



Minutes (subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting) of a virtual meeting on Microsoft TEAMS of the Town Environment Committee held on Monday 5th October 2020 at 7pm.

Present: Councillors Debbie Curtis, Carol Kambites (Convenor, Vice Chair/Vice Mayor), Tim Jackson (Deputy Convenor).

In attendance: Sixteen residents, Ward Councillors Chris Brine and Mattie Ross, Carlos Novoth, Town Clerk, Rachel Russell, Deputy Clerk (minutes),

Public Participation

Cllr. Kambites welcomed residents and explained there were 15 minutes for questions or information in relation to agenda items. The following comments were made in relation to agenda item E191:

- Question for ward councillors: why oppose affordable housing on a privately owned green open space whilst supporting the development of housing on the Ship Inn Site which could become a public open space?
- Around £4.8 million has been spent on A419 alterations to speed up access to M5, additional traffic joining from or exiting to access to proposed development would slow traffic down.
- Cllrs. Curtis, Thorpe and Watt and the Town Clerk were thanked for paying a site visit to Bristol Road. Objections to the proposed development included:
 - Site is on protected outdoor play space.
 - Site not designation for development in Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan
 - There is a shortage of playing field provision across the District
 - Road access to the site is poor and will reduce road safety.
 - Design of parking area is unsightly, in poor location and raises concerns about sustainability and the environment
- Why was land to rear of Regency Close sold by Wycliffe to be developed for a cricket pavilion but no pavilion was built?
- The access to the development would be the only access to housing along the A419 without a dedicated right hand turn area.
- Why is housing development of 52 units needed to fund pavilion etc? Could there be a smaller housing development or another funding route.
- Wycliffe College is not doing much for the community. No clubs have used the Berryfield for some time.
- Wycliffe are a charity and are obliged to let facilities be used by the community.

E/188 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Gwen Atkinson, Neil Gibbs and Kevin Parsons

E/189 Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

E/190 To approve the minutes of the Town Environment Committee meeting held on 7th September 2020

The minutes of 7th September 2020 were **agreed** as a true record. All in favour. Minutes to be signed at next non-virtual meeting of Committee.

E/191 To consider pre application planning information received in relation to development proposals by Wycliffe College for the Preparatory School and Berryfield.

It was agreed to repeat the comments made previously in response to pre-application consultation and to add the following:

There are serious concerns about:

- the safety of road access to the site between A419 and Bristol Road and the impact of additional traffic in the areas.
- the location of the proposed parking which is very close to existing housing and whether there is a need for further parking.
- the location of the stadium which is much closer to housing than the existing pavilion.
- the location of the housing which would be very close to existing housing at Laburnum Mews
- whether the environmental impact, particularly on Great Crested Newts, has been fully considered
- lack of value to the community from proposed improvements to school facilities.
- the need for zero carbon housing developments.

Stonehouse Town Council has received objections to the development proposal from 18 residents. Some councillors have paid a site visit which helped inform the additional comments on the proposal.

Twelve residents left the meeting.

E/192 To comment on planning applications as listed

20/1847/HHOLD 8 Avenue Terrace, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 3RE.

Proposed enlarged dormer window to the front elevation & a new dormer window to the rear elevation

COMMENT: Suggest details of materials to be used are provided by the applicant to ensure that particularly the dormer window at the front of the property is in keeping with the scale and character of the terrace as a whole, in line with Local Plan policy HC8.

20/1820/FUL Plot F, Stonehouse Park, Sperry Way, Stonehouse.

An application for full planning permission for the construction of a 4,881 sq. m. (gross external area) extension to existing premises for B1, B2, B8 use classes, together with associated parking, landscaping and ancillary development

COMMENT: The application would be improved with the addition of solar panels on the roof and electric bike charging points. The parking and access areas should have a permeable surface. All trees and planting should be appropriate for the location, and aftercare and maintenance must be considered. Trees and other plants should

be sourced from nurseries with appropriate biosecurity credentials; UK-grown where possible or, if imported, then quarantined for an appropriate period of time. It is suggested that rainwater harvesting for use in WCs is incorporated into the scheme. The District Council's Biodiversity Officer should be asked for comments on the scheme's impact.

20/1839/HHOLD 33 Arrowsmith Drive, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2QS.
Proposed two storey side extension
No objection if no objection from neighbours.

20/1878/HHOLD 4 Storrington Place, Storrington Road, Stonehouse.
Proposed extension
No objection.

20/1862/HHOLD 20 Park Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2DE.
Proposed front porch and single storey rear extension
No objection if no objection from neighbours.

E/193 To receive a report on planning decisions received from Stroud District Council, 1st September 2020 to 28th September 2020
The report was noted.

E/194 To agree a response to the Government's Planning for the Future consultation <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>
Deputy Clerk to draft response for comment.

