



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

Present: Councillors Debbie Curtis, Tim Jackson (Deputy Convenor), Carol Kambites (Convenor, Vice Chair/Vice Mayor), Kevin Parsons, Jennie Smith

In attendance: County Councillor Lesley Williams, Two residents, 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.

Both residents were interested in item E/233 regarding the A419 alterations, as well as other items; Cllr. Kambites offered to allow the residents to speak before the councillors' discussion on item E/233.

A G E N D A

E/227 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Neil Gibbs.

It was noted that as a councillor had recently resigned, the committee may need an additional member.

E/228 Declarations of Interest

None.

E/229 To approve the minutes of the Town Environment Committee meeting held on 2nd November 2020

The minutes of 2 November 2020 were approved as a true record. Three in favour, two abstentions.

E/230 To comment on planning applications as listed

20/2316/HHOLD 45 Crescent Road, Bridgend, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.

Proposed side and dormer extension including alterations to rear conservatory

COMMENT: No objection, provided no objections from neighbours, although the loss of a smaller bungalow is regretted; bungalows are in short supply and were identified in the Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan as a housing type needed in the area.

20/2391/HHOLD 4 Laburnum Walk, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2NR.

Side extension

OBJECTION: The proposed extension is very large, dominating and out of scale with the streetscape. Neighbours' objections and concerns such as loss of light and shadowing are supported. The proposal does not meet the requirements of Local Plan policy HC8, Extensions to dwellings, as its height, scale, form and design are not in keeping with the scale of the original dwelling.

20/2446/TCA Court Lawns, Bristol Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.

Trees in a Conservation Area: Gleditsia in the garden. Fell to near ground level.

COMMENT: No objection provided that the tree is replaced by a suitable tree sourced from a nursery with appropriate biosecurity credentials, UK grown if possible, or, if imported, then quarantined for an appropriate period of time.

20/2483/TPO 80 Woodcock Lane, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2ER.

Tree Preservation Order: 1 x Common ash - Fell to leave a monolith/habitat stem at 3-4m.

SUPPORT: The proposal is supported; leaving a monolith/habitat stem is welcomed. If there is available space it would be good to plant a suitable replacement tree, tree sourced from a nursery with appropriate biosecurity credentials, UK grown if possible, or, if imported, then quarantined for an appropriate period of time.

20/2464/HHOLD Spa Inn, Oldends, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.

Extension to the existing building structure to create a space at first floor level, including an increase in ridge height of the existing garage

COMMENT: No objection if no objection from neighbours.

E/231 To receive a report on planning decisions received from Stroud District Council, 27th October to 30th November 2020

The report was noted.

E/232 To receive a report on Stroud District Local Plan Review: Housing Option Workshop 7th December 2020

Cllr. Kambites and the Deputy Clerk attended the workshop. Cllr. Kambites reported that there were useful discussions regarding development strategies and reserve sites for additional housing allocations likely to be needed in the forthcoming Local Plan due to proposed changes to the government's housing requirements for local authorities. The draft Local Plan should be going for approval by the District Council on 11 February 2021, inspection and consultation on modifications will follow, with the Plan set to be adopted in 2022. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the Town Council's response to the consultation, as agreed at Town Environment Committee, 2 November 2020, E/214, had been submitted.

E/233 To note proposals received from Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) regarding road safety and the A419 alterations after a site visit of 2 November 2020 and agree further action

The proposals received from GCC after a site meeting of 2 November were noted.

Residents reported:

- an increase in tyre and engine noise, often related to overtaking when cars were approaching Downton Rd junction.

- Loss of a dedicated cycle crossing which was part of Cycle Route 45.
- Potential for more aesthetically pleasing, possibly canal related, barriers rather than railings.
- Introduction of 30 mile speed limit on A419 section supported by presence of schools and residences.
- Need for additional measures to reduce noise, particularly if there is no reduction in speed limit, such as acoustic fencing and tree planting.
- Sound levels should be tested.
- Quieter road surface should be considered.
- Willows next to Bristol Road under a Tree Protection Order have been removed by Highways; resident has alerted Stroud District Council and is requesting replacement.

Cllr. Curtis offered to add the issue of well designed fencing to the agenda for the next meeting of the Canal Rejuvenation Working Group on 11 December. Deputy Clerk reported that six residents had contacted the Town Council regarding additional noise on the A419; their comments had been collated and circulated to councillors.

