



STONEHOUSE
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of The Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 3rd June 2019 in the Town Hall, High Street, Stonehouse

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 23rd April 2018 was circulated. Copies of the written Annual Reports received from Stonehouse Community Organisations and recipients of Grant funding were available at the meeting.

Present:

26 members of the public, 11 Town Councillors, District Councillors Chris Brine and Gary Powell

1. Welcome from the Chair of Council

Councillor Neil Gibbs, Chair/Town Mayor, opened the meeting by welcoming all those in attendance. Cllr. Gibbs gave brief information on current Town Council projects including:

- Working in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council libraries to share the Town Hall premises.
- Pavilion Extension planning application to provide a new home for Magpies Social Club and a new community facility.
- Athletics Field purchase
- Disposal of Stagholt Pavilion for use as a housing site.
- A new Town Council Climate Action Group
- A new streamlined Town Council Committee structure with monthly meetings and two committees rather than three.

Cllr. Gibbs welcomed three new councillors: Cllrs. John Parker, Kevin Parsons and Jennie Smith.

Cllr Gibbs drew attention to the minutes of last year's Annual Town Meeting which were available for information. As there were no amendments or objections, signed them as a true record.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from District Councillor Mattie Ross and Town Councillors Davis, Kambites and Parsons.

3. Town Council Annual Report 2018-2019

Cllr. Watt introduced the Annual Report for 2018-2019 and thanked staff and locum Clerk, Richard Lacey for their work over the last 6 months.

4. Presentation from Stonehouse Youth Forum

Three members of Stonehouse Youth Forum introduced themselves. The Stonehouse Youth Forum meets at Oldends Lane Pavilion weekly on a Thursday, 5.30-7pm. The Youth Forum works with a Stroud District Council youth worker to

help make Stonehouse a better place for young people. They gave an interesting and professional presentation on the work of the Youth Forum which includes:

- Volunteering at events such as Goodwill and for Canals Project
- Meeting with Neighbourhood Warden, police, manager of Stratford Park Gym
- Being involved in anti-bullying and sexual health initiatives

The presenters explained how the Youth Forum helped build their confidence, meet new people and had a positive impact on life for young people in Stonehouse.

The Chair thanked the Youth Forum for their engaging presentation.

5. Presentation on Cotswold Canals Connected

Hannah McDonnell of Cotswold Canals Connected community engagement team gave a brief overview of the canal restoration project and the work her team were doing on researching what communities around the canal would like to see as a result of the project. Recent well attended engagement activities included a Canal Trail around Stroud and Stonehouse by train and a Nicer on the Water event.

Cotswold Canals Connected have worked with Stonehouse in Bloom to support their adoption of Stonehouse Station. The railway connects with the history of the canal.

District Cllr. Powell asked if Cotswold Canals Connected could support the redirection of a loop of the Cotswold Way through the town.

A resident asked if consideration could be given to accessing the towpath for those in mobility scooters.

6. Civic Awards

The nominations received for the four categories were judged by an independent panel made up of a district councillor, a town councillor and a member of the public. Cllr. Neil Gibbs, Town Mayor, presented the following Awards and Cllr. Smith read the citations:

Category 1 Community Group of the Year

Highly Commended

Crafty Stitchers - We were particularly impressed by the fact that this community group appears to reach out to the elderly and obviously provides a social setting that encourages people to get out and focus on learning new skills and having a creative venture together.

Winner

All Pulling Together - This enterprise was highly praised by all who nominated it for best community group. There was praise for the tireless work of the volunteers and

the fact that they constantly refresh what is on offer for the community, with a particular emphasis on being sensitive to people's different needs.

Category 2 Business of the Year

Highly Commended

Stonehouse Pharmacy - the staff were noted for their sense of community spirit and helpful attitude.

Winner

Hurn's Hardware - was praised for getting involved with community activities and being endlessly supportive of Stonehouse both the town and the people. It is tough running a business on the high street these days and Hurns consistently offers a great service and competitive prices despite the competition from online businesses.

Category 3 Person making an outstanding contribution to Stonehouse over a period of time

Highly Commended

David Binns - had 4 nominations and it was agreed is a tireless worker for those in need of extra support in Stonehouse. He is dedicated to delivering food 5 days a week for the neighbourly project, is involved with Cubs and APT and is described by one nominator as an unsung hero.

Winner

Clare Sheridan - it was noted that Clare has too many accolades to be listed in one paragraph alone; she is involved with Boatmobility, Fair Shares, Stonehouse in Bloom, the allotments, Memory Link and Share and Repair. She provides support for the Syrian refugee family, and she and her husband provide temporary shelter for young people in desperate need. All this is done with a friendliness and a smile and we had no hesitation in deciding that Clare richly deserves the recognition of this award.

Category 4 - Vicky Wakefield-Heath Young Person of the Year (up to the age of 25)

Highly commended

Mairead Lawler - is a wonderful example to those young folk around her with her commitment to nature and to the environment. She collects litter at every given opportunity and is caring and thoughtful to her elderly neighbours. She is described as an inspiration.

Winner

Kalila McLaughlin - was nominated by her Youth worker and a Learning Community Leader at Maidenhill. Kalila is praised for her kindness, her compassion, her

organisational skills and her positive attitude. She has worked incredibly hard to promote youth forum at school, spending her own time preparing assemblies and taking the initiative in speaking to the deputy head to get momentum going. She works hard in the community through Stroud Youth Voice her passion and thoughtfulness are described as contagious.

7. Public Question Time

A resident thanked councillors for the work they do and asked if the Town Council could guarantee a space for Bloomers Café to use. Cllr. Swain responded that Council would do everything possible to assist with finding a venue once it was no longer possible to use the old Post Office.

A resident from the Share and Repair Stonehouse project thanked the Town Council for their support and gave an update on the move to new premises on the High Street.

Cllr. Swain asked those present to look at the consultation information on proposals for the Rest Garden and asked for response forms to be returned to the Town Hall or Wynn's Café.

There were no further questions raised so Cllr. Neil Gibbs closed the meeting at 7.40pm. Those in attendance were invited to stay for refreshments.
