



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting) OF A MEETING OF THE REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE

Present:

Councillors: Tim Jackson (Convenor)
Gwen Atkinson
Carol Kambites (Deputy Chair of Council/Deputy Mayor)
Theresa Watt (Chair/Mayor)

Committee Clerk: Rachel Russell

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

K2/518 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

K2/519 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

K2/520 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 JULY 2017

The minutes were approved as a true record.

K2/521 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no call for an adjournment

K2/522 TO APPOINT A DEPUTY COMMITTEE CONVENOR

Ray Clegg has resigned as a Town Councillor.

Cllr. Atkinson was proposed as Deputy Committee Convenor by Cllr. Jackson, seconded by Cllr. Kambites. All in favour.

K2/523 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

1. Traffic working group

To receive a report from Traffic working group on their meeting of 11 September 2017 and to consider the following recommendation:

- a) That the Committee request that Town Council funding is made available for buying and installing car park signs.

The report of the Traffic Working Group meeting of 11 September 2017, which had been circulated with the agenda, was noted.

Recommendation (a) above was not agreed by the Committee.

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Highways to be asked to improve car park signage and Committee Clerk to arrange meeting with Dan Tiffney, GCC Local Highways Manager and County Councillor Lesley Williams to assess progress on crossing at Oldends Lane, Town Green kerb alterations and car park signs.

Resolution for Town Council: Regeneration and Environment Committee to have own budget line for 2018/2019.

2. Parking:

- a) To note response from GCC to request to adjust signage to the town centre car park.

The response from GCC Parking Team of 24 August 2017 was noted; they will not organise the requested adjustments.

- b) To report response from GCC to petition regarding parking at Burdett Close submitted December 2016.

The response from GCC was sent on 26th July 2017 and circulated with the agenda. GCC suggest Town Council should ask Station Manager for signs to High Street car park. The Committee Clerk reported a complaint received from a resident of Burdett Close regarding the lack of response to the petition and her response which explained that the Town Council had chased a response to the petition and taken action to try to encourage station users to use the town car park such as resurfacing the Queens Road footpath and provision of signage.

Cllr. Kambites suggested that should residents contact the Town Council with similar concerns, they could be asked if they were able to display a poster on their property showing the location of the town car park.

3. To note complaint received from resident regarding speed of traffic along Bath Road.

A complaint received on 27 July 2017 was noted. The Committee Clerk had advised the resident of GCC Highway's role.

K2/524 THE COMMISSIONER'S FUND COMMUNITY FUND

To note the progress of an application made to this Fund.

The Committee Clerk reported that she had contacted the Commissioner's Fund administrator recently but no further progress had been made on processing the Town Council's application.

K2/525 PROPOSAL BY WESTERN POWER TO RUN AN ELECTRICITY CABLE THROUGH STONEHOUSE TO JAVELIN PARK INCINERATOR

To note any further information received and agree further actions needed.

Cllr. Watts noted and all agreed that the Committee was devastated that other parties had made the decision to route the cable through Stonehouse High Street.

Cllr. Jackson and Kambites gave a verbal report of a meeting of the Parish Liaison Group at Javelin Park on 19th September. Cllr. Jackson had asked how the £2.2 million extra cost of routing the cable through Laburnum Recreation Field had been calculated. Urbaser Balfour Beatty (UBB) advised they have quoted to work 9-5, Monday to Friday.

Andrew Bendall of UBB advised that he could approach UBB Board for compensation and asked parishes to send proposals for items for compensation and estimate of amount to him. Councillors agreed that the following initial requests could be made, Cllr Kambites to draft request:

- Sponsorship of town Christmas lights/Goodwill event
- Stonehouse in Bloom compensation
- Compensation to Stroud District Council for around 1 month's free parking while High Street disrupted.
- Advertising for Stonehouse in local press.

Cllr. Kambites reported that there is a further meeting of UBB Parish Liaison Group on 5th October at Stonehouse Town Hall. The meeting is for all parishes concerned and open to all councillors. Cllr. Kambites to send the following suggestions for agenda items to Clerk of the Parish Liaison Group:

- Compensation
- Working times/practices
- Management of traffic controls when contractors not working
- Stonehouse Town calendar (events e.g. Goodwill, Remembrance Ceremonies)
- Communication with businesses and residents (sub contractors believed to be responsible)

Cllrs. noted that other areas of Stonehouse apart from the High Street will be affected by the work.

Cllr. Atkinson to draft article for Stonehouse News supporting local shops; it was agreed that a "Trader's Corner" section could be considered for Stonehouse News (by Communications Working Group).

K2/526 BRISTOL ROAD STATION FEASIBILITY STUDY

To receive a report on progress towards a feasibility study.

Cllr. Watts reported that the results of a timetabling study following on from the best value analysis are still awaited. She has contacted Rob Niblett of GCC who advised that South Gloucestershire Council who jointly commissioned study wanted additional information included.

