



Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 14th June 2021 at 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors: Councillors: Rachel Armstrong, Leigh Binns, Chris Brine, John Callinan, Michael Davis, Carol Kambites (Vice-Chair), Mick Gibbons, Neil Gibbs, Kevin Parsons, Gary Powell (Chair), Val Randell, Pam Swain, Keith Terry, David Thorpe,

In Attendance: Clerk and Deputy Clerk to Stonehouse Town Council , Ward Cllr Mattie Ross and a member

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

A member of the public had asked to speak on agenda item TC2644. The speaker highlighted the value of the SHIP INN site to the community and that the site was currently being considered for Housing development. She commented that the key driver for her seeking a petition to ensure the future of the site was consulted on, was a comment made by a Councillor in a previous meeting that the use of the site did not appear to be an issue for the community. The speaker asked the community whether they wished to be consulted on this matter; the speaker had received 105 letters in support of consultation. The speaker's comments were supported by two further speakers, one of which commented on the fact that the site was considered unsuitable for private housing and that it should therefore not be considered for council/social housing.

The Chair thanked the speakers for their input.

TC2635 To receive apologies
There were no apologies

TC2636 To receive declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest

TC2637 To approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 17th May 2021

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.

TC2538 To receive reports from Chair of Town Council and Town Councillors

Cllr Leigh Binns had attended a Stonehouse Town Market (to be added to the council's list of external organisations) meeting held by County and Ward Cllr Nick Housden. It was agreed that Cllr Binns would continue to attend future meetings as a council representative. Cllr Chris Brine stated that he was asked if he wished attend but had not received an invitation.

Cllr Dave Thorpe had tended to an excess water issue at Meadow road; Stroud District Council have taken to lead to resolve this ongoing issue

TC2539 To receive reports from County and District Councillors

Written reports had been provided by Ward Cllrs Mattie Ross and Chris Brine (Jointly) and Cllr Nick Housden

TC2640 To resolve that Council meets the eligibility conditions required for it to use the General Power of Competence

The Clerk stated that he had recently gained his CILCA qualification and that this, together with the fact that the council had at least two thirds of its Town Councillors elected, the town council had regained its General Power of Competence. The Clerk thanked past councillors and in particular the Chair and Vice Chair for their support over the past 18 months.

Cllr Neil Gibbs highlighted that the Clerk had worked long hours to get the council to its current position in addition to gaining his new qualification. Cllr Gibbs thanked the Clerk for his commitment to the council.

Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the general power of competence.

TC2641 To receive RFO's budget report including the bank reconciliation for May '21

Council **NOTED** the latest Budget report that showed the following:-

- Net Actual Expenditure of £58,074.77
- Net Actual Income of £174,722.59

The Clerk noted a Members request to provide future reports in a different format - the clerk explained that the company providing the financial software are currently looking into this.

TC2642 To approve payments in accordance with the budget to date as listed

Council **APPROVED** the payments totalling £784.18

TC2643 To receive the minutes of the Business Committee meeting of 1st June and consider the following recommendations:-

- **To approve year end accounts, balance sheet and bank reconciliation for 2020/21**
Council APPROVED the Year End Accounts
Proposed by Cllr Carol Kambites; Seconded by Cllr Pam Swain:
All in favour
- **To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21**
Council APPROVED the Annual Governance Statement; the statement was duly signed by both the RFO and Chair of Council
Proposed by Cllr Carol Kambites; Seconded by Cllr Neil Gibbs; 13 votes for the proposal with 1 abstention
- **To approve the 2020/21 Accounting Statements by resolution and to ensure the Accounting Statements are signed and dated by the person presiding at the meeting at which that approval is given.**
Council RESOLVED to approve the accounting statement; the statement was signed by both the RFO and Chair of Council.
Proposed by Cllr Carol Kambites; Seconded by Cllr Mike Davis;
All in favour
- **To approve the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations**
Council APPROVED the use of the Council's current Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
Proposed by Cllr Carol Kambites, Seconded by Cllr Leigh Binns;
All in favour

