



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 2ND SEPTEMBER 2013 COMMENCING AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE.**

**Present: Chairman/Town Mayor Chris Brine
Vice Chairman Simon Lewis**

Councillors John Aldis, David Drew, Roger Govier, Anthony Howarth, Paul Stephens, Gary Powell, Vicky Redding, Pam Swain, Theresa Watt, Rob Waite

In attendance: County Councillor Lesley Williams, District Councillor Mattie Ross, PS Dan Wood (Glos Constabulary) Kate Wilson (Stroud News) BBC Film Crew, Town Clerk Gill Jennings, 19 members of the public, Ian Crawley (Gloucestershire Land for People)

TC1355 To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Clare Sheridan and Carol Kambites

The Chairman called an adjournment for prayer and reflection on the sad loss of Mrs Lynne Gasser, formerly a teacher at Park Infant School in Stonehouse, who had given up her fight against a long illness. Councillors Drew, Brine, Swain, Watt paid tribute to the kindness and thoughtfulness of Lynne who made a huge contribution to the lives of many children. She radiated with patience and understanding, was always willing to listen and never judgemental. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her and the Council's prayers were with her family and friends.

TC1356 To Welcome newly elected Councillor Paul Stephens and to receive his Acceptance of Office and Declaration of Interests

Councillor Paul Stephens was welcomed to the council and submitted his Acceptance of Office and Declaration of Interests

TC1357 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 a personal interest in K1/35 and TC1367

Councillor Drew declared a personal interest in TC1362

TC1358 To agree the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 22nd July 2013

Proposed: Anthony Howarth Seconded Vicky Redding The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

TC1359 Highway Matters

Following on from TC1342 Councillors are provided with responses to the questions asked and are required to make a decision at this meeting so that the works may proceed.

Councillors were concerned that County Highways had not explained why the previous blocks had failed and had still not quantified why the tarmac surfacing was preferable. Councillors Lewis/Brine/Waite and Drew were nominated to meet with GCC on the 4th September to make a decision.

TC 1360 Adjournment for Public Participation (to a maximum of 15 minutes)

Gloucestershire Constabulary have been invited to attend to answer questions regarding their powers to remove travellers from playing fields. (note: 3 skiploads of rubbish and human waste were removed from the field by Town Council & Network Rail) PS Dan Brown stated that the police had to act with reason. Acting Chief Inspector Andy Poole had advised the Council that only two incidents had been reported to them – i.e. a fight between children and use of the garage forecourt water. With hindsight he stated that a community impact assessment should have been carried out and a case conference held with the Town Council.

The Town Clerk advised that in reporting the incident of a break-in no incident number had been issued and despite there being 11 caravans plus vehicles on the field, reports of cars speeding over the football pitches, and reports of human waste being emptied at various points on the field there had been no assistance in the removal resulting in the Town Council having to take legal action. **In concluding PS Dan Wood was asked to ensure that there was better co-operation next time.**

John Lavin spoke regarding the Spa Inn on behalf of petitioners. He felt that the offer from Wadworths was a spurious one and reflected a public house doing good business. He felt that any future tenant should be carefully vetted and needed to be totally committed to a long tenancy and he hoped the Town Council would safeguard the rent after the initial 12 months.

A resident from Arrowsmith Drive enquired how the Town Council could have supported the development at Horsemarling Lane when Arrowsmith Drive remained unadopted and the balancing ponds neglected. He advised the Environment Agency had graded the area as a grade 3 flood risk. Ward councillors present noted the comments. Councillor Mattie Ross suggested that the resident attend SDC Development Control meeting which will meet to discuss the matter.

TC1361 To receive Brief Reports from County, District, Town Councillors

County Councillor Lesley Williams enquired into the progress of the library consultation stating that the library had undertaken remedial repairs to the existing building in the interim.

She reported that the drain cover outside the Town Hall required action by Severn Trent but they seemed content to receive fines from the County Council rather than attend to it.

The hearing for the Javelin Park appeal likely in November but in the meantime the County Council were working on a Plan B carried out by an Independent Chair, Clerk and 2 councillors from each political party.

District Councillor Mattie Ross reported that the sheltered housing review was ongoing and SDC were appointing consultants. She felt the last Development Control meeting had been well attended by residents interested in the Spa Inn application and advised the Town Council to examine the webcast material very carefully. She stated that she wanted to work closely with the Town Council but required more reports in order to do so.

TC1362 To Receive Minutes of the Development Control Panel Meeting of the 12th August 2013

Members may address questions to the Chair – **Councillor Drew requested Councillors to look at the outcome of the Avenue Terrace application and to note the detail.**

A letter from Wadworth Brewery is circulated for discussion. In response to the objections to the development of the Spa Inn the Brewery have offered the Town Council or a nominee a rent free standard tenancy agreement for a period of 12 months. The application on the Spa Inn has been deferred.

Petitioners were present (600 signatures collected so far). The consensus of opinion was that whilst the brewery controlled the activity it was difficult for a tenant landlord to turn the business around. The Town Council were discussing the proposal for the first time and did not have sufficient information to make a decision. The Town Council needed more time to examine the offer in detail, obtain advice and seek applicants for the tenancy. It was agreed that the figures would need to be substantiated. It was agreed that the brewery would be contacted with a view to continuing dialogue and that the planning authority were advised of this.

