



Minutes (subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting) of a meeting of the Town Environment Committee, Stonehouse Library, High Street, Stonehouse, GL10 2NG held on Monday 21st March 2022 at 7pm.

Present: Councillors Rachel Armstrong, Neil Gibbs (Vice-Chair of Environment Committee), Gary Powell (Chair of Council), Val Randell, Pam Swain, Keith Terry.

In attendance: Rachel Russell, Deputy Clerk (Minutes)

E/483 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Gibbs and Powell.

E/484 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Kambites declared an interest in planning consultation 22/0538/HHOLD as a nearby resident and did not take part in the discussion on a response to the consultation.

E/485 To approve the minutes of the Town Environment Committee meeting held on 21st February 2022

The minutes of the meeting of 21st February 2022 were **agreed** as a true record. All in favour.

E/486 To comment on planning applications as listed

22/0546/HHOLD 15 Bristol Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2BQ.

Garage conversion & erection of extension.

Comment: No objection if no objection from neighbours.

Cllr. Swain chaired the meeting during the consideration of a response to the consultation below. Cllr. Kambites did not participate in the discussion on the consultation.

22/0538/HHOLD 11 