



Minutes (subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting) of a meeting of the Town Environment Committee at the Library, High Street, Stonehouse, GL10 2NG held on Monday 18th October 2021 at 7pm.

Present: Councillors Carol Kambites (Vice Chair of Council, Committee Chair), Val Randell, Pam Swain, Keith Terry, David Thorpe.

In attendance: Rachel Russell, Deputy Clerk (Minutes)
One resident

Public Participation

Landowner from Far Westrip Farm attended the meeting and advised councillors of the following:

- They had purchased the field above Cotswold Green to graze cattle.
- They were encouraging walkers to use the official footpaths on the farm and have provided 10 kissing gates, 3 bridle gates, signs and additional stone/gravel for sections of paths. The gates etc are provided at their expense; they have had some help from volunteers with installation.
- Cattle are affected by Neosporosis which is passed in dog waste.
- There has been a problem with litter which is decreasing.
- After a recent site meeting with GCC Public Rights Of Way officer, Town Councillor and Deputy Clerk, they have improved two sections of path which can become muddy by adding stone/edging.
- They have 5 miles of footpaths on their farm which they try to keep in good condition but don't want any more public rights of way on land. They ask that the Town Council does not pursue a Modification Order to designate more paths on their land.

E/398 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Armstrong and Gibbs.

E/399 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

E/400 To approve the minutes of the Town Environment Committee meeting held on 20th September 2021

The minutes of 20th September 2021 were agreed as a true record. All in favour.

E/410 (Part) Public Rights of Way (PROW) Working Group

The Chair moved this section of E/410 forward in the agenda.

Notes of the meeting of 15 October 2021 had been circulated. A recommendation that a priority for the group was to gather user evidence for an application to Gloucestershire County Council to have tracks added to Rights of Way map was not approved.

It was **agreed** that, given the issues raised by the landowner, Cllr Kambites would attend a PROW working group meeting to discuss a possible compromise regarding access to tracks on Doverow Hill.

E/401 To comment on planning applications as listed

21/2251/HHOLD 11 Aldergate Terrace, Aldergate Street, Stonehouse,

Erection of porch

No objections

21/2237/HHOLD 20 Quietways, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2NW.

Installation of dormer, roof light, garage conversion, alterations to roof, changes to fenestration and first floor side extension.

No objections if no objections from neighbours.

21/2341/VAR Old Station Yard, Bristol Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.

Variation to condition 2 (plans) on permitted application S.18/1748/FUL

No objection provided that, as the site is close to residential areas, there is a clear condition to ensure that the impact of lighting on neighbours is minimised. Consideration should also be given to the impact of the height of the units on neighbours particularly in relation to shadowing and loss of light.

21/2404/HHOLD 55 Regent Street, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2AA.

Single storey ground floor extension (Resubmission of S.21/0352/HHOLD)

No objection if no objection from neighbours. The inclusion of a green roof is supported.

21/2345/HHOLD 8 Meadow Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2HL.

Erection of replacement porch

No objections.

E/402 To receive a report on planning decisions received from Stroud District Council, 15 September 2021 to 11 October 2021

The report was noted.

E/403 To comment on a pre-application planning consultation on application for reserved matters of layout, landscape, scale and appearance at Parcels H17, H18 and H20 at Great Oldbury

The following comment was agreed:

Hedgerows should be maintained or replaced.

Tree planting and landscaping schemes should be high quality and sustainable. 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. Stonehouse Town Council will seek expert advice on the tree species recommendations given in the Masterplan document.

Further detail on the design of the cycle way would be welcomed.

E/404 To receive a report on the Committee budget

The report to 12 October 2021 with income at £3,997.33 and expenditure at £27,262.64 was noted.

E/405 To note order placed for Christmas Lights 2021

This item was dealt with at Town Council 11 October 2021, Minute TC2690.

E/406 To note fourth travel newsletter distributed to residents at Great Oldbury in July

The information was noted.

E/407 To receive update on repair of play tunnel, Oldends Lane Recreation ground

The Deputy Clerk reported she had recommended to Town Clerk/RFO that the play tunnel be covered in eco-mulch rather than turf to provide a more durable surface, expenditure to be met from reserves.

