



**Minutes (subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting) of a virtual meeting on Microsoft TEAMS of the Town Environment Committee held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 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 Theresa Watt, Carlos Novoth, Town Clerk, Rachel Russell, Deputy Clerk (minutes)

---

**Presentation on Strategic Plan for Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership (CRP)**

At 6.30pm Hannah McDonnell and Jon Harris of Gloucestershire CRP gave an interesting presentation on the role of the CRP and its proposed aims, objectives and structure. The CRP will focus on the role of stations in their communities and their potential in regeneration and tourism as well as improvements to existing stations and the County's rail network. An Action Plan will focus at first on Covid 19 recovery. There was a brief Question and Answer session. The presenters were thanked for attending.

**Public Participation**

A resident put forward a proposal to build Stonehouse back better as the pandemic eases by giving priority in the town to cyclists and walkers over traffic with the aim of giving Stonehouse a unique identity to attract visitors. Supporting documents on the proposal to be circulated to councillors by the Deputy Clerk. The resident was thanked by the Convenor and informed that his proposal would be included in a future council meeting agenda.

**E/138 To receive apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Parsons.

**E/139 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

**E/140 To approve the minutes of the Town Environment Committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

The minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were **agreed** as a true record. All in favour. Minutes to be signed at next non-virtual meeting of Committee.

**E/141 To appoint a Committee convenor**

Cllr Gibbs chaired this item.

**Cllr Kambites was appointed as Committee convenor. All in favour.**

Cllr. Kambites chaired the rest of the meeting.

**E/142 To appoint a Deputy Committee convenor**

Cllr Jackson was appointed as Deputy Committee convenor. All in favour.

**E/143 To comment on planning applications as listed**

**20/022/APPREF**      **APP/C1625/W/20/3250810 Appeal re S.20/0094/PIP Land At New House Oldends PLANNING APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL OF Permission in Principle for a residential development up to 9 dwellings**

No observations.

**20/1033/TCA**      **15 Ebley Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2LW.**  
Trees in a Conservation Area: Tree 1. Holm Oak - Fell

No objection provided District Council's arboricultural officer has no objection.

**20/1010/HHOLD**      **55 Gloucester Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2HH.**  
Single storey rear extension

No observations.

**20/00355/LAPRV**      **Stonehouse Court Hotel, Bristol Road, Stonehouse, GL10 3RA**  
To vary the current licence as follows: 1. Amend the plans to: Extend boundary of premises licence to include outside bar; 2. Extend/add hours for on and off sales of alcohol; 3. Add regulated entertainment outdoors.

**COMMENT:** In general, the application to vary the licence is supported as it will support the development of an important local business. The Licencing Committee are asked to consider possible restrictions or licence terms to mitigate any possible disturbance to neighbours.

**20/1068/LBC**      **Ryeford Lodge, Ryeford Cottage & Tudor Rose Cottage, Ryeford, Road North, Ryeford, Stonehouse.**  
Listed Building Application: Restore the interior following fire damage. Replace modern windows

**SUPPORT:** This is a detailed application for proposals which will repair and restore the buildings.

**20/0769/FUL**      **8 Queens Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2QA.**  
REVISED CONSULTATION 12 June 2020: Demolition of former comrades club and garage blocks. Replace with 2 flats over garage blocks and 4 terraced houses

Cllr. Curtis declared an interest in this application as she knows the applicants and did not take part in the discussion on this item.

**COMMENT:** These are comments on the consultation to revised plans sent on 12 June 2020. Although the development is quite dense, it provides smaller unit town centre housing in line with Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan policy H1 and there has been some effort to use reclaimed bricks if possible in the scheme. Further consideration should be given to the design of the access/parking surface to ensure it is permeable. 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. 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.

**20/1097/HHOLD** 3 Spring Cottages, Ryeford Road North, Ryeford, Stonehouse.  
Replacement of existing rear structure with two storey extension  
No objection if no objections from neighbours.

**20/0831/FUL** Land Adj 96, Midland Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.  
REVISED CONSULTATION: Erection of a dwelling (Revised application)  
S.19/1759/FUL  
No observations.

The following consultation was received after the agenda had been prepared:

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

**OBJECTION:** The application does not contain enough information to constitute a Masterplan as described in Condition 46 of permission 14/0810/OUT. Although two site plans are provided showing alternative road access the level of information provided is minimal. More information and detail on the following matters is required:

Strategic landscaping  
Landscaping along the boundaries of the site  
Open spaces  
Building frontages  
Road hierarchy  
Public realm  
Pedestrian and cycle movements  
Identify key buildings  
Plot views in and out

As the applicant cannot meet Condition 46 of permission 14/0810/OUT without providing the above information, they should be asked to provide a complete Masterplan for this site in line with the planning condition. Employment sites are an important part of any development and a comprehensive Masterplan should be provided.

**E/144** To receive report on planning decisions received from Stroud District Council, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020

The report was noted.

**E/145** To receive a report on the current status of a funding application regarding the re-opening of Stonehouse Bristol Road made to the Department for Transport's Restoring Your Railway Fund and consider and agree recommended actions.

The Department of Transport agreed that the proposal to re-open Stonehouse Bristol Road had potential benefits and will provide feedback on the Town Council's funding bid. Cllrs. Kambites and Watt and the Deputy Clerk had attended a Department of Transport webinar. The Action Plan in the Deputy Clerk's report was approved.

