



DRAFT

**Minutes of a (Virtual) meeting of the Town Council
held on Monday 16th November 2020 at 7.00pm using
'Microsoft Teams'**

Present:

Councillors: (Chair) Neil Gibbs, (Vice Chair) Carol Kambites, Leigh Binns, Debbie Curtis, Michael Davis, Tim Jackson, John Parker, Jennie Smith, Pam Swain, David Thorpe and Theresa Watt

In Attendance: Carlos Novoth - Town Clerk, Rachel Russell - Deputy Town Clerk, Ward Cllr Mattie Ross, County Cllr Lesley Williams and several members of the public.

Attendees were reminded that the Proceedings of the meeting could be filmed, photographed or recorded.

Cllr. Gibbs welcomed residents and explained there were 15 minutes for questions or information in relation to agenda items. (Cllr Sally Pickering entered the meeting)

The following comments were made in relation to planning application 21/2161/FUL (agenda item TC2510):

- Provision for cyclists at entrance to development is poor.
- Save the Berryfield Facebook page has 180 members, 200 are in an e-mail group, at last count there were 211 objections to planning application including objections from Stroud Rugby Club and Rodborough Football Club. Common concerns include highway safety, loss of Protected Outdoor Play Space, loss of visual amenity.
- Resident has raised concerns about whether the correct process has been followed in relation to the site's proximity to a known site for Great Crested Newts with Stroud Valleys Project, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Stroud District Council and Stonehouse Town Council.
- The public consultation was not thorough.

- Design not in line with zero carbon policies in draft Local Plan.
- Footpath between canal and town will be an increasingly important link as canal project continues. Residential development may affect its role as a green corridor.
- Transport report states that wait times to exit on to A419 will be inconsequential whereas it can currently take some time to exit from Court View.
- Hockey pitch is already in community use so agreement on this does not offer additional community benefit.
- Parking proposals for pavilion mean that 32 cars will queue to enter and leave area at the same time, leading to increase in noise and pollution for residents and congestion on A419.
- Resident has paperwork from Friends of Berryfield campaign and planning appeal of 1995. If development permitted, sets a precedent and land and views could be lost for ever.
- Access on to A419 particularly difficult and dangerous at Bristol Rd because of bend in road.
- Since A419 alterations, speeds and noise levels have increased.
- The Berryfield is a green lung with nature conservation benefits. There are around three trees with Protection Orders on the site.

The Chair thanked members of the public for their contributions.

TC2494 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Sally Pickering saying that she may be late to the meeting.

TC2495 To receive declarations of interest

A declaration of interest was raised by Cllr Neil Gibbs in relation to agenda items TC2510 and 2509.

Cllr Neil Gibbs brought forward agenda items TC2510 and TC2509 and in light of his declaration of interest in the items, handed over the Chair to Vice Chair, Cllr Carol Kambites. Cllr Gibbs left the meeting.

TC2510 To consider Environment Committee's recommendation in relation to Agenda item E/211 - The Berryfield Sports Field, Bristol Road Old, Stonehouse (application 20/2161/FUL)

The recommendation from Town Environment Committee, 2 November 2020, Agenda item E/211 to object to planning application 20/2161/FUL, The Berryfield Sports Field, Stonehouse was **approved**. All in favour. It was **agreed** that Stonehouse Town Council would call in the application to be referred to Stroud District Council's Development Control Committee.

TC2509 To consider the Town Council's response to planning application 20/2159/FUL Wycliffe College Prep School, Ryeford Hall, Wycliffe College, Ebley Road.

Discussion took place to determine whether the council should 'object' to or 'comment' on the proposed application. The decision was to 'comment'. Six in favour, five against.

The following comment on the application was **agreed**.

COMMENT: There has been insufficient public consultation on this application. In particular, close neighbours have raised concerns about changes to parking and access arrangements which should be dealt with by the applicants.

There is no significant attempt to design the development to meet zero carbon design requirements in the emerging draft Local Plan (draft Core Policy DCP1 Delivering Carbon Neutral by 2030, draft Delivery Policy ES1 Sustainable construction and design). The Design and Access Statement states that no planning sustainability targets have been identified although a Stroud District Council sustainability checklist has been completed and the emerging draft Local Plan is available.

The site is in a sensitive area, within the Industrial Heritage Conservation Area. The proposed development is large and an overdevelopment of the site.

There is no commitment to increased community use of these facilities. Given the proposed loss of some of the Protected Outdoor Play Space in the related planning application 20/2161/FUL, additional commitment to community use should be sought and quantified in terms of an agreed percentage of time when the facilities will be available for community use.

Cllr Gibbs returned to the meeting at approximately 19:50 and resumed as Chair

TC2496 To note the resignation of Gwen Atkinson from her role as Councillor

The Chair confirmed Cllr Atkinson's resignation; the council's thanks and best wishes were conveyed to her. A Notice of the vacant position was to be posted from Wednesday. It was confirmed that in light of the 6 month election ruling, the vacant post could only be filled through Co-option.

