive a report of the Neighbourhood Plan Group of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Council are asked to consider this and contribute comments please.

The report advised the progress, outlining the consultation to date of an online survey, two consultation events, individual consultation sessions with local groups. A further consultation with local businesses and a consultation on policy proposals on 17<sup>th</sup> October. Main issues had been identified and the Group explained the evidence base. The draft plan should be available for the Town Council meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015

The Council had no questions but congratulated the Group on their progress.

TC1653 Finance

1. **To agree payments due to date including first instalment on building costs £18789.10 plus VAT which include an additional sum of £1348 for additional footings to west end wall.**

**Agreement proposed Cllr Kambites/Cllr Curtis. Motion carried.**

2. **Council to agree investment in Co-operative Bank £43,000 and Lloyds Bank £50000**

**Agreement proposed Cllr Coombs/Cllr Stephens. Motion carried.**

TC1654 Athletics Field

**Progress report (County Councillor L Williams) – Not available**

TC1655 Matters for discussion:

1. Stroud District Council – Community & Facilities Review – The District Council intends to retain 8 Neighbourhood Wardens and is consulting with Parish and Town Councils on the scope of the Wardens work. There is an assumption of financial support towards the service.

Cllr Jackson asked if a job description was available to enable comment on the extent of the work. Cllr Brine stated that this could be obtained from the officer Mike Hammond.

Cllr Watt advised that F & S Committee would look at whether financial support was possible.

Councillors were asked to submit any comments to the F & S Committee for a response.

2. Fire & Rescue Operational Response Review – Consultation began on the 1<sup>st</sup> October  
The website survey is at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/consultglosfire](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/consultglosfire)

Councillors were asked to submit any comments to Regeneration Committee for a response.

TC1656 Date of Next Meeting

14<sup>th</sup> December 2015

**Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

**The Council will by resolution exclude the public from the following items due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and publicity of the item would be prejudicial to the public interest.**

**The Resolution was passed by unanimous vote.**

TC1657 To receive a report from the Quantity Surveyor and to consider the current proposal feasibility

The Council discussed the Quantity Surveyor qualified report which showed savings of £599,430 on the current scheme put forward in consultation with Greensquare. Taking out non-essential items the scheme might leave the Council with a shortfall of £782,790 whereas alternative schemes, (costed out approximately) might have a short fall of between £690,000 to £380,000. Councillors were disappointed that the housing scheme did not cover all the costs. **The Council decided not to go back to Greensquare requesting an uplift in land value to reduce the shortfall and was unanimous in moving away from the current scheme to a smaller scheme, and in doing so would retain the stadium in its current location.** Cllr Watt suggested investigation of a self-build scheme on a smaller portion of land. (No costs were available for discussion)

**The Council resolved by unanimous vote to abandon the scheme for 30 houses plus community facilities and to make a further review of all Council premises and community needs before proceeding with an alternative scheme.**

TC1658 To receive a draft lease to EE Limited and to agree terms and conditions

The Council considered the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the draft lease. The Council's solicitor had informed the Clerk that there were no changes to cause concern. **The Council agreed the draft.**

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