



STONEHOUSE
TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Town Council meeting)
of a meeting of the Town Council HELD ON MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7PM IN THE
TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE.**

Present: Councillors Gwen Atkinson, John Callinan, Deborah Curtis, Neil Gibbs, Tim Jackson, Carol Kambites (Vice Chairman/Deputy Town Mayor), Gary Powell, Pam Swain, Theresa Watt (Chairman/Town Mayor)

Also Present: Town Clerk/RFO, County Councillor Lesley Williams, District Councillor Mattie Ross, A resident

TC1912 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Ray Clegg, Paul Stephens were excused attendance

TC1913 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Powell declared an interest (TC1925 - reimbursement of In Bloom expenses)

TC1914 To agree the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 10th July 2017

The Minutes of the meeting of the 10th July were proposed by Cllr Powell, seconded by Cllr Jackson and agreed

TC1915 To agree the Minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting of the 7th August 2017

The Minutes of the meeting of the 7th August were proposed by Cllr Swain, seconded by Cllr Jackson and agreed

TC1916 To receive the Minutes of the Development Control Panel of 24th July 2017

The Minutes were noted. Cllr Callinan congratulated the Panel on their considered comments particularly on the Standish development.

TC1917 To receive the Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee Meeting of 24th July 2017 and consider any Resolutions requested

**K2/512 A Resolution was proposed by Cllr Jackson that the District Council is asked to provide a long stay parking area in the town centre car park for commuter parking, seconded by Cllr Curtis. Majority in favour/Cllr Powell abstained from voting.
The Minutes were noted.**

TC1918 To receive the Minutes of the Amenities & Recreation Committee Meeting of 7th August 2017 and consider any Resolutions requested

The Minutes were noted. Cllr Callinan asked the Committee to consider approaching traders for donations towards the Christmas lights. It was agreed that residents might also be asked to fundraise but that in this financial year the Committee would foot the bill.

TC1919 To receive the Minutes of the Finance & Strategy Meeting of 4th September 2017 and consider any Resolutions requested

The Minutes were noted. Cllr Callinan asked Councillors to pay attention to the RFO's report.

TC1920 Councillor Vacancies - To consider applications for Co-option and make 2 appointments

Cllr Callinan withdrew from the meeting. Questions to candidates were invited. Becky Amor was proposed by Cllr Curtis, seconded by Cllr Swain and duly co-opted by majority vote.

Leigh Binns was proposed by Cllr Atkinson, seconded by Cllr Kambites and duly co-opted by majority vote.

Cllr Callinan re-joined the meeting

TC1921 Adjournment for Public Participation (15 minutes)

Mr Berry was present to request advice on obtaining a dropped kerb outside his property. He was referred to Gloucestershire County Council for assistance with land ownership issues and the District Council for planning permission.

TC1922 To receive reports from the Chair of Town Council/Town Councillors

Cllr Watt urged Councillors to participate and provide feedback to the current surveys on Heritage, Arts and Culture, Town Centre. Staff had prepared responses. The Town Centre survey was of concern and Cllr Ross offered to take comments back to her Council as follows:

1. Para 5.47 of the Report recommends that brown tourist signs might be put on the A419 and at junction 13 to signpost visitors to Stonehouse. Whilst we welcome the Report and the interest that Stroud is taking in the parishes we feel this measure is insufficient on its own.
2. The District Council is currently undertaking surveys on Heritage, Arts and Culture and we feel these should adopt a joined up strategy with the town centre study. In particular we feel there is a real opportunity to be grasped to increase the vibrancy of Stonehouse town centre by:
 - Creating a signposted footpath link to the town centre from the Ship Inn Site
 - Creating a new amenity site at Wharfdale
 - Creating moorings accessible to Stonehouse
 - Creating a space for enjoyment of the canal side accessible from Stonehouse at the Ship Inn Site

This opportunity opens up the possibility of incorporation of canal art, sculpture trail, and realisation of a tourist attraction in the Industrial Heritage Conservation Area.

Referring to the Local Plan the District Council would be fulfilling its own promise of "environmental enhancement ... with boosted tourist appeal contributing to the local economy. Links will be improved between the town centre and the canal providing a valuable amenity for residents of Stonehouse and surrounding communities, as well as helping to draw increased visitor footfall"

3. Point 3.24 page 58 of the Local Plan also asserts that the District Council will require developer contributions towards a community development officer. We urge the District Council to consider appointing a town centre manager who will keep our town centres under review, promote business, provide business advice to traders, and work with the town councils to seek funding opportunities.

Cllr Powell reported that members of Stonehouse in Bloom would be going to Warwick Castle to receive Award results.

TC1923 To receive Correspondence and consider further action

Correspondence with Glos County Council:

UBB Cable - The County Council had written on the 22nd August asserting that the decision to route the cable was taken in light of the £2.2m costs which might be incurred in taking an alternative route. The Town Council was seeking some transparency about the decision. Cllr Watt offered to set up a meeting with the County Council to seek compensation and agree resurfacing of the High Street following the works. Councillor Mrs Ross was asked if she would kindly put to her Council that free parking be allowed in the town centre carpark during the works. Cllr Kambites felt that there was little point in meeting the County without WPD and UBB being present. The Council agreed and the Clerk was asked to write and outline the matters to be discussed; resurfacing, compensation, programming and route and ask UBB and WPD to be present.

Athletics Field - Little progress being made due to email exchanges and lack of procedure.

Response re: Proposed Highway Improvements - A response to the Town Council's comments was noted.

Correspondence with Stroud District Council:

Maidenhill Sports Centre - The District Council advised that the school were still considering how to manage bookings. Cllr Ross asserted that there was 12 months grace to the end of District Council's involvement and Cllr Watt offered to set up a meeting with the school.

TC1924 To receive and request Reports from County/District Councillors

Cllr Powell advised that the Aldi site and Daniels site had been granted permission.

Cllr Ross stated that she looked forward to a meeting with Town Councillors re: TC1901 and had no reports due to the District having a short recess.

TC1925 To agree payments due in September to date

The Council authorised by unanimous vote payments to cheque no. 8581 totalling £2693.41

TC1926 GAPTC Information

1. Amendments to the Data Protection Act

The Clerk advised the Council that changes to the DPA in May 2018 would require a privacy notice, confidentiality agreements and appointment of a Data Protection Officer. These matters would be progressed by the Communications Working Group.

TC1927 Date of Next Meeting

23 October 2017