E/408 To receive an update on the work of Stroud Tourism Forum

The Deputy Clerk reported from a meeting with Stroud District Council and market towns on economic recovery measures on 16 September; Stroud District Council will use Welcome Back funding to part fund a Tourism Officer post employed by them directly; they will also commit other funding to the post. Market Towns are continuing to meet as the Stroud Tourism Forum to co-ordinate work in this area and agree proposals for governance arrangements for the Stroud DC Tourism post.

E/409 To agree response to Stroud District Council consultation on a draft Economic Development Strategy

It was **agreed** to delegate drafting of response to Deputy Clerk. Response to include support for the document and aims outlined, need for an Action Plan and further economic development opportunities in Stonehouse such as Stroudwater Bristol Road station proposal and canal side sites.

E/410 To receive reports from Working Groups and consider recommendations.

Canal Rejuvenation Working Group

Notes of a meeting of 22 September had been circulated. Cllr Swain reported that the working group had run consultation stalls at the Tree Day 3rd October and at Oldends Lane Recreation Ground 16th October. There will be a further meeting on 27th October 2021.

Events

Notes of meetings of 7th and 14th October had been circulated. Cllr Kambites reported that Goodwill was planned for 4th December, 2-5pm. Entertainment etc will be outside; Infant and Junior schools will be involved. Group is working with Rotary to organise a carol bus going around the town on 9th and 10th December. Six helpers are need for each night. Stonehouse Market is starting soon on Saturday afternoons and may be open at Goodwill. Cllr Terry suggested Stroud Red Band may be available.

A recommendation to accept a quotation from Gala Lights for purchase of multi coloured permanent outdoor Christmas tree lights for Town Green at a net cost of £750 was **approved**. All in favour.

Tree lights included in a previous quote from Blachere will not now be purchased but Blachere will install the tree lights from Gala Lights. A quote from a local electrician is being sought for switch on of the lights.

It was **agreed** that the Communications and Facilities Officer could proceed with an application to the County Councillor's Build Back Better fund for £1,000 towards festive eco-bags and children's party bags.

Cllr. Thorpe reported that Remembrance Sunday will not include a marching element this year. A shorter road closure than usual has been arranged. There will be a service on the War Memorial Green on 11th November.

Recreation Working Group

Notes of a meeting of 5th October had been circulated.

Cllr. Swain advised that the working group proposed that consultation on additional allotments and environmental improvements at Stagholt Field begin in January, with consultation on the refurbishment of Meadow Road play area to start in March. There will be a tree planting day on Laburnum and Meadow Recreation grounds on 30th October.

Transport and Highways

Notes of a meeting of 15 October were circulated before the meeting.

It was **agreed** that the Deputy Clerk would write to Stagecoach, copied in to MP, regarding the concerning issue of bus service cancellations.

E/411 To receive an update on progress towards re-opening Stroudwater Station.

Cllr. Kambites had attended a GWR Stakeholders Conference on-line and received an invitation from GWR Development Manager to meet up re proposed station and cycle storage at existing station.

E/412 Date of next Environment Committee meeting: 22 November 2021

Financial Budget Comparison

for Town Environment Committee

Comparison between 01/04/21 and 12/10/21 inclusive.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/21

	2021/2022	Reserve	Actual Net	Balance	Bal %age
INCOME					
Town Environment Committee					
200	Stonehouse in Bloom	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
205	Event Income/Donations	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
210	Planting Sponsorship	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
215	Grants	£0.00	£3,997.33	£3,997.33	0.00%
Total Town Environment Committee		£0.00	£3,997.33	£3,997.33	100.00%
EXPENDITURE					
Town Environment Committee					
1190	Amenity Areas	£37,500.00	£0.00	£18,366.73	-51.02%
2000	Christmas Lights	£5,000.00	£0.00	£5,000.00	-100.00%
2005	Climate Change	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	-100.00%
2010	In Bloom	£7,000.00	£0.00	£5,882.04	-15.97%
2020	Street Furniture/Bus Shelters	£2,000.00	£0.00	£1,221.25	-38.94%
2030	Traffic Calming/Transport Studies	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2040	Town Greens Maintenance	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2050	Cultural Events & Studies	£5,000.00	£0.00	£943.62	-81.13%
2060	Signage	£300.00	£0.00	£309.00	3.00%
2070	Town Centre Partnership	£0.00	£540.00	£540.00	0.00%
2080	Neighbourhood Plan Review	£4,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	-100.00%
2090	Planning Specialist Advice	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	-100.00%
Total Town Environment Committee		£63,800.00	£540.00	£27,262.64	-58.11%