



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting) OF A MEETING OF THE REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 23 JULY 2018 AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE

Present:

Councillors: Neil Gibbs (Deputy Chair of Council/Deputy Mayor)
Tim Jackson (Convenor)
Carol Kambites
David Thorpe

Committee Clerk: Rachel Russell

Also present: District Cllrs. Chris Brine, Gary Powell (also Town Councillor) and Mattie Ross (for part of meeting), Stroud District Council Officers: Joanne Jordan, Director of Customer Services, Mike Hammond, Community Services - Head of Service (for part of meeting).

Attendees are reminded that the Proceedings of this meeting may be filmed, photographed or recorded.

K2/687 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. Watt.

K2/688 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

K2/689 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21st JUNE 2018

The minutes were approved as a true record.

K2/690 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no call for an adjournment.

K2/691 STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL (SDC) CAR PARK REVIEW

To question and receive further information from SDC's Community Services Manager

The Committee Clerk read out questions put forward by councillors at the full Town Council meeting of 9th July 2018.

Joanne Jordan gave information about the proposal for a draft variation order regarding the District's car park. She stated that should the proposal be agreed, all car parks would benefit from: Free parking after 3pm, electric vehicle charging points, cycle rack provision and pay and display with contactless payment.

The proposal and consultation results will go to Strategy and Resources Committee on 4th October to agree a recommendation to full Council who will take the final decision as to what goes in the variation order.

In response to questions from Councillors, Joanne Jordan confirmed that:

- The additional revenue raised will be used to fund the schemes mentioned above and other improvements.
- All the improvements above will apply to Stonehouse, not just car parks where charges may be introduced, providing proposals are passed at full Council.
- If proposals don't go through, alternative funding may be sought for some improvements e.g. electrical vehicle charging might be funded by central government.

Joanne Jordan suggested that proposals for the first hour of parking to be free and for a process for towns and parishes to make requests as to what the parking account surplus should be used for in their areas could be included in a consultation response.

Mike Hammond explained that the introduction of 72 hour parking will apply to the whole of the Stonehouse car park (and Cheapside). Also, the research showed lack of “churn” of vehicles in some car parks and introduction of charge may encourage “churn”.

Cllrs. Brine and Ross explained that the significant public and political interest and strength of opinion regarding the issue has led to the final decision being left to full Council.

The Chair thanked the Council Officers and members for their attendance. The Council Officers left the meeting.

K2/692 RESPONSE TO SDC CAR PARK REVIEW

To agree response to the above consultation.

The following response was agreed:

Stonehouse Town Council supports the proposals for a draft Variation Order outlined in the District Council’s report of 14th June on a Car Park Review 2018 as it will give a consistent approach across the District and the proposals for Stonehouse car park will benefit the town. Stonehouse Town Council request that:

- Free parking for the first hour is introduced at Stonehouse car park.
- A clear process is set up for towns and parishes to request improvements in their areas which could be funded from the surplus on the District’s parking account.

K2/693 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

1. To receive notes of Traffic Working Group meeting with Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Highways of 29 June 2018.

The notes of the Traffic Working Group meeting were received. Councillors were surprised at the policy of not installing zebra crossings near schools mentioned in relation to the proposal for a crossing at Oldends Lane.

2. To consider recommendation from Traffic Working Group regarding proposal for zebra crossing on High St and revised timetable for reinstatement and safety improvements work on High Street.

Notes of a Traffic Working Group meeting of 20th July 2018 were circulated before the meeting. A recommendation to the Committee that GCC consult on provision of a zebra crossing and changes to parking bays in and around the shared space area on Stonehouse High Street was not agreed by the Committee.

Due to concern that providing a zebra crossing would negate the shared space, the committee requested that the Traffic Working Group investigate with GCC how changes to parking arrangements could better support the functioning of the shared space.

Committee Clerk to pursue a request already made regarding increasing the response time of pelican crossings to pedestrians using the buttons.

3. To consider recommendations from Traffic Working Group regarding action to be taken after a signage audit carried out with GCC Local Highways Manager.

