

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 6TH OCTOBER 2014 AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET,
STONEHOUSE.

Present:

Councillors John Aldis (Convenor)
Chris Brine (Chair of Town Council)
Roger Govier
Gary Powell (Deputy Convenor)
Theresa Watt (Vice Chair of Town Council)

Also Present: Town Clerk Gill Jennings
Mr David Godfrey

K3/199 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Tony Howarth

K3/200 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.

None declared

K3/201 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28th JULY 2014

The Minutes were agreed as a true record

K3/202 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT (15 minutes)

Members of the public may speak only once for a maximum of 5 minutes on any specific Agenda item.

Mr David Godfrey advised the meeting that he had been talking to Taylor Wimpey contractors on Court View site and they seemed unsure how to deal with the sycamore trees with branches leaning toward properties and the hedgeline fronting the industrial estate which was entangled in power cables. These two matters required some direction from the Council.

The Committee agreed that two of the trees should be pollarded to 8ft with the remaining three having branches removed. That the developer should be able to negotiate with United Utilities to make the power safe to allow necessary hedge reduction. The Clerk would advise Taylor Wimpey.

K3/203 COURT VIEW

To receive a report of a meeting with Stroud Valleys Project and to consider future management of the newt ponds when the Town Council becomes landowner.

Stroud Valleys Project had contacted the Council requesting financial support towards a funding bid for a further three years work. The application stated

“If we apply for funding to carry out a 3 year project to get the site up to a favourable standard we hope this will enable us to maintain the site on an annual basis at a cost of 24 days per year @ £175 per day (project officer + volunteers) = £4200

K3/203 Court View (continued)

We would like to apply for funding for a new 3 year project, this project would include project officer for 2 days per week to manage volunteers on site, get the site to a favourable standard and deliver the following:

Public Events

- Newt Survey, Friday night/Saturday morning
- Grassland management, cutting and raking
- Wetland Wonderland Open Day
- Hedgerow restoration project Eastern Cutting

Capital Projects/costs

- Construction of small decking platform in Western Cutting pond (Contractor wk, £3000 + VAT, £3600 incl VAT, approximate cost).
- Installing one or two wooden benches, £200 to £300, on-site (1 day per bench, 1 bench per year).
- Buying of multi-head strimmer for on going management at site £300
- Telescopic long handled pruning saw £80
- SVP officer liaison & construction time for creating new ponds,
- Material costs for building new ponds i.e. pond lining, underlay & pond plants.

We have identified Esmee Fairburn as a possible funder for this project and would like to ask Stonehouse Town Council for a financial contribution towards match funding. We estimate the project will cost in the region of £70 to £80K over three years. We would like to ask Stonehouse Town Council for match funding in each financial year of the project, ideally it would cover most or all of the annual maintenance costs of the site.”

The Committee considered the request but felt that if the Town Council took ownership of the land it would be better to draw up a management plan for in-house work and thereby keep any work under stricter control. The Committee could not therefore recommend a grant at the present time.

K3/204 (K3/195) RECREATION WORKING GROUP

To receive a report from the Working Group and to consider quotations for the supply of an outdoor gym to be sited on Laburnum Field and to agree a grant application

The Committee received two quotations for the supply of outdoor gym equipment and agreed that a funding bid should be submitted up to £20,000 to the Active Living fund.

K3/205 STAGHOLT

1. To agree annual clearance cost of £782 – **The Committee agreed to the cost which was £82 over budget. A letter would be sent out to residents explaining the flood alleviation work.**
2. Committee to consider commissioning a land drainage survey on adjoining land – **The Committee agreed the expenditure of up to £200 on a survey from the project plan budget to guide the Committee on future sports facility provision.**
3. To receive and consider correspondence re: pavilion and field – **The Committee considered a request for use of the pavilion for spinning honey and agreed that this was not appropriate use. The Committee also considered the offer of S106 funding from the proposed Elm Road development towards a hard surface sports area and agreed this might assist in widening the scope of sports on either Oldends Lane or Stagholt field and the Clerk was to respond that this flexibility of use would be requested if the application was successful.**

K3/206 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

To receive a report – Cllr Swain reported that funding would allow for cabling to be traced underground instead of overhead and therefore be in place for further lighting next year.

