



**Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council  
held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 7.00pm  
in the Town Hall, High street, Stonehouse**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** Neil Gibbs (Chairman), Deborah Curtis, Kevin Parsons, Sally Pickering, David Thorpe, Theresa Watt, Mike Davis, Gwen Atkinson, Leigh Binns, Tim Jackson, Carol Kambites (Pam Swain – see note under Agenda Item TC2274)

**In Attendance:** District Cllrs Gary Powell, Chris Brine and Mattie Ross, Richard Lacey (Project Manager), S.H.I.P.S members

**Public Questions:** No public questions were raised at the meeting

**PRESENTATION**

**Presentation given by Mr R Crockford on the ‘Re-opening of Bristol Road Station’**

The planned presentation was well received. Members were offered the opportunity to ask relevant questions. Members thanked Mr Crockford for his presentation

---

*Attendees are reminded that the Proceedings of this meeting may be filmed, photographed or recorded.*

---

**AGENDA**

**TC2274 To receive apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Pam Swain for the start of the meeting. Cllr Swain joined the meeting during discussion of Agenda Item TC2288

**TC2275 To receive declarations of interest**

No declarations of interest

**TC2276 To approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman. (The Clerk apologised for referring to the meeting as 'Extraordinary' on the Agenda).

**TC2277 To receive brief reports and responses to questions on matters of importance to Stonehouse from County and District Councillors**

Ward Cllr Gary Powell confirmed that the District Council has now agreed for Willow Road Sheltered Housing Unit to be refurbished.

Ward Cllr Powell asked for a retraction of a statement made by SHIPS in the STC Newsletter Issue 41 – he considered that it put him and fellow Ward Cllrs unjustifiably in a bad light. Ward Cllr Powell also asked for an apology from the Chair regarding what he considered to be a politicised email sent by the Chair, Cllr Neil Gibbs to the district council in relation to the Neighbourhood Warden Service. Cllr Gibbs stated that there was no such intention and if Ward Cllr Powell had taken the email to read otherwise, Cllr Gibbs apologised.

**TC2278 To receive brief reports from the Chair and Town Councillors on external meetings attended and to receive the appropriate minutes**

Cllrs attended the following meetings: Stonehouse Opportunities, Transition Stroud, Landlords Forum, Stonehouse Extensive Engagement.

**TC2279 To receive the RFO's report including the bank reconciliation for September 2019**

The council received the RFOs report and monthly bank reconciliation

A request was made to provide information relating to scheduled payments where they could be forecast so that Cllrs could have a better understanding of the budget sheets.

Information was noted

**TC2280 To approve payments in accordance with the budget to date as listed**

The council **Approved** the accounts for payment as presented by the RFO. Cllr Kambites asked for a little narrative against payments highlighting what each was for, in future.

**TC2281 To receive minutes of the Town Business Committee of 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

The council received and noted the minutes. There were no questions or comments

- TC2282 To consider recommendation from Town Business Committee at B/36 to adopt the Climate Change Working Plan subject to each project receiving Committee and Full Town Council approval as appropriate.**

The council **Approved** the Climate Change Action Plan subject to each project receiving Committee and Full Town Council approval as appropriate. Council also **Resolved** that each council decision takes account of the implications for climate change given the Council's stated commitments included in the current Council Strategy document ([http://www.stonehousetowncouncil.com/docs/Policy\\_Documents/Council\\_Strategy\\_2019-2024\\_15July\\_19.pdf](http://www.stonehousetowncouncil.com/docs/Policy_Documents/Council_Strategy_2019-2024_15July_19.pdf))

- TC2283 To receive minutes of the Town Environment Committee meetings of 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019**

The council received and noted the minutes. There were no questions or comments

- TC2284 To agree to signing a Partnership Agreement relating to Cotswold Canals Connected Restoration Project**

The Council **Resolved** to sign up to the Partnership Agreement.

- TC2285 To consider and approve the quotation for undertaking a staffing structure review**

The council **Resolved** to accept the quotation presented to Town Council to undertake a staffing review. The resolution was based Section 11.1.a.ii of the Council's Financial Regulations relating to 'Procedures as to Contracts'.

- TC2286 To consider the consultation by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on extending 5G mobile provision in rural areas and agree on a suitable response. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-permitted-development-rights-to-support-the-deployment-of-5g-and-extend-mobile-coverage>**

The council **Resolved** that the clerk should respond to the consultation opposing the changes and emphasising the need for local decision making.

- TC2287 To agree appointments to the Climate Change Action Group and Communications Working Group after resignations of Councillors and consider appointment to the Events Working Group**

The council **agreed** for Carol Kambites to be co-opted to the Climate Change Action Group. No other changes were agreed

**TC2288 To receive a verbal report from Stonehouse In Bloom about the Rest garden project and to approve being a joint applicant for grant funding applications to carry out the work**

This item was not discussed

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

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

(Reason for excluding the public from Agenda Items TC2289, TC2290 and TC2291 was due to the fact that publicity could prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business being transacted)

**TC2289 To consider Stroud District Council's formal request for the Town Council to consider a land transfer option in relation to the Ship Inn site**

The Town Clerk circulated a report regarding implications of a land swap between Stonehouse Town Council and Stroud District Council which included a recommendation not to proceed.

Following detailed discussion, the Council **Resolved**

- NOT to purchase the SHIP Inn site outright
- NOT use Meadow Park in any land swap deal

The Council also **Resolved** that the clerk should write to Chief Executive, Kathy O'Leary, Stroud District Council leader Doina Cornell and SDC's Head of Asset Management, Alison Fisk, to inform them of the council's resolution to explore the principle of a land swap with a proportion of land owned by Stonehouse Town Council at Stagholt.

Members discussed that the remaining land could be used for a combination of Allotments, Orchard and/or improved amenity space.

**TC2290 To receive a report and consider recommendations on proposed terms of lease of the Town Hall to GCC Libraries**

The Town Council's project manager provided an update on the lease confirming that there were a couple of remaining issues that require resolving. Richard Lacey would be meeting up with Glos County Council (GCC) for an update. In light of the urgency, the final lease would be brought to Town Council for approval through a future Extraordinary Town Council meeting.

Richard Lacey provided cost comparisons between local IT contractors for the move into the interim offices. Based on analysis of costs and flexibility of contractors, JIREH Solutions, the council's current IT providers proved the most cost effective and flexible contractor.

The Council resolved to award the contract to JIREH

Other comments include:-

- GCC have now released funds for the project
- Estimated finishing date – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

**TC2291      To consider and agree terms of Town Hall and GCC Libraries**

Once the lease has been finalised, it will be presented to council for approval.