



Minutes (subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting) of a virtual meeting on Microsoft TEAMS of the Town Environment Committee held on Monday 20th July 2020 at 7pm.

Present: Councillors Gwen Atkinson, Debbie Curtis, Neil Gibbs (Chair/Mayor), Carol Kambites (Convenor, Vice Chair/Vice Mayor), Tim Jackson, Jennie Smith.

In attendance: One resident, Councillor Pam Swain (part), Councillor Theresa Watt (part), Carlos Novoth, Town Clerk, Rachel Russell, Deputy Clerk (minutes)

E/159 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Ward Councillor Ross.

E/160 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Curtis declared a non pecuniary interest in planning application 20/0769/FUL as she knows the applicant and lives nearby. She did not take part in the discussion on the application.

E/161 To approve the minutes of the Town Environment Committee meeting held on 22nd June 2020

The minutes of 22nd June 2020 were **agreed** as a true record. All in favour. Minutes to be signed at next non-virtual meeting of Committee.

E/162 To comment on planning applications as listed

20/0661/FUL **Land Adjacent To South View, Newtown, Stonehouse,**
Change of use of land for use as a live work unit including 2no residential mobile homes, the erection of a barn, hard standing and new public space

COMMENT: The site is outside the settlement boundary and within the Industrial Heritage Conservation Area so the decision must take account of these constraints. However, some thought has been given to how the design and use of the site could fit into its context. Neighbours' concerns regarding noise, traffic, dust and other reduction in amenity should be taken into account. A full biodiversity survey as specified should be carried out.

20/1210/HHOLD **7 Festival Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2DR.**
Proposed single storey rear extension

COMMENT: No objection if no objections from neighbours.

20/0769/FUL **8 Queens Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2QA.**

REVISED CONSULTATION received 22/6/20: Demolition of former comrades club and garage blocks. Replace with 1 flat over garage blocks and 3 detached houses.

COMMENT: These are comments on the consultation to revised plans sent on 22 June 2020. It is noted that the proposed development is less dense than in previous designs. The provision of smaller unit town centre housing is in line with Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan policy H1 and there has been some effort to use reclaimed bricks if possible in the scheme.

The Design and Access Statement states that given the present retail use of the site the levels of existing and potential vehicular activity would be less than the existing; however, most visitors access the site by foot not car so it is likely that the change to residential use would see an increase in vehicle movements.

Our comments regarding sustainable design still do not seem to have been taken into account. Further consideration should be given to the design of the access/parking surface to ensure it is permeable. Consideration should be given to ensuring that the design of the dwelling aims for zero carbon development, sustainable construction techniques and provision of renewable or low carbon energy sources in line with draft Local Plan Strategic Objective SO5: Climate Change and Environmental Limits and draft Core Policy CP8 New Housing Development.

Neighbours' concerns including those regarding overlooking and shading should be addressed.

20/0983/DISCON Parcel E4 Land West Of Stonehouse, Grove Lane, Westend
REVISED CONSULTATION received 30/6/20: Discharge of Condition 46 - Area Masterplan - from approved application S.14/0810/OUT.

COMMENT: The diversion of Public Footpath Stonehouse MST2 is noted. Has the local authority received monitoring reports on the use of the crossing where MST2 goes across the railway line as required by Condition 31 of 14/0810/OUT?

The proposed size and possible height for Unit 2/Parcel E4B is concerning: it could overlook and reduce light to the housing and gardens close by to the North of this land parcel. It could also be visually oppressive and out of character when viewed from the Oldends Lane are recreation ground. Consideration should be given to smaller units in this area more suited to the residential and semi-rural context.

20/1283/HHOLD 6 Abbots Way, Bridgend, Stonehouse
Two storey side extension

No observations.

The following consultation was received after the preparation of the agenda:

20/1410/HHOLD 7 Kings Road, Stonehouse,
Proposed two storey extension

No objection if no objections from neighbours.

