



## **STONEHOUSE** **TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Town Council meeting)  
Of a meeting of STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016  
COMMENCING AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE.**

**Present:** Chairman/Town Mayor Cllr Theresa Watt  
Vice Chairman/Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Pam Swain  
Gwen Atkinson, Jo Byrne, Ray Clegg, Deborah Curtis, Neil Gibbs  
Tim Jackson, Carol Kambites, Gary Powell, Paul Stephens

Also Present: County Councillor Lesley Williams, Town Clerk Gill Jennings, Heather Davies (Fire Fighter/Community Support Officer)

### TC1768 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were accepted from Councillor John Callinan (holiday)  
Apologies received from District Councillors Brine and Ross.

### TC1769 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.  
There were no declarations of interest

### TC1770 TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> September were agreed as a true record

### TC1771 KEV ADCOCK LOCAL RISK MANAGER FOR STROUD DISTRICT TRI SERVICE CENTRE WILL BE PRESENT TO TALK ABOUT THE TRI SERVICE (15 Minutes)

Kevin Adcock has left to take up another position and representation was provided by Heather Davies. She explained that the new Fire Chief Stewart Edgar has reinforced the need for preventative measures and there are now teams working across the service in conjunction with other services to reduce fire risks. They make safe and well visits to vulnerable people, inspect and install smoke alarms, check on general wellbeing, ability to summon help. They have links with Telecare and Neighbourhood Watch and made 6000 visits last year. Councillor Powell passed on thanks to the Fire Service for their assistance with a fire in Stonehouse.

### TC1772 TO CONSIDER THE MASTERPLAN FOR WEST OF STONEHOUSE AND MAKE COMMENT (CONDITION 46 OF s14/0810/OUT & s16/1965/DISCON)

Councillors were asked to consider the documents online and be prepared with written comments. Two councillors came to the meeting prepared with comments, other comments to be sent for collation by the Town Clerk by the 20<sup>th</sup> October.

### TC1773 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (15 minutes)

No adjournment was called.

TC1774 TO RECEIVE THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR GINNY SMART

To note the Vacancy has been advertised for electors to call an election if they so choose. In addition a casual vacancy still exists.

**Noted. A recruitment drive might follow through the newsletter depending on the outcome of the current advertisements.**

TC1775 TO RECEIVE AND REQUEST REPORTS ON MATTERS OF INTEREST IN STONEHOUSE FROM COUNTY/WARD COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Williams stated that she felt Stroud District Council should have done more to ensure there were adequate transport/connectivity links with West of Stonehouse.

The County Council saved £140,000,000 by cutting 2500 jobs and disposing of assets, this needed to be duplicated up to £175,000,000 and a further £175,000,000 by 2020 when the rate support grant will be severed by Central Government. Services were beginning to suffer. She asked what progress had been made by the County Highways towards providing parking outside the Co-operative and whether the District Council would be approached for free parking after 3pm as in other towns.

TC1776 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS (external meetings)

Councillor Byrne reported attending a meeting of Stonehouse Community Partnership. The Horticultural Show & Summer Jolly had donated to the Gloucestershire Gateway Trust the sum of £440. Sponsorship of the Goodwill Festival was coming in slowly. The Partnership may find difficulty meeting the insurance premium which has increased by 75%. Youth projects were doing really well.

Councillor Curtis had attended a meeting of the Standish Partnership Board and reported that plans were coming along for a mixed development and restoration of the main building. There were also plans to restore the parkland for public use.

TC1777 To receive the Minutes of the Development Control Panel meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016

The Minutes were read and accepted.

TC1778 To receive the Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> September

The Minutes were read and accepted.

Resolution Required:

K3/362 It is proposed that Stonehouse Town Council supports the provision of a footbridge over the Oldends Lane level crossing to facilitate better access between Stonehouse and the West of Stonehouse development. The Town Council to negotiate a consideration for a strip of land from the car park at Oldends Lane Recreation Ground for access to the bridge.