TC1363 To Receive Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee Meeting of the 5th August 2013

Members may address questions to the Chair - In response to a question Council were advised that the Town Council were only expected to take on the new bus shelter at Kings Road. Councillor Swain requested that Glos County Council were asked to replace the bus shelter outside Lobbys Fishing Tackle Shop rather than make a repair.

Resolution

K2/34 That the Town Council takes over ownership of the new bus shelter being provided at Kings Road

Proposed: Simon Lewis Seconded: Gary Powell All in favour.

TC1364 To Receive a Report from Gloucestershire Land for People and to consider making a bid for funding of a CLT study

The Town Council have an opportunity to develop various sites under a community land trust but it is crucial that an application is made in the short term as funding is quickly being taken up. Ian Crawley from Gloucestershire Land for People was present to answer questions. He confirmed that obtaining funding for the initial feasibility study did not commit the Town Council to enter into a Community Land Trust and that if GLP were asked to do the study they would advise on all the alternatives. He also clarified that the resulting projects need not be entirely housing but also community facilities.

Proposed: Vicky Redding Seconded: Paul Stephens : That the Town Council applies for funding of a CLT study through Gloucestershire Land for People. All in favour.

TC1365 Ship Inn Site

Following discussion in TC1343 the Town Council were to make further representation.

Motion Proposed by Councillor Rob Waite, Seconded by Councillor Clare Sheridan

That this Council believes that the refusal by Stroud District Council to allow nomination of the Ship Inn Site as a Community Asset was flawed by their interpretation of "recent past" and lack of understanding of the community interest in the site

That this Council raises a petition to Gloucestershire County Council to reconsider the transfer of the site to Stroud District Council and that it retains the site for development by the community under a Community Land Trust.

This motion was carried by unanimous vote.

TC1366 To receive the Minutes of the Amenities, Recreation & Tourism Committee held on Monday 12th August

Members may address questions to the Chair – No questions were raised but an amendment noted that the Project Team for the Skatepark was Vicky Redding, Theresa Watt, Gill Jennings

Resolutions:

K3/32 (2) That an application is made to Stroud District Council for the allocation of S106 monies to a boule court for Laburnum Field

Proposed: Gary Powell Seconded: David Drew All in favour.

Council were made aware that the current S106 officer advised the monies were not yet available and unlikely to be collected in within 2 years. Councillor recalled that the money had been offered in advance of collection and Councillor Brine was asked to ensure that this promise was kept.

K3/32 (3) That £2000 is set aside from Reserves to fund a masterplan for Oldends Lane

Proposed: Anthony Howarth Seconded: Simon Lewis All in favour.

K3/37 That the Council accepts the conditions of the funding of £50,000 from Sport England Inspired Facilities Place People Play legacy programme and that an order is placed with Maverick Industries for a skatepark with the remaining funding from external funding.

Proposed: Rob Waite Seconded: Anthony Howarth All in favour.

K3/38 That the allotment rents are increased as recommended from 1st September.

Proposed: Gary Powell Seconded: Rob Waite All in favour.

TC 1367 To receive the Minutes of the Finance & Strategy Meeting held on the 19th August
Members may raise questions to the Chair – No questions were raised.

Resolutions:

K1/33 That the Council takes ownership of the POD by transfer from Stroud District Council

Proposed: John Aldis Seconded: Theresa Watt All in favour

K1/35 That the Hire Policy and Charges agreed on 19th August are adopted.

Proposed: Roger Govier Seconded: Anthony Howarth All in favour.

TC1368 Javelin Park

K1/39 GAPTC have advised the Council on the position regarding funding third party legal action. The Council have been asked to contribute towards employing planning/waste experts, expert witnesses and a barrister to oppose the application for an incinerator.

Councillors are to take a vote as to whether to provide support in the sum of £5000.

The Clerk advised the Council to exercise caution in supporting a legal case over which they had no control and where they were not certain of the outcome. The Town Council felt that the views of the residents were evident and that there had been 4000 objectors and only 2 supporters of the proposal.

Resolution:

The Council resolved by unanimous vote to support the legal challenge to a sum of £5000. The funding would be drawn from the budget of Regeneration & Environment Committee.

TC1369 Authorisation of Payments

Payments to date (up to chq. 7520) totalling £35287.35 were agreed by unanimous vote.

TC1370 To Consider requesting release of S106 monies from Doverow development

The Council were made aware of the balance of £105,000 held by Stroud District Council from Dovehill development and considered drawing down £50,000 towards the youth club building.

Resolution:

The Council resolved by unanimous vote to request £50,000 S106 monies from Stroud District Council.

TC1371 Matters of Information

1. Pre-submission of the Local Plan will be available to view at www.stroud.gov.uk/consult from 4th September until 16th October
2. Rural Fair Share Petition is available for signature at the Town Hall

TC1372 Dates of Future Meetings

Development Control/Regeneration & Environment Committee	6.15pm	16 th September
Amenities Recreation & Tourism Committee	7pm	23 rd September
Finance & Strategy Committee	7pm	30 th September
Town Council	7pm	7 th October