The following recommendations from the Traffic Working Group meeting of 20th July 2018 were agreed by the Committee:

That the following actions are taken as a result of the Signage Audit:

- Entrance Aldergate Street: GCC to arrange cleaning and re-painting of sign posts
- High Street (outside Peking Chef): GCC to replace current sign for car park, move post to kerb edge. Provide single, large, double sided sign to agreed specification.
- Town Green: Disused post under tree to be removed, once Xmas lights detached.

Committee Clerk to circulate request for any work proposals for GCC Lengthsmen who will be working in Stonehouse from 13th August.

4. To consider request from GCC Highways, that should the bus shelter outside the Foxes Field development, Ebley Road be repaired by GCC, the ownership and maintenance is taken on by Stonehouse Town Council.

All in favour that should the bus shelter outside the Foxes Field development be repaired by GCC, ownership could be taken on by Stonehouse Town Council.

5. To consider further action in relation to a proposal that the town signs are renewed and refer to Stonehouse in Bloom.

Committee Clerk to investigate possible sources of funding for new town signs.

K2/694 STONEHOUSE STATION

Platform Extension Works: To note response from Network Rail regarding maintenance issues raised in site meeting of 21st June 2018.

A holding response has been received from the Network Rail Project Manager; a more detailed response is expected shortly.

K2/695 BRISTOL ROAD STATION

To receive a report on progress towards re-opening Bristol Road Station.

No detailed information was available.

K2/696 CYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

1. To receive report of meeting of various parishes within Stroud District regarding improvements to cycling.

Cllr. Kambites attended a meeting organised by Stroud Town Council's Project Officer who intends to collate requests from parishes and towns for cycle infrastructure improvements in order to access funding. GCC's Local Highways Manager had said that GCC have £100,000 for cycle related improvements and another fund for design improvements. District Councillors offered the information that SDC are working on a cycling and walking plan so it is important to keep SDC informed of any proposals.

2. To consider small projects to promote cycling in and around Stonehouse for possible funding by GCC.

Cllr. Kambites to research possible projects to promote cycling to put forward for funding.

K2/697 TOURISM WORKING GROUP

1. To receive report of a meeting with Stroud District Council on Market Towns Initiative funding.

Cllr. Watt attended a meeting at SDC on 19th July; the draft list of projects put forward would all be eligible. There is £200,000 available to be shared by all the District's towns over 3 years. SDC will contact parishes in mid-August with further information.

2. To note progress made re Wharfdale Way sites.

The Committee Clerk reported that she had informed SDC Asset Management Manager that these sites had been put forward for Market Towns Initiative funding. SDC Asset Management due to discuss an approach to consultation on the proposed project with SDC Tenant Services.

K2/698 STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL (SDC) CONSULTATION ON REVISED ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY PRIORITIES

To agree a response.

It was agreed to strongly support each of the priorities put forward for consultation.

K2/699 SDC CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO IMPLEMENT SECTION 167 EQUALITY ACT 2010

To agree response to a proposal to publish a formal list of designated Wheelchair Accessible Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles.

It was agreed to support the proposal.

K2/700 SDC CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING INCONSISTENT PLANNING APPROACH

To note SDC response of 29th May 2018.

SDC's response was noted.

K2/701 STONEHOUSE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MONITORING AND REVIEW

To receive report.

The Committee Clerk reported that there is some evidence that SDC are using the Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan when considering planning applications.

Cllr. Kambites asked for clarification on the role of a Neighbourhood Plan Review Group referred to in the minutes of the Town Council's AGM.

K2/702 TOWN COMPETITION TO PROMOTE LOCAL PRIDE

To consider a proposal regarding a town competition.

This item was deferred until Cllr. Atkinson available to give further information.

District Cllrs. Brine, Powell and Ross left the meeting.

K2/703 COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE

1. To check current balances against budget.

Current expenditure of £3,590.98 from the Committee's budget was agreed.

2. To agree any payments due to date.

There were no payments to agree.

K2/704 PLANNING RESULTS (RECEIVED FROM STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL)

To receive report on Planning Results received from Stroud District Council 5th June 2018-16th July 2018.

The report was noted.

K2/705 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

24 SEPTEMBER 2018 , Agenda Items to include Twinning.