

Stonehouse Town Council



MINUTES (Subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting)
of a meeting of the Finance & Strategy Committee held on Monday 20th January 2014 at
7pm in the Town Hall, High Street, Stonehouse

Present:

Theresa Watt (Convenor of Committee)
Pam Swain (Deputy Convenor of Committee)
Chris Brine (Chairman Town Council) (arrived during discussion of K1/83.5)
Simon Lewis (Vice Chairman Town Council)
Paul Stephens

Also Present: Town Clerk/RFO Gill Jennings, Cllr. Gary Powell

K1/78 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies accepted from Vicky Redding (family matter)

K1/79 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. Theresa Watt declared an interest in K1/83.5(ii) and left the room during discussions.

K1/80 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Maximum of 15 minutes – Any member of the public may speak only once in respect of any business itemised on the Agenda for a maximum of 5 minutes)

No participation

K1/81 TO FORMALLY APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2013

The Minutes were approved.

K1/82 TO CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE TOWN HALL TO INCREASE HIRE & SERVICES

An update will be provided by the Town Clerk.

CAB had attended a site meeting with Stroud Office Design Services. The task of enclosing the stairwell to create a private meeting room upstairs would not be easy and there was concern about the safety of the stairs. Awaiting plans and costs.

K1/83 FINANCE

1. To agree payments/receipts for December against budget headings
Committee Expenditure £5141.06 Income £1673.13 was agreed as correct.

2. To authorise items for payment to date (January)
Payments in the sum of £56596.33 to cheque no. 6489 were authorised.

Continued overleaf -

K1/83 Finance (continued)

3. To discuss Council tax banding for 2014-15 and the impact on the Precept and to make a Recommendation to Town Council regarding the budget minus LCTS.

The Committee agreed that the budget for 2014-15 should be increased to £230638 which could be discounted by the LCTS and general reserve to achieve a precept of £209800 representing a 2% (£1.84) increase rather than the 3.5% increase which had been anticipated. Due to the fact that the minimum expenditure would be in the region of £212900 it would be a false economy to decrease the precept any further whilst there was still doubt about future capping by central Government. It was unlikely that the LCTS would continue in 2015-16. **For Resolution by Town Council**

4. To agree the appointment of an internal auditor for 2014-15

The Committee recommended the appointment of Iain Selkirk at £300 + VAT and were satisfied by his independence and qualification. **For Resolution by Town Council**

5. To consider a grant application from

- (i) Stroud Valleys Project - SVP had requested funding in the sum of £500 towards training for staff and volunteers.

The Committee considered the financial information supplied in support of the application and agreed that sufficient input had been made in 2012, a presentation by SVP regarding the expenditure of the previous grant was outstanding, therefore this request was not supported.

- (ii) Stonehouse Girl Guides - The Girl Guides were in financial difficulties, unable to afford the rent on the Douglas Morley Hall.

The Committee considered the request to assist with a grant of £396 to cover the next two terms rent. Cllr. Lewis reminded the Committee that grants could not be used towards running costs, only specific projects. The Committee agreed to decline the request for funding.

K1/84 S106 MONIES FROM EMPLOYMENT LAND

The Local Plan (adopted 2007) mentions S106 monies linked to employment land in Stonehouse which are developments now completed.

Committee to note and discuss.

Sites EA9, EA10, EA11 had been earmarked to produce S106 funding towards the re-opening of Bristol Road station. Cllr. Theresa Watt to raise this with Stroud District Council at a forthcoming meeting to discuss joint working on the station project.

K1/85 TO CONSIDER A DONATION TO FRAMPTON SILVER BAND IN RESPECT OF CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

The Committee agreed to support the band's contribution to the Christmas Carol Service with a donation of £75 and to invite them to attend in December 2014.

K1/86 ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY

The Policy Working Group would meet to discuss the format of Civic Awards.

Cllr Simon Lewis proposed June and Brian Hennell returned to give an update on their work on dementia. Cllr Chris Brine proposed that Will Mansell of Foodbank was invited to give a talk. The Committee agreed with these arrangements.

K1/87 COMMEMORATION OF WORLD WAR I

Cllr Simon Lewis informed the meeting that the Royal British Legion would be organising a drum head ceremony at the Laburnum Community Centre in Summer 2014. Town Councillors had expressed a wish to commemorate the end of the war rather than the beginning but the Council would be represented at any ceremony RBL thought appropriate.

K1/88 STAFFING COMMITTEE REPORT

To agree any actions arising from the Staffing Committee Meeting of 13th January

The Committee agreed with the suggestion that the Clerk seeks professional certification from the Institute of Local Council Management with a joining fee of £100 and that a Neighbourhood Plan Administrator be appointed to assist the working group. A budget of £5000 plus headroom for expenses was set aside.

K1/89 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

24 February 2014