The following response was agreed to the proposals received from GCC:

Horsetrough Roundabout

- The proposal to review the layout of the roundabout so that motorists give way where the slip lane joins the A419 is supported.
- Destination markings on the approach to the roundabout from the Ebley Bypass are supported. Destination markings on all the approaches to the roundabout are also requested.
- It is agreed that the current pedestrian crossing over the Bath Road is too close to the roundabout for pedestrian safety and consideration should be given to moving it further North, subject to the location giving pedestrians a good view of the traffic.
- A speed limit of 30 miles per hour should be introduced from the Ebley Road approach to the Horsetrough roundabout up to the Boakes Drive roundabout in consideration of the needs of different road users, the amenity of residents and the proximity of schools.

Downton Road Junction

- It is proposed that two sections of railing are removed to allow access to existing dropped kerb. The kerb may need widening.
- The road layout between the Horsetrough roundabout and Downton Road junction should return to a single carriageway straight on and a left turn only to Downton Road.
- The dedicated cycle crossing from Regent Street across the A419 should be reinstated.

- Trees along the A419 next to housing on Boakes Drive should be replaced along with the group of trees recently removed along the Bristol Road which were subject to a Tree Preservation Order. If noise levels continue to increase, consideration should be given to installing acoustic fencing.
- The proposals to review pedestrian detection and phasing at two Toucan crossings are supported. In addition, a repeater light should be provided in the middle of the Bonds Mill crossing to ensure that the lights are always visible to traffic.

E/234 To receive a notes of a meeting with the GCC Local Highways Manager

The record of the meeting was noted. The Deputy Clerk advised that a Transport and Highways Working Group meeting would be set up in the New Year to meet the new Local Highways Manager.

E/235 To consider quotations received to supply planters for High Street enhancement scheme

The Deputy Clerk advised that as the planter scheme was an environmental enhancement, rather than a social distancing measure, it would not be eligible for Re-opening High Streets safely funding distributed by Stroud District Council but would be funded from the Town Environment Committee's Town Centre Partnership budget. The scheme was with GCC for approval along with the Temporary Traffic Order to allow short stay parking outside Wynn's.

The quotation of £844.50 from Share and Repair Stonehouse to supply six planters for the High Street was accepted. All in favour.

E/236 To receive an update on progress towards re-opening Stroudwater (Bristol Road, Stonehouse) Station.

The progress report was noted. Work continues towards establishing a Task Force with representatives from various organisations.

E/237 To receive a report on the Committee budget

The budget report was noted.

E/238 To approve payments in accordance with the budget to date as listed

Payments of £9,928.65 as listed were approved. All in favour.

E/239 To consider an application for funding from the Climate Change budget for air pollution monitoring

The proposal to proceed with air quality monitoring at 10 sites was approved. All in favour. Deputy Clerk to seek advice from Town Clerk/RFO on need for additional quotations.

Cllr Kambites advised that some staff time would be needed to install and collect the monitoring tubes on a monthly basis. A member of the Climate Action Forum was thanked for her work in researching the proposal.

E/240 To consider draft Committee budget for 2021-2022 and items for Action Plan 2021-2022

The proposed Committee budget was noted. Cllr. Kambites advised that expenditure items relating to grounds management may be moved from the Town Business to the Town Environment Committee, subject to approval by full Town Council and changes to the Committees' Terms of Reference. Councillors considered these items would fit within the Environment Committee's remit.

E/241 To receive reports from working groups:

Events, High Street, Transport and Highways

Events: Cllr Kambites reported that the Christmas Carol Float event on 5 December was successful and well attended. Communications and Customer Services Officer has set up a Goodwill Tree with ideas for gifts to donate for those in need.

High Street: Initially set up in response to need for safer High St measures but likely to continue to assist with High Street vitality.

Transport and Highways: meeting with Local Highways Manager to be arranged.

E/242 To receive an update from In Bloom

Cllr. Curtis reported that there will be no national competition in 2021; no confirmation on regional competition. In Bloom members continue to prepare.

Tree planting planned for Old Chapel Garden, including five donated commemorative trees.

Cllr. Parsons suggested In Bloom involvement on business parks to help enhance planting; Cllr. Curtis happy to discuss a way forward.

E/243 Date of next Environment Committee meeting: January 2021
