



**Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council
held on Monday 16th March 2020 at 7.00pm
in the Stonehouse Community Centre, Stonehouse**

Present:

Councillors: Neil Gibbs Chairman, Gwen Atkinson, Debbie Curtis, Michael Davis, Sally Pickering, Pam Swain, Theresa Watt and John Parker

In Attendance: Carlos Novoth, Town Clerk.

Attendees were reminded that the Proceedings of the meeting could be filmed, photographed or recorded.

A G E N D A

TC2367 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Carol Kambites, Tim Jackson, Jennie Smith, David Thorpe, Leigh Binns and Kevin Parsons, Ward Cllrs Mattie Ross, Chris Brine and Gary Powell and County Cllr Lesley Williams

Cllrs giving their apologies cited the 'Coronavirus' as the reason for their absence; one Cllr was recently placed in the 'High Risk' category and several others were being advised to stay at home because of a heightened risk due to their age.

TC2368 To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

TC2369 To approve the minutes of the Town Council held on 17th February 2020

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman

- TC2370** **To receive reports from County Council and Ward Councillors.**
- No reports were provided
- TC2371** **To receive brief reports from Members on external meetings attended.**
- Cllr Neil Gibbs attended the ‘SHIPS’ AGM and, a meeting with the District Council’s Chief Executive and Directors re the SHIPS Inn site
Cllrs Theresa Watt, Carol Kambites and Neil Gibbs attended the Town Council organised Rail meeting at Stonehouse Court Hotel
(Council wished to forward their appreciation to Rachel Russell and Bob Cropford for their hard work in supporting the excellent submission for Government funding for the re-opening of the Bristol Road railway station)
- TC2372** **To receive RFO’s report including the bank reconciliation for February 2020.**
- The Bank reconciliation presented by the RFO for February 2020 was received and noted
- TC2373** **To approve payments in accordance with the budget to date as listed**
- Council **APPROVED** the payments as presented by the RFO.
- TC2374** **To approve the Financial Regulations for the Financial Year 2020/21 as recommended by Business Committee 2nd March 2020 (Agenda Item B/106)**
- Council **APPROVED** the Financial Regulations as recommended by Business Committee at its meeting on the 2nd March 2020; this includes an increase in the RFO’s spending limit from £1,000 to £3,000 as detailed in Section 4.5 of the Regulations in light of the expected disruption brought about by the Corona virus crisis.
- TC2375** **To consider the Town Council’s Scale of Charges for the Financial Year 2020/21**
- In light of the increase in the Council’s Precept, Council **AGREED** there would be no increase in the Council’s Scale of Charges for the 2020/21 Financial year
- TC2376** **To consider subscription to GAPTC for 2020/21**
- The Clerk highlighted the value of the GAPTC to the council and considered the subscription fee to be of good value.
- Council **APPROVED** the subscription to GAPTC for 2020/21

- TC2377** **To receive minutes of the Business Committee (BC) of the 2nd March 2020**
- Council received and noted the minutes. There were no questions or comments
- TC2378** **To consider the following recommendations from Business Committee (Agenda Item B/107); to ADOPT the following updated Council policies:**
- a) Code of Conduct**
Council **APPROVED** the adoption of the latest Code of Conduct as recommended by Business Committee
- b) Grants**
Council **APPROVED** the adoption of the latest Grant policy as recommended by Business Committee
- c) Risk Management**
Council **APPROVED** the adoption of the latest Risk Management policy as recommended by Business Committee
- TC2379** **To approve the Town Council’s updated Scheme of Delegations 2020/21**
- Council **APPROVED** the updated Scheme of Delegations as recommended by Business Committee with an additional amendment to bring section 2.2 in line with section 4.5 of the Financial regulations; an increase to the RFO’s spending limit from £1,000 to £3,000.
- TC2380** **To approve the revised list of Standing Order and Direct Debit payments in line with Business Committee’s recommendation (Agenda Item B/108)**
- Council **APPROVED** the revised list of Standing Orders and Direct Debit payments in line with the Business Committee’s recommendation
- TC2381** **To receive minutes of the Environment Committee of the 24th February 2020**
- The council received and noted the minutes. There were no questions or comments
- TC2382** **To agree Membership of the Working Group for the Neighbourhood Plan review (Env Committee Agenda Item E/132)**

Council **AGREED** to defer this agenda item

TC2383 To receive an update on the latest funding opportunity and work in relation to the Bristol Road Railway Station

Council noted the written update and thanked the Deputy Clerk for her hard work in getting the bid in on time on what was a very tight timeline. It was noted that:-

- Molly Scott Cato had offered to coordinate the public awareness campaign and
- the landowner of the BRS site had previously had a survey done of the site and that the cost of reviewing the survey at a GRIP3 level would be approximately £15,000

TC2384 To agree comments on Gloucestershire County Council's Local Transport Review Consultation

The Deputy Clerk's recommended draft response to the consultation was well received. Cllr Sally Pickering had made several minor suggested amendments by email to the council. Further comments made included the contradiction between GCC's Climate Change and Tree Replacement Strategies in relation to tree planting and that Section 0.1 of the response should reflect the need to reverse the county's decision not to plant new trees in streets.

Council **APPROVED** the draft response to the consultation on the basis that the suggested amends are to be incorporated within the final response.

TC2385 To receive the clerks report

- Local Elections - Cllr Drop-in sessions
- Council Newsletter
- Climate change Fair
- Council's Website
- Stagholt - development/flooding
- Business Networking
- Townhall Refurbishment

Written updates provided by the Clerk were noted

TC2386 To note the date of the next Town Council Meeting - 20th April 2020.