TC2644 To receive minutes of the Environment Committee's meeting on 24th May and to consider its recommendations:

- **To consider recommendation by Environment Committee for the Town Council to carry out a public consultation to establish what the people of Stonehouse would like to see on the former Ship Inn site as part of the next phase of Cotswold Canals Connected's work to restore the Stroudwater Navigation.**

There was widespread discussion on the issue. The need for consultation on such a major concern was appreciated and agreed by all. The discussion however reflected two different approaches - the first was to seek local views immediately to gauge what the Stonehouse Community wanted from the site commonly referred to as the SHIPS INN site; the alternative approach would be to work directly with the District Council to try and limit costs and make use of their existing partnerships. It was reiterated that the site had been allocated by the District Council for housing and that building was

scheduled to commence in 2022; it was further commented that the use of the site should reflect the social, economic and environmental benefits to the community.

Cllr Mike Davis requested a recorded vote. By a vote of ten to four, (Cllrs Rachel Armstrong, Leigh Binns, Carol Kambites, Kevin Parsons, Mick Gibbons, John Callinan, Neil Gibbs, Pam Swain; Dave Thorpe and Mike Davis voted for the recommendation. Cllrs Gary Powell, Chris Brine, Val Randell and Keith Terry voted against), Council RESOLVED to adopt the Town Council's Environment Committee recommendation. It was agreed for the Canal Rejuvenation Working Group to work on proposals for the consultation.

TC2645 To consider the closure and transfer of parts of St Cyr's churchyard to the Town Council for future maintenance

Discussion highlighted the fact that consideration needed to be given to the many local families whose residents have been buried at St Cyrs when deciding on the course of action. Mention of a Friends of the Church/yard group should be looked into as the District Council is unlikely to maintain the churchyard as well as the PCC has. The Clerk stated that this would be looked into but that formal decisions were needed on both the closure of parts of the churchyard and its future maintenance at this stage.

Council RESOLVED to approve the following Business Committee's recommendations:-

- Agree to the closure of 4 specific parts of the churchyard.
- Resolve not to accept responsibility for the maintenance of the closed parts of the churchyard and advise the Parochial Church Council and Stroud District Council of the resolution with immediate effect.

Proposed by Cllr Leigh Binns; Seconded by Cllr Carol Kambites;

All in favour

TC2646 To review membership of working groups and appoint members to:

Policy	Public Rights of Way
Business Networking	Recreation
Climate Action Forum	Youth
Communications	Transport and Highways
Canal Rejuvenation	Events
Oldends Lane Development	Stroudwater (Bristol Road) Station
High street	

Council AGREED on the working group membership subject to the following amendments:-

- Cllr Neil Gibbs to be added to Recreation
- Cllr Chris Brine to be added to the Stroudwater (Bristol rd) Station

TC2647 To appoint members to external groups as representatives:

Stonehouse Allotment Tenants Association
Stonehouse and Cotswolds Citizens Advice
Cotswold Canals Western Executive Committee
Stonehouse Community Partnership
Stonehouse School Trustees
Doverow Hill Trust
Chartered Parishes
Standish Partnership
Parish Cluster Group
Market Towns Forum
Stroud Tourism Forum

Council AGREED on the representatives on external organisations subject to the following amendments:-

- Cllr Gary Powell to be a council representative on Chartered Parishes
- Cllr Mick Gibbons to be removed from Stonehouse School Trustees as only one Cllr was needed
- 'Stonehouse Town Market' was to be added to the list of external organisations and Cllr Leigh Binns was to represent the council

TC2648 To consider the adoption of the BT telephone kiosk at Severn road

Council RESOLVED to adopt the telephone kiosk; a volunteer had offered to manage to look after the Kiosk once the initial repairs had been undertaken

TC2649 To note the date of the next Town Council Meeting: Monday 19th July 2021