K3/207 MAGPIES SOCIAL CLUB

The Clerk had written to the social club and met with the new committee to discuss the insurance and required building condition report. The Social Club had responded by requesting a copy of the lease, expressing a reluctance to pay for a buildings condition report and had asked if they might arrange their own insurance.

1. This insurance has not been evidenced and the Committee are now asked to review the rent with the above costs in mind – **The Committee agreed a rent increase to include the insurance costs.**
2. The Committee are asked to agree to have the building surveyed – **The Committee agreed to have a survey of both the Magpies Club and the changing rooms to provide a condition report.**

K3/208 OLDENDS/STAGHOLT REDEVELOPMENT

1. To consider quotations for alternative energy sources – The Committee were provided with quotations for solar and heat source energy options
2. To receive a report on the condition of the sewer chamber (Oldends) – A report of the current faults in the system was provided. Quotations were being obtained.
3. To consider and agree a method of delivering the redevelopment project including changes to the interior of the existing pavilion – The Committee agreed a delivery plan and would make a report to Town Council **for resolution.** Item K3/208.1 would be considered with any quotations obtained for the pavilion.
4. To agree the apportionment of land for housing and community facilities – It was agreed that the new community facilities would ideally occupy the site of the workshop extending out towards the field. Housing to be spread over two sites.
5. To agree the community facility requirements – a list of requirements was agreed and incorporated into the report.

K3/209 FINANCE

1. To check Committee expenditure/receipts against budget July, August, September 2014 and make comparison with the first 6 months of last year. Expenditure and receipts were running in parallel with the totals last year with some costs being driven down. There had however been an increase in expenditure on repairs to fencing, gates and installation of further security measures due to traveller activity/vandalism.

July Expenditure £5026.66 Income £490

August Expenditure £5332.44 Income £10158.92

September Expenditure £7624.27 Income £3213.32

2. To agree payments and officer decisions – **No payments were presented. Officer decisions were agreed.**
3. To consider budget items for 2015-16 – **The Committee agreed the budget with an increase of £2500 to the play equipment maintenance budget.**
4. At the request of the Policy Working Group to review hire policy and charges of all recreational facilities. **The Group were required to provide further evidence of comparable hire charges for consideration but the Committee agreed to waive the charge for the boule court and to trial leaving it unlocked.**
5. To agree a hire policy re: town marquees – **The Committee agreed that the hire policy should conform with the facilities hire policy. Hire to commercial groups or community groups from outside Stonehouse should incur a £50 per day hire charge.**

K3/210 SKATEPARK

1. To review the damage to grant funded equipment at Oldends Skatepark and consider replacement – The grassmatting had been pulled up and one bin destroyed. **The Committee agreed not to replace these items. Groundstaff would install a French drain as soon as possible.**
2. To consider the cost of removing litter – **The Committee requested information on recycling bins to be installed by the youth centre to encourage recycling.**
3. To consider the recommendations of Glos. Police – PCSO Tracy Wren had provided a report which suggested that low level solar lighting would assist in reducing congregating youths at night. The details and costs were not available for discussion.

K3/211 OLDENDS LANE FOOTBALL CLUB LEASE

The Committee are asked to review the annual rental from 1st September 2014 – **The Committee reviewed the rent which would be increased to £660 per annum plus insurance to keep in line with other increases.**

K3/212 LABURNUM PARK

To agree to apply to SDC to carry out work on trees under a TPO – **Now that the fence had been restored to its original position the Committee agreed to carry out work to three trees requiring attention.**

K3/213 DOVEROW WOOD

1. To receive the Annual Report – The report was noted.
2. To note correspondence – The Committee agreed with the actions taken.

K3/214 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

17 November 2014