TC2497 To approve the minutes of the Town Council held on 19th October 2020

Council **ACCEPTED** the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting; the minutes to be duly signed by the Chair at a later date.

- TC2498 To receive reports from Chair of Town Council and town councillors**
 The Chair attended a recent Doverow Hill Trust Meeting and the local Remembrance event.
 Cllrs Watt and Kambites attended a meeting called by the local MP in relation to the Stroudwater Station
- TC2499 To receive reports from County and District Councillors**
 County Councillor Lesley Williams had provided a written report (this was circulated just prior to the meeting) which she presented during the meeting. A question was raised in relation to the Active Travel Funding - Cllr Williams that GCC had received the funding but as yet was unsure as to how it was to be distributed.
 Ward Cllr Mattie Ross commented as follows:-
- She thought the proposed Berryfield development would be called in
 - The sheltered housing unit in Willow road was going through refurbishment
 - That she was still the lead on SDC's resilience and recovery work - grants were still available
- The Chair thanked both Cllrs for their contribution
- TC2500 To receive RFO's budget report including the bank reconciliation for the October 2020**
 The Clerk presented the budget report for the period up to 31st October 2020 (Actual Net Inc £359,891.35 and Exp £1185,269.07) along with the Bank reconciliation for October'20. There were no questions
 Committee **NOTED** the reports
- TC2501 To approve payments in accordance with the budget to date as listed**
 Council **APPROVED** Gross payments totalling £2,621.83
- TC2502 To discuss the potential impact of the Cotswold Canal's Connected project on the town council's workload.**
 Cllr Swain presented a proposal for dealing with the expected increase in workload on the town council generated by the success of Stroud District Council's bid for lottery funding for the development of the Canal and, the work required in further supporting the Stroudwater Railway station project.
 In light of their importance to the Stonehouse community, Cllrs felt it was necessary to provide the level of support needed for both projects.
 Council **AGREED** in principle to provide additional officer support for the term of the projects, expected to be between two to three years. Officers to consider the financial impact to take back to Full Town Council.

- TC2503** **To further discuss the setting of the Precept level for financial year 2021/22.**
In light of the outcome of Agenda Item TC2502, Officers agreed to further review budgets and report back to Town Council at a later date
- TC2504** **To consider the purchase and planting of six new trees for the Town in support of the Climate change action plan**
Cllr Parker provided an overview of the new trees purchased through the use of external grants. He requested funding for a further 6 trees totalling a cost of £837 plus vat. Officers confirmed that the money was available.
Council **APPROVED** funding of £837 plus vat for the purchase of 6 additional trees
- TC2505** **To consider an extension to the town's Christmas lighting display**
Council **APPROVED** funding of £1188.95 plus vat for the purchase and installation of additional Christmas lights and motifs.
- TC2506** **To receive minutes of Business Committee held on 26th October 2020**
Council **NOTED** the minutes.
- TC2507** **To consider recommendations to approve and adopt:**
- a) **Council's Grant Policy**
Council **APPROVED** the policy based on amendments put forward by Cllr Pickering
 - b) **Council's Working Group Policy**
Cllr Pickering mentioned that reference to Working Groups was made in the Council's Standing Orders. Whilst this was correct, reference to it was fairly minimal and did not provide the necessary detail.
Council **APPROVED** the policy as presented by the Policy Working Group
- TC2508** **To receive minutes of Environment Committee held on 2nd November 2020**
Council **NOTED** the minutes
- TC2511** **To receive an update from the 'Support Stonehouse' working group and consider its recommendations**
Cllr Parker highlighted that an initial meeting between Stonehouse Community Centre and 'All Pulling Together' took place to explore closer working in an effort to improve accessibility to local residents in financial trouble seeking help and support.
Council has recently agreed to set aside a budget of £2,000 to support the community through the working group 'Support Stonehouse' - a report on the use of this budget will follow once costs are finalised.
Cllr Parker requested that further funding be provided:-

- £600 for the design, printing and delivery of 'Freezer of Love' leaflets to be distributed to every household.
- £150 to design the 'Support Stonehouse' logo - this was essential in ensuring that residents identified with the support network.
- A further £5,000 be set aside in the budget in the lead up to Christmas.

Officers confirmed that money was available within the current budget.

Council **APPROVED** the total additional expenditure of £750 for work in support of the 'Love your Freezer' project and 'Support Stonehouse' logo and **RESOLVED** to set aside a further £5,000 in the budget for use by 'Support Stonehouse', the detail of which to be approved by either Council, Business or Environment Committee

- TC2512** **To consider an extension to the Town Council's Service Level Agreement with 'The Door'**
 Council **APPROVED** the Clerk's recommendation to extend the Council's Service Level Agreement (SLA) with 'The Door' for the provision of youth services within Stonehouse for a period of one year ending 31st March 2022. Proposer: Cllr Pickering, Seconder: Cllr Kambites (Cllr Binns voted 'Against' the extension - all other Cllrs present voted 'For' the extension)
- TC2513** **To note the date of the next Town Council Meeting scheduled for Monday 14th December 2020**