



STONEHOUSE **TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting)
of a meeting of STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 6th MARCH 2017 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, Trevor Baker, Jo Byrne, John Callinan, Deborah Curtis, Ray
Clegg, Neil Gibbs, Tim Jackson, Carol Kambites, Gary Powell, Paul Stephens

Also Present:
Gill Jennings Town Clerk, Stroud News & Journal, 2 residents

TC1825 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies received

TC1826 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.

Cllr. Callinan declared an interest in TC1833 (Parking Review) and took no part in that matter

TC1827 TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 23RD JANUARY 2017

The Minutes were proposed for agreement by Cllr Clegg/seconded by Cllr Kambites, majority in favour/1 against/1 abstention

TC1828 TO NOTE THE WITHDRAWAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR CO-OPTION

This decision by the candidate was noted

TC1829 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (15 minutes)

Mr Andrew Suffell and Mr Graham Sutton were present to make statements regarding the nuisance commuter parking in Rosedale Avenue, Anderson Drive. They felt that resident parking was restricted by commuter parking and that cars were being parked without consideration causing a hazard to road users. They asked for an update on the petition submitted to Gloucestershire County Council asking for parking restrictions to be put in place.

TC1830 TO RECEIVE AND REQUEST REPORTS ON MATTERS OF INTEREST IN STONEHOUSE FROM COUNTY/WARD COUNCILLORS

-Receive a report from UBB Liaison Group meeting 13th February
County Councillor Williams was not present at the meeting. Cllr Kambites had attended the Group meeting and gave a verbal report of the 3 options discussed, there appeared to be an acceptance that the High Street should be avoided. She had since met with Cllr Williams and a representative from UBB to look at alternative routes for the cabling avoiding a larger part of the B4008. Standish had also proposed a further route for the same reason. UBB to discuss these with Western Power. The final decision would be taken by Gloucestershire County Council.
There were no ward councillor reports.

TC1831 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS (external meetings)

Cllr Watt advised the council of two consultation meetings by Gloucestershire Care Services and Gloucestershire Constabulary. She advised the Council that a Town Centre Review was being carried out by Stroud District Council and a meeting would be set up to discuss this. A working group would be needed to draw up a response. Clerk to circulate details and arrange a meeting.

Cllr Swain reported that The Princess Royal HRH Princess Anne had attended a training event held at Stonehouse Youth Centre. It was an honour that the centre had been chosen by UK Youth due to Young Gloucestershire leadership and centre reputation.

TC1832 To receive the Minutes of the Development Control Panel meeting held on 6th February 2017

The Minutes were noted.

TC1833 To receive the Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee held on 6th February 2017

The Minutes were noted.

For Resolution: That GCC are advised that initial consultation should be on the Option “High Street Parking Restrictions + Nearby Roads” but with the following amendments: the additional cycle parking proposed outside Hurns and additional loading bays outside the Old Police Station are not included; an additional parking bay to be provided in the area near Wynn’s Café.

Cllr Kambites gave a verbal report. Cllr Swain suggested the resolution as itemised was incorrect in that the proposals on nearby roads were rejected by the Committee.

Cllr Kambites proposed that the consultation should be on the High Street Parking restrictions only and that Glos County Council does not increase cycle parking outside Hurns or provide additional loading bays outside the Old Police Station but provides an additional parking bay near Wynns Café. Seconded by Cllr Atkinson. Majority in favour, 1 abstention.

TC1834 To receive the Minutes of the Amenities Recreation and Tourism Committee held on 13th February 2017

The Minutes were noted.

TC1835 To receive the Minutes of the Finance & Strategy Committee held on 20th February 2017 and to consider 3 draft Policies for adoption at the AGM

Councillors are asked to consider the wording of the Code of Conduct, Co-option Policy & Council Strategy in order that any further amendments may be made before adoption.

The Code of Conduct was proposed by Cllr Clegg, seconded Cllr Kambites and agreed by Unanimous Vote

The Co-option Policy was discussed at length. The General Policy Working Group were asked to amend the wording to be more encouraging to applicants.

The Council Strategy was referred back to the General Policy Working Group to refine the wording of the Neighbourhood Plan themes.

TC1836 To receive Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Group

The Minutes of a meeting held on the 9th February were received and noted.

TC1837 FINANCE

1. To appoint an Independent Internal Auditor for 2016-17 accounts (Quotes Peter Newman £200/GAPTC £330)

Proposed Cllr Clegg, Seconded Cllr Byrne that Peter Newman be appointed. Carried by Unanimous Vote

2. To agree payments

Payments in February totalling £26398.87 were proposed by Cllr Byrne, seconded by Cllr Kambites. All in favour

Payments to date in March £76774.11 (including a new investment) were proposed by Cllr Swain, seconded by Cllr Byrne. All in favour

Councillors were alerted to the high cost of electricity at the pavilion which would be investigated by an electrician.

TC1838 CIVIC AWARDS

To appoint a panel to consider nominations. Cllr Watt proposed, seconded Cllr Byrne that one councillor, one staff member and one independent should consider the nominations. **Majority in favour, 1 abstention.**

TC1839 MATTERS OF INFORMATION

1. NALC Lobby Day 28th March 2017 - parish and town council are asked to take part in lobbying their MP at his/her advice surgery regarding the importance of this tier of Government.

Left open for a councillor to attend if desired.

2. Divestment of Pensions Funds from fossil fuel companies - to consider the letter from Stroud District Council

Councillors debated the matter. Cllr Kambites proposed, Cllr Watt seconded that the Town Council supports the sentiments expressed by Stroud District Council. **Carried by 5 votes in favour, 1 against, 7 abstentions**

TC1840 DATE OF NEXT MEETING, AND TO CONSIDER FORMAT OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 10 APRIL 2017

The format of the Town Meeting was discussed and it was agreed to include a Neighbourhood Plan Group report, and debate the use of the town hall. The Annual Report would include a table of Council responsibilities.

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

Proposed Cllr Clegg, Seconded Cllr Byrne that the Council resolve to exclude the public from item TC1841 due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and publicity of the item would be prejudicial to the public interest. Agreed by unanimous vote.

The following matters were discussed in closed session.

TC1841 LEGAL/CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

1. To note progress regarding Town Hall premises (K1/362)

The Council considered Minute K1/362. The Clerk pointed out that the council's finances were at risk if the premises void was allowed to continue indefinitely. The General Reserve figure for 2017-18 was not yet known and there might have to be an adjustment to earmarked reserves. The Council noted the advice. Cllr Callinan asked that the Risk Assessment Report was circulated to all members and taken into account across all three committees. It was generally agreed that the matter should not drift beyond June 2017 although negotiations were hindered whilst a County Council officer was on sick leave.

2. To agree Head of Terms re sale of Stagholt (K3/476.3)

Terms for the sale were set out in a letter dated 14th February 2017 and were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Baker/seconded Cllr Callinan. **Agreed by Unanimous Vote.**
