

# Stonehouse Town Council



**MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting)**  
**of a meeting of THE AMENITIES, RECREATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE HELD ON**  
**MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016 AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE.**

**Present:**

Neil Gibbs (Convenor of Committee)  
Theresa Watt (Chair/Town Mayor)  
Pam Swain (Vice Chair/Town Mayor)  
Gwen Atkinson  
Deborah Curtis  
Gary Powell (Deputy Convenor of Committee)

Gill Jennings Town Clerk

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*Attendees are reminded that the Proceedings of this meeting may be filmed, photographed or recorded but anyone wishing to make a record should first inform the Chairman*

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**K3/377 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Watt (work commitments)

**K3/378 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are reminded of their obligation within the requirements of the adopted Model Code of Conduct to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests where applicable.

There were no declarations of interest

**K3/379 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016**

The Minutes were approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman

**K3/380 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT (15 minutes)**

Conservative candidate Ginny Smart introduced herself and explained it was her interest that the Council pursued the purchase of a tyre park. She asserted that she had found the funding necessary of £10,000 and the Council were not required to match fund. Would the Council give this consideration? Councillor Gibbs explained that this would be discussed under item K3/385. Ginny Smart left the meeting.

**K3/381 PARK RUN**

John Tierney was present to explain the concept of a park run. John explained the success of park run and its purpose of increasing fitness. He was satisfied that Oldends Lane was a suitable venue and had spoken to the football teams who had no objection to the park run taking place between 9am and 10am every Saturday. He was asked to consider the possibility of poor running conditions and he explained that volunteers would check the grounds before each run. **The Committee were enthusiastic about the offer of another social and fitness activity and gave support in principle.** John is to try and obtain £2500 in funding to start up this activity at Oldends Lane.

### **K3/382 ALLOTMENTS – HANDOVER TO ASSOCIATION**

1. To receive feedback from consultation – 3 responses were considered. Where it was indicated that contact details could not be passed on, correspondence would be managed from the Town Hall. One tenant asked if his rent would be increased and the clerk would advise him that this could be a possibility. **Considering the low level of objection the Council would now give 1 year's notice to tenants of the handover. Resolution Required**

2. To consider an allotment inspection report – There were small plots available but no waiting list at present. The Tenants Association are to be encouraged to manage the plots whilst vacant and new tenants will be sought through the newsletter.

### **K3/383 PROGRESS WITH MEADOW ROAD PLAYING FIELD IMPROVEMENTS**

To receive update on improvements – a location had been chosen for new benches, bins and trees. Two trees would be purchased for immediate planting.

### **K3/384 OLDENDS LANE PAVILION**

1. To receive a progress report on the works and agree any additional costs – The building works are now complete. The electrical costs have not yet been finalised. A light switch needs to be relocated.
2. To agree a specification for tender document for architect contract – The Committee agreed the specification. The Committee considered a report from the Recreation Working Group. There was concern that the proposal of demolishing the workshop would create unnecessary expense and the Committee agreed that a new extension to the pavilion would be preferable. The Working Group seemed to have moved away from the agreed smaller building towards a matching footprint of the existing social club. The Committee agreed that the budget of £7/800,000 should be strictly adhered to and that where possible the space in the existing pavilion should be modified to keep costs down. Scope for further changing rooms required by Stonehouse Town Football Club would be included in the design but would not be funded by the Town Council.
3. To agree the wording of an Agreement with Stroud District Youth – **The Agreement was confirmed for the hire of the store over a period of 10 years at £300 per annum.**
4. To consider a proposal for Lease of the meeting room – The Committee had been approached for short term lease of the meeting room for the Upcycling Project. The Clerk was authorised to negotiate with the organiser and come to sensible terms.
5. To consider a request for realignment of the pitches – **The Committee agreed that the pitches should be realigned on a regular basis to reduce wear and tear of the goalmouths. The costs and responsibility of line marking would fall to the Football Clubs themselves in this case.**

### **K3/385 LABURNUM PLAYING FIELD**

1. To accept grant funding for table tennis and consider any shortfall in funding – The Committee noted the £5000 funding awarded from the Children's Activity Fund, match funding from the Active Living fund was required before the project could proceed.
2. To consider resident comments regarding safety issues, need for further play equipment  
A resident has complained about possible tripping hazards at the park and the tired equipment. **The Committee agreed to await a ROSPA report and will prioritise any renewals and replacements depending on that report.**

The Committee discussed the facts of the tyre park proposed by Conservative candidate Ginny Smart. Ginny Smart had proposed the purchase of this equipment through her contact Jason White.

The Clerk provided a copy of the email from Mr White which came from a Hotmail address with further contact provided by mobile phone number : "I have been speaking with Ginny about trying to sort some funding out for your community to help upgrade your park that Ginny has been looking at. She said you might be able to match fund the project. Our company will look at getting 10k for you so 20k with your funding will help the project go ahead"

The Clerk warned the Committee about proceeding with business proposed in this way. The Committee had looked at the equipment proposed and agreed it was not attractive. The Committee considered the facts.

- It was additional equipment, rather than replacement equipment.
- Two further quotes would need to be obtained.
- Funding through the Lottery would prevent a further application in the current financial year
- The scheme was not in the current Council strategy
- The scheme required £10,000 matchfunding which was not available
- The Council was not in a position to commit to such a project
- The proposal might be deemed unethical by the Lottery Fund and did not meet their funding criteria in any case

The Committee agreed not to proceed without thorough investigation.

### **K3/386 FINANCE**

1. To check and agree Committee expenditure/receipts against budget February/March
2. To agree outstanding payments and expenditure under delegated powers
3. Update on Waste contract – agree action – **A new contract has been proposed from 2<sup>nd</sup> July at £390 per month. The Committee agreed to proceed with this new contract with Ubico.**

### **K3/387 DOVEROW HILL**

1. A further application for Nomination as a Community Asset has been submitted for Verney Fields. The outcome of recent funding bids is awaited.

### **K3/388 STAGHOLT**

1. Nomination of the Athletics Field as a Community Asset. The Council's nomination has been accepted. Progress by County Councillor on possible transfer of asset or transfer of management still outstanding.

**The Committee requested a formal application is made to the County Council through the County Councillor/Chief Executive's office.**

2. To receive a report on the condition of the brook – The IDB have agreed to attend to remedial work to the collapsing bank – **The Committee noted this information and agreed that the Internal Drainage Board were being helpful. Clerk to chase progress.**

3. To review plans for redevelopment – Update on advice from GRCC – **The Recreation Working Group had met with GRCC to discuss possible redevelopment of Stagholt carpark. GRCC will make approaches to Stroud District Council and suitable HAs. The Committee discussed the point regarding self-build and agreed that in order to obtain cross-subsidy the development should attract one purchaser. The Committee agreed to obtain outline planning permission in the first instance.**

### **K3/389 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

6<sup>th</sup> June 2016

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