E/195 To receive a report on High Street re-opening funding & Stroud District Council Market Towns Forum meeting

Deputy Clerk reported on High Street re-opening Action Plan (Government/EU funding distributed by Stroud District Council (SDC))

- Revised Action Plan accepted by SDC/Gloucestershire County Council (GCC).
- Town Council to provide plan of planters for pavement widening on High Street for comment by GCC. Planters can be funded centrally if 3 quotes obtained.
- Temporary Traffic Order to be made for short stay parking outside Wynns.
- Street signage installed by Neighbourhood Warden.
- Additional signage provided by GCC for shared space.

Deputy Clerk and Ward Councillor Mattie Ross attended SDC Market Towns Forum 24 September, an on line meeting with representatives of local councils, ward councillors and others. Local councils shared experiences of approaches to safer High Streets (in context of pandemic). Planning Strategy Manager gave presentation on proposal to develop Market Towns Strategy, working with local councils.

E/196 To note responses received from Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) regarding A419 alterations and agree further action

Responses of 14 and 17 September were noted. As GCC will not treat Town Council's support of complaint about safety audit as a separate complaint, it was agreed to make a separate complaint regarding risks to cyclists of current

arrangement with particular reference to stretch of road from Horsetrough roundabout to Downton Road junction.

E/197 To note establishment of Active Travel forum and liaison with MP and agree any further action

Cllr. Kambites invited a resident in attendance to give further information: the Forum has been set up on Facebook to develop ideas and work towards goals, MP is willing to help and Town Council could join. The establishment of the Forum was noted.

E/198 To receive update on Local Highways matters (Shared Space/Parking Orders) (GCC) Local Highways Manager has given update. GCC commissioned report on shared space and parking on High Street. Results to be shared shortly. Resurfacing work to be carried out by laying a new surface after some planing of existing surface. Further details to be provided by GCC.

GCC still considering a parking order for Stonehouse in relation to Burdett Close and High Street.

E/199 To receive an update on progress towards re-opening Stroudwater Station at Bristol Road. Stonehouse.

Cllr. Watt advised that work continued to ensure proposal was included in GCC's Local Transport Plan. A letter to County Councillors had been drafted, MP to be asked to sign. Leader of Stroud District Council to ask leaders of parties if they will also sign. Ward Cllr. Brine advised that if information was provided about type of study needed to progress station, District Council could consider how it could support. Deputy Clerk advised that a meeting with Network Rail was being set up with contacts provided by Department for Transport.

E/200 To consider supporting Frampton Parish Council's request for support for public transport between Frampton and the existing and any future station at Stonehouse.

Members were supportive of the principle of integrated transport options but request evidence of level of demand for a bus service from Frampton.

E/201 To note results of consultation on adopted BT phone boxes and agree further action

In Bloom have offered to use and look after Gloucester Road box for a plant display/exchange with a theme of the history of gardening in Stonehouse. The offer was welcomed and **agreed**.

An on line survey regarding the Haven Road box was carried out in July. A book exchange was the most popular use, closely followed by a defibrillator.

It was **agreed** to ask for volunteers to run a book exchange on a six month trial basis. Repairs on both boxes to be carried out before any new use project undertaken.

E/202 To note consultation response to Stroud District Council's Statement of Licensing Policy agreed by e-mail due to consultation deadlines.

The following response was noted: Stonehouse Town Council supports the proposed revisions to the Statement of Licencing Policy. In particular, it supports the proposal to apply a flexible and creative approach to businesses in relation to

Covid 19 measures (1.26). We note and support the various measures in relation to winding down at the end of evening and use of glassware (Section 2, para. 3.0) but suggest that businesses are asked to consider using alternatives to glassware which are reusable rather than disposable.

E/203 To receive a report on the Committee budget

The budget report, with underspend under several headings, was noted. Expenditure on bus shelter cleaning and Christmas lights are due soon. Deputy Clerk reported that she is in contact with GWR's Assistant Regional Development Manager regarding bike shelters at station.

E/204 To receive reports from working groups

Cllr Kambites gave a verbal report from Events Working Group: instead of Goodwill there will be a socially distanced Christmas Parade around the town. Residents can join in along the route, decorate cycles, buggies etc if they wish and follow Father Christmas on the carol bus, probably pulled by Town Council van. Event to end with switch on of lights on Town Green.

Ward Cllr. Brine asked if there would be carols on the Town Green; Cllr Kambites responded that this could be considered although group singing activities may be hard to organise safely.

Cllr Kambites attended the Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum AGM; topics for discussion included the planning White Paper and problems that tourism can bring as well as benefits.

Cllr. Thorpe advised that Royal British Legion have cancelled all Remembrance Day parades but he is working with Cllr. Gibbs to design and implement a Covid safe commemoration.

E/205 To receive an update from In Bloom

Cllr. Curtis reported that In Bloom were meeting in socially distanced groups of 6 on Mondays and alternate Fridays to carry out work around the town. No confirmation on whether In Bloom competition will happen in 2021 but Stonehouse in Bloom are proceeding as if it will and keeping regional RHS informed of their activities.

E/206 Date of next Environment Committee meeting: 2nd November 2020