**The Clerk reminded Councillors that meetings with external parties to discuss use of Council land must be arranged following discussion with the Town Council.**

**Councillor Kambites reported that following a meeting with Network Rail the Committee would withdraw this proposed resolution.**

K3/365 It is proposed that Stonehouse Town Council requests the part of the town centre car park is designated for long stay.

**The Council resolved that the Committee should suggest that Stroud District Council considers that part of the car park is designated long stay and added that a request for free parking after 3pm is made.**

TC1779 To receive the Minutes of the Amenities Recreation and Tourism Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**No resolutions were required. The Minutes were read and accepted.**

TC1780 To receive the Minutes of the Finance & Strategy Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016  
**The Minutes were read and accepted.**  
**K1/235 will be considered and discussed under item TC1787**

TC1781 To receive the Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Group and to consider the modifications to be made in response to the draft consultation.

A report was circulated by email and comments were invited. **The Town Council approved the document subject to further changes which might become necessary after expert advice.**

TC1782 UPDATE - NOMINATION OF VERNEY FIELDS AS A COMMUNITY ASSET.

To note the nomination has been rejected by Stroud District Council  
Councillor Powell stated it was a disgrace that the nomination had been turned down on such an important community asset. Councillors agreed that they did not understand the reasoning and felt that the whole town should be engaged in protest. Clerk was asked to investigate whether there was an appeal process.

TC1783 UPDATE - TRANSFER OF AN ASSET - ATHLETICS FIELD

Legal Services Glos County Council have been asked to consider how to process an application for a Transfer of an Asset, a meeting is still awaited as they have had difficulty in contacting their tenants.

**Council noted the delay.**

TC1784 FINANCE

1. To agree bank reconciliation September - **The balance was agreed as £1956.37**
2. To agree the payments due to date October - **Payments totalling £8012.53 were agreed.**
3. To receive the external auditors report - The report from Grant Thornton was noted. The Council disputed the advice given over the notice period for inspection of the accounts. The Council would minute their agreement of sections in the audit report in separate minutes in future. The Council thanked the Town Clerk for her hard work in putting the accounts together.
4. Outcome of court case - The Council were advised that claim was struck out and costs awarded to the Council. The Council thanked the Town Clerk for her advice.

TC1785 MATTERS OF INFORMATION

1. Details of GRCC AGM have been circulated - representative of Council to attend  
**Councillor Jackson volunteered to attend.**

TC1786 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

28<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

The Council will by resolution exclude the public from item 1787/8 due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and publicity of the item would be prejudicial to the public interest.

TC1787 LEGAL MATTERS - TOWN HALL/POST OFFICE/ Reference K1/235 FINANCE & STRATEGY COMMITTEE

**The Town Council agreed that the Post Office tenants were responsible for removing the glass screens and agreed the wording of the Deed of Surrender.**

**The Town Council considered whether they would want to dispose of the Town Hall freehold and agreed that they would not want to dispose of the asset.**

Councillor Watt asserted that the Stonehouse library building was on a list for disposal. She asked the Council to consider bringing the library into the Town Hall building to increase footfall to that end of the town. Councillors considered that a mixed use would be better. There was doubt about the commitment of the County Council to maintain the library service long term. The Council agreed by a majority of 8 votes (Cllrs Byrne/Clegg abstained, Cllr Stephens against) that in principle a library/community hub would be a suitable use and the Building Facilities Working Group were instructed to have further discussions with the County Council.

#### TC1788 UPDATE ON OTHER OUTSTANDING LEGAL MATTERS

In the matter of the sale of an area of Stagholt carpark the Council were advised that Gloucestershire County Council requested an uplift in their favour in the sum of £29,535. This drastically reduced the amount of capital remaining to invest in the community facilities and took the value of the land back to the original sum of £70,000. **The Clerk was asked to check the legal position and make a plea to the County Council against payment.**

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