Cllr. Watt joined the meeting.

Public participation session

The Chair moved to the public participation session postponed due to issues maintaining access to the virtual meeting platform.

A resident spoke regarding his proposal that Stonehouse becomes a pedi-cycle prioritised town, taking advantage of the flat terrain and to attract people to the town as the canal re-opening develops. The Chair advised that the Town Council has limited powers in relation to highways which are dealt with by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)

The following agenda items were brought forward by the Chair.

E/165 To consider proposals to prioritise walking and cycling over cars in Stonehouse as part of a pandemic recovery plan.

It was agreed that the Climate Action Forum would prepare a declaration for proposal to full Town Council regarding the Town Council's aspirations for pedestrians and cyclists in Stonehouse.

E/166 To consider proposals for changes to A419 in relation to road safety and agree further action.

A resident presented information regarding road safety, speed and increased levels of noise since the recent changes to the A419 in Stonehouse together with some mitigation proposals. The information had been circulated with the agenda.

The Deputy Clerk advised that the Town Council had received complaints about confusing road markings, especially from the Ebley bypass towards the Horsetrough roundabout and about increased speed and noise on the A419 and Ebley Road. The Town Clerk has met with County Councillor Lesley Williams. GCC will be carrying out a safety audit.

It was agreed that the Transport and Highways Working Group would consider complaints received regarding A419 and draft a letter to Gloucestershire County Council.

E/163 To receive a report on planning decisions received from Stroud District Council, 16th June 2020 to 13th July 2020

The report was noted.

E/164 To consider and agree an Action Plan to be submitted to Stroud District Council for Re-opening High Streets safely funding.

The Action Plan had been drafted by the High Street Working Group. Some proposals had been discussed with business owners and employees; the Action Plan had been circulated to a number of businesses.

Feedback had been received regarding the current importance to businesses of customers being able to park briefly outside their premises. There was some discussion regarding the priority which should be given to motorists over pedestrians, in current circumstances, and in the future.

The Action Plan, without the proposal to widen the pavement on the High Street between Wynns and the Co-op Stores by creating a temporary footpath in road using barriers, was approved. Four in favour, two abstentions.

A business owner's ideas regarding promoting businesses safe working practices were to be sent to Stroud District Council. Should any business owner wish to prepare their own promotional video, this could be shared by the Town Council on social media.

The High Street Working Group had suggested that thorough street cleaning, and well maintained shopfronts were important for a welcoming High Street environment. These matters to be raised with Stroud District Council on submitting the Action Plan.

Cllr. Swain left the meeting

E/167 To consider locations for deployment of mobile Vehicle Activated Sign from Stroud District Road Safety Group (SDRSG).

SDRSG have confirmed date of 2 November for deployment of mobile VAS. Since last Committee meeting of 22 June, two complaints of speeding have been received in relation to speeding on the Ebley Road and on A419, particularly since the Horsetrough roundabout has been fully open after recent work to A419. Cllr. Gibbs advised that the mobile VAS was unlikely to be suitable for use on the A419. **It was agreed that the two locations for the VAS would be Bath Road (as agreed at E/150) and Ebley Road.**

E/168 To receive a report from Bristol Road Station Working Group on the progress of a funding application regarding the re-opening of Stonehouse Bristol Road made to the Department for Transport's Restoring Your Railway Fund.

Cllr. Watt gave a brief verbal report on feedback received from the Department for Transport and work to promote the proposal, including with the District and County Councils. A proposal in support of the re-opening of Stonehouse Bristol Road will be put forward to a forthcoming District Council Environment Committee meeting. A written report was noted.

E/169 To receive an update regarding Stonehouse in Bloom

Cllr. Curtis reported that the work to the Old Chapel Garden continued to be well received. In the Autumn, fencing will be installed and trees planted. Cllr. Gibbs may be able to use bricks from wall reduced in height for the Rotary water fountain project.

E/170 Date of next Environment Committee meeting: 7th September 2020