K2/527 STATION LINK PATH PROJECT

To report on progress on work to improve accessibility of gate at Queens Road end of path.

Committee Clerk has contacted the contractor who was appointed; job has been delayed due to illness. A padlocked bicycle left for some weeks under the Queens Road bridge has been reported to the police.

K2/528 LIASON RE PLATFORM EXTENSION WORK BURDETT ROAD STATION

To report information received from Network Rail.

Network Rail's Project Manager for the above project has offered, via Gordon Buchanan, Principal Environmental Health Officer, Stroud District Council (SDC), to meet town and District Councillors once project schedule finalised. Councillors agreed they would like to meet him and suggested offering Stonehouse Town Hall as a venue.

K2/529 CLOSURE OF RAIL CROSSING ON FOOTPATH MST26 SOUTHEAST OF STONEHOUSE STATION

To note that Network Rail have agreed to resurface the section of footpath on Browns Lane as requested.

GCC's Public Rights of Way Officer has confirmed that Network Rail will pay for footpath resurfacing on a section of footpath on Brown's Lane; GCC to arrange the work.

K2/530 GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY'S CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITIES IMPROVEMENT FUND

To note progress regarding an application made to this fund and applications made for match funding to GCC and SDC.

The Committee Clerk reported that an application has been submitted to this fund for a scheme of signage and improvements to information and facilities at the station which aims to encourage use of the station by visitors. An application for match funding for the signage element has been made to GCC. SDC have offered £1,000-1,500 particularly for elements linked to cycling.

K2/531 WYCLIFFE SPONSORSHIP OF TOWN SIGN

To consider request from Wycliffe College to sponsor town or other sign.

It was agreed there was no current need to replace town signs. The following to be put to Wycliffe College as possible options for sponsorship:

- Further involvement in Stonehouse in Bloom
- Improvements to planting scheme or provision of planters on Horsetrough roundabout
- Bus shelter near Wycliffe Bridge, Ebley Road, cleaning/improvements
- Station: planters or other improvements.

K2/532 BUS SHELTERS

1. To report on transfer of responsibility to the Town Council of six bus shelters on High Street and Gloucester Road.

Jonathan Roberts of GCC has advised the Committee Clerk that he will cancel's GCC's cleaning contract for the shelters when the Town Council is ready to take over cleaning and provided copies of all the invoices for the six recently replaced or refurbished shelters. The Town Clerk is assessing the need to add shelters to the Town Council's insurance. Committee Clerk to ask GCC for copies of any guarantees provided by installer.

2. To consider quotes received for cleaning bus shelters.

The Committee Clerk had obtained one quote for cleaning 6 shelters at a cost of £440 per visit, £1,760 for four visits per year.

It was agreed to request if Town Council's groundsmen could clean the shelters; alternatively, local window cleaners could be asked to quote.

3. To report progress on repairs to bus stop, Foxes Field, Ebley Road

The Committee Clerk reported that Stroud District Council staff had been very helpful and confirmed that this stop was likely to still be owned by the developer, Barratt Homes. Cllr. Watts to give Committee Clerk contact details for a contact at Barratt Homes.

K2/533 STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL (SDC) CAR PARK

To consider further information received on the provision of a board in the car park advertising local businesses.

Cllr. Atkinson had provided examples of business information boards. Other approaches to encouraging people to visit Stonehouse's shops were discussed.

Resolution for Town Council: That a date is set for a Councillor's discussion day on how to support the High Street and local businesses including joint working with SDC and GCC.

K2/534 SDC HERITAGE STRATEGY

To agree a response to SDC's consultation on draft Heritage Strategy.

The draft response circulated with the agenda was agreed with the following additions:

- Although Stonehouse town centre is not a Conservation Area, it has interesting historic buildings, some listed and some not, and its own distinctive character with larger and open Town Greens at its centre.
- With regard to the section in the draft Strategy on "Understanding; The story of our place", reference should be made to the impact of World War II on the development of Stonehouse with the coming of the shadow factories, the associated increase in population, the development of Oldends Industrial Estate and the construction of a landmark building, Hoffmann's, now SFK Aerospace.

Committee Clerk to ensure Stonehouse History Group are aware of this consultation.

K2/535 GLOUCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS (GAPTC) INFORMATION

1. To note letter received from GAPTC regarding retrospective planning applications and to consider any further action.

The letter was noted.

2. To note update received on Community Infrastructure Levy in Gloucestershire.

The update was noted.

K2/536 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

To note referendum date of 23 November 2017 and a progress report.

The forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan referendum date was noted. Committee Clerk to circulate information to all councillors on restrictions regarding publicity in the referendum period.

Monitoring and review of the Neighbourhood Plan will be in the remit of this Committee should it be passed at referendum.

K2/537 COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE

1. To check current balances against budget.

Current expenditure of £5,487.32 from the Committee's budget was approved.

2. To agree any payments due to date.

There were no payments due.