**E/146** To agree to set up a Bristol Road Station Working Group, agree membership and consider proposed terms of reference: To promote the re-opening of Stonehouse Bristol Road station as a new station on the existing Gloucester to

Bristol line to provide a direct link to the regional centre, Bristol, from the Stroud Valleys.

The setting up of a Bristol Road Station Working Group, with terms of reference as proposed above with members Cllrs. Gibbs, Kambites and Watt, resident from Rail Future to be invited, was agreed. All in favour.

Deputy Clerk to work with Group. District Councillors and County Councillors to be invited to join by the Working Group.

**E/147 To comment on a draft Strategic Business Plan for Gloucestershire Rail Partnership.**

The establishment of a Gloucestershire Rail Partnership and its Strategic Business Plan were welcomed. The aims and objectives within the Business Plan are supported. With regard to strategy, although alignment with national and regional plans and strategies can be important, in order to represent the concerns and interests of communities around the County, the Rail Partnership must also seek to “maintain an independent voice.”(p.11) The Committee suggested some Stonehouse rail improvement proposals which could be included in the Activity Plans and Headline Projects sections of the Business Plan:

**The long held community aspiration to re-open Stonehouse Bristol Road** providing a sustainable, direct link between a population of 60,000 in the Stroud Valleys and Bristol for work, education, leisure and social opportunities.

**Improvements to station facilities at Stonehouse’s highly valued Burdett Road station**, for example, provision of secure cycle lockers.

**E/148 To agree proposals to put forward for Gloucestershire County Council’s Local Highways Funding.**

It was agreed to put the following proposals forward for Local Highways Funding:

- Stonehouse Footpath 11 near the Newt pond: repair to bridge.
- Access to the Town car park from the railway footpath. An access further along by the recycling bins would be less likely to be blocked. This would need to be negotiated with Stroud District Council as the owners of the carpark.
- Cycle racks in town (The Climate Action Group are planning to audit cycle racks).
- Measures to give more road space to bikes and pedestrians (on a temporary basis initially)

In response to a question from Cllr Kambites, Deputy Clerk confirmed that safety zone work around The Shrubberies School had been completed by GCC Highways.

**E/149 To note proposed time for reinstatement of shared space surface.**

It was noted that work to resurface the High Street shared space should take place over two Sundays in the Autumn.

Still no final proposal from GCC Highways on possible parking changes suggested by Committee: removing some parking spaces near to the entrance to Laburnum Road and adding spaces near to Wynn’s Café.

**E/150 To consider any locations for deployment of mobile Vehicle Activated Sign from Stroud District Road Safety Group (SDRSG) and note minutes of a**

meeting of SDRSG with GCC Highways 3 March 2020 and correspondence between SDRSG and GCC Highways, May 2020.

It was agreed to put forward locations at Bath Road and Oldends Lane for deployment of mobile VAS. The minutes and correspondence were noted.

**E/151 To receive an update regarding Stonehouse in Bloom**

Cllr. Curtis reported that there were limited floral displays with new planters at the Town Hall.

**Old Chapel Garden:** initial landscaping work completed; soft landscaping work to be carried out; residents on mobility scooters and children on scooters have been enjoying the new paths. Stonehouse History Group will shortly be installing a history board.

Cllr Gibbs reported that Stonehouse Rotary Club were looking for ideas to mark their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a proposal to provide a water fountain on the Town Green could not be delivered due to technical issues.

**E/152 To consider setting up a High Street Working Group and consider and agree proposed terms of reference: to assist with re-opening of High Street as lockdown eases.**

It was agreed to set up a temporary High Street Working Group with terms of reference as above.

Cllrs. Atkinson, Kambites and Watt offered to join group. Deputy Clerk to ask all councillors if they would like to be involved.

**E/153 To consider a proposal to allow town centre catering businesses to use parts of Town Greens and Old Chapel Garden for open air catering.**

It was agreed to allow town centre catering businesses to use parts of Town Greens and Old Chapel Garden for open air catering. All in favour.

**E/154 To note formation of a Wild Towns Map group and agree proposed terms of reference: to collate information for on line maps commissioned by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust as part of their Wild Towns Project.**

The formation of a Wild Towns Map was noted and proposed terms of reference agreed.

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust have carried out biodiversity improvement work at Wharfdale Way, Boakes Drive and Newt ponds funded by European funding, Stroud District Council and Stonehouse Town Council. Some work is still to be completed. There is funding for on line interpretation and mapping. An e-mail request was sent to all councillors and Cllrs. Kambites, Parker and Watt have formed a working group with the Deputy Clerk, devising and checking walking routes, researching species information and meeting via Teams.

**E/155 To note progress towards provision of maps at Stonehouse Station and agree to set up a working group to continue work on map design.**

Map boards at station are to be provided using a £2,000 tourism grant from Stroud District Council. A quotation from a designer was accepted at town Environment Committee on 28 October 2019 for supply of 4 panel boards and one direction board. Permission was received from GWR for installation of the boards in early March. Communications and Facilities Officer, Deputy Clerk and Vicki Walker of History Group have been commenting on designs.

It was agreed to set up a small, short term working group to continue overseeing the Station Map project. Cllrs. Jackson, Kambites and Smith offered to join the group.

**E/156 To review terms of reference for Transport and Highways working group**

It was agreed that the terms of reference should be revised to reflect the need for a modal shift towards walking, cycling and public transport; Transport and Highways working group to consider revisions to terms of reference and report to Town Environment Committee with proposed changes.

**E/157 To receive verbal report of Chartered Parish & Town Council Meeting Wednesday 4th March 2020**

No report available.

**E/158 Date of next Environment Committee meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020**