



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 17TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET,
STONEHOUSE.

Present:

Councillors	John Aldis	(Convenor of Committee)
	Simon Lewis	(Vice Chair of Town Council)
	Roger Govier	
	Gary Powell	(Deputy Convenor of Committee)
	Tony Howarth	

Also Present: Town Clerk Gill Jennings, Cllr Pam Swain, Cllr Theresa Watt

K3/102 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Chris Brine

K3/103 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.

Cllr Aldis declared an interest in item K3/109 in so far as it might involve Psalms.

K3/104 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13th
JANUARY 2014

The Minutes were approved as a correct record

K3/105 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT (15 minutes)

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

No Participation

K3/106 ALLOTMENTS

To receive a report of a meeting between the Town Clerk and the Tenants Association Chairperson

It was agreed that the plots should be clearly marked, assistance would be given with a letter to tenants, the plots would be inspected by the Town Council and a list of plots of concern would be posted on the noticeboard. The Council would continue to reallocate abandoned plots, assist in making the site more secure if required by tenants, assist in collecting payment for manure, monitor the condition of sheds (where access can be obtained). The Committee did not agree to pay an invoice raised by the Tenants Association for materials purchased without permission.

K3/107 COURT VIEW

- A report compiled by Stroud Valleys Projects is circulated for information – a comparison of this and the work identified in the scheme of works is required

The Committee considered the circulated reports and were advised that some of the work being undertaken was contrary to the ecological scheme. The Clerk is to write to SVP to bring their attention to the limitations within the scheme.

- With regard to the transfer of land to the Town Council - the advice from Stroud District Council's Enforcement Section is that Stroud District Council is a signatory to the whole agreement, but cannot do anything to enforce obligations under the Ecological Scheme. If the land causes harm to the amenity of the area SDC can consider enforcement action under section 215, but will have to be wary of the protected species on site in any remedial works. The Committee are asked to consider this advice.

The S106 document completed in 1999 was not enforceable. There were still issues between the developer and householders. There was a lack of maintenance of the road fronting hedge. Whereas the Council had done everything in its power to broker a transfer, the Committee felt that times had now moved on and the Council would be well advised to withdraw from any possible obligation. For Resolution.

K3/108 OLDENDS LANE PAVILION & LAND

- To agree drawings for Phase 2 works to changing rooms and agree a funding strategy
- The Committee agreed the plans with slight alterations. These would be sent back to the Project Manager for the completion of tender documentation. Tenders would be invited and put before the Council for acceptance. The Committee envisaged funding would come from S106 monies (Springfields) and Reserves but a funding application would be submitted to the Football Association when costs are known.**
- To agree scope of further work proposed in the report from the Recreation Working Group following the meeting on 5th February 2014.

The Working Group asked the Committee to consider a proposal from Stonehouse first team that they submit a funding application to provide new changing facilities on the workshop site. The team would require a 25 year lease in order to fit the funding criteria.

The Committee agreed that they would need to see the plan and proposed terms of the lease in the first instance before accepting the proposal.

The Working Group had been approached by Cashes Green football club to use the playing field for their first team but were advised that the requirements of the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League would have to be in place before fixtures could be considered.

The Working Group had discussed proposals for housing development at Oldends to pay for a community building for mixed social use on the site.

The Committee considered the key issues of the current state of the site, the solutions, funding, and agreed to submit a report to the Council recommending that the Council engages with Ark Consultancy in scoping the site for redevelopment.

For Resolution.

As one of the solutions, the Committee considered the ongoing situation with Elm Road but agreed to recommend that the Council should not take on the lease of the limited space on offer.

For Resolution

K3/109 YOUTH SERVICES

- To receive Minutes of a meeting of the Youth Working Group which took place on 23rd January and to agree the date of the first session at the youth building

The Working Group were meeting with other parishes to discuss the concept of a youth hub. There will be a joint opening event of the youth centre and skatepark on the 3rd May. The Committee agreed that the first session at the youth centre would be held on Tuesday 25th February following satisfactory completion of a risk assessment and induction. The Youth Working Group were asked to produce the rules which had been agreed with the user groups.

K3/109 Youth Services (continued)

- To receive December 2013 and January 2014 reports from Young Gloucestershire.
The reports were noted.
- To consider and agree updated costs of youth worker provision
A proposal from Young Gloucestershire was considered. The Committee did not agree the costs proposed. The Working Group are to seek out revised and new quotations.
- To consider an offer of services from Play Rangers
The Committee considered that there was some value in taking up the services but further details were required.
- Management Policy and review of remit of Youth Working Group
The Clerk sought clarification over the shared rules and regulations which had been taken back to the individual youth groups for acceptance. These would need to be in place by the 25th February.
The Youth Working Group had now delivered the remit of their group but representatives present at the meeting felt there was more work to be done. They were asked to give a report for consideration at the meeting on 6th May. There was discussion as to whether there should be a more formal Youth Committee which deals with safeguarding issues and expenditure as the remit of ART Committee was too wide. Councillors expressed some concern that a further Committee would increase the number of meetings. (B/F)

K3/110 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Pending further quotations

K3/111 FINANCE

- To review Committee expenditure/receipts to date.
Committee expenditure January £44709.47/Receipts £35439.65 agreed as correct.
- To discuss item of expenditure possibly outside Town Council's responsibility
The Committee were asked to consider whether a saving could be made in grass-cutting costs in 2015-16 if Stroud District Council resumed their obligation to cut their own open spaces at Park Estate properly. Cllr Lewis recalled that the arrangement for the Town Council to pay for the box cut had come about because SDC did not cut regularly enough. However, the Committee agreed that the negligence by one Council should not be a cost to the Town Council and SDC would be given notice that they should improve their services in 2015-16 without funding and that the Ward Councillors be tasked to ensure that this happened.

K3/112 LAND AT PERTH

Amendments have been made to the S106 agreement – Committee to approve. A neighbour has challenged the access route to the site. This enquiry will be passed to Council's solicitors prior to contract.

The S106 agreement was approved and signed.

K3/113 SKATEPARK

- The Skatepark landscaping is outstanding due to adverse weather conditions. A reduced stage payment has been made in accordance with the payment plan. The skatepark has been signed off by ROSPA. Committee to discuss site safety.

Members of the public, ignoring the fact that they had the whole field to walk on, insisted on walking on the mud surrounding the skatepark and allegedly as a consequence got stuck in it. Signs had been put on the gate and surrounding the park to try and educate people to walk elsewhere.

Continued overleaf -

K3/113 Skatepark (continued)

The Committee agreed that fencing off the site would be an unnecessary expense and that commonsense was all that was needed. A further litter bin was required adjacent to the pod and would be purchased from balances of skatepark funding.

- The official opening will take place on 3rd May. Youth Working Group to report on arrangements.

In conjunction with Youth Centre (Minute K3/109)

K3/114 LAND ACQUISITION

To receive reports.

The Committee considered a plan showing land in ownership of Gloucestershire County Council. A plan of land held by SDC had been requested three weeks ago but was still outstanding.

The Committee agreed that a land registry search should be made to identify ownership of land of interest in Oldends Lane and around Doverow Wood and the Clerk was authorised to incur expenditure.

K3/115 GARDEN OF REST

To discuss improvements and correspondence received from adjoining landowner.

The landowner of the carpark had approached the Clerk advising he intended to block off the carpark from the general public. The Clerk had responded to advise the landowner that the path through the Garden of Rest was a permissive path only and therefore he was within his rights to do as he felt fit. The landowner had quickly responded to say that he was really seeking management of the carpark by the Town Council. The Committee discussed this and agreed that management would not be of benefit to the Town Council. In the meantime a tree survey was being carried out and the Committee agreed that work to dangerous trees should progress and the Clerk was authorised to incur expenditure.

K3/116 IN BLOOM

To consider watering systems/new planters

Councillor Powell was asked to provide costs for consideration by the Committee as the towers on the Green were in need of repair and the Committee would like a watering system in place.

K3/117 RISK ASSESSMENT

To agree the annual risk assessment

The Committee considered the risk assessment and agreed it as correct.

K3/118 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

The Council will by resolution exclude the public from item K3/119 due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and publicity of the item would be prejudicial to the public interest.

K3/119 TEMPORARY LICENCE OF LAND

The Committee considered a proposal to licence use of part of the carpark but agreed that a daily charge would be made to avoid any assumption under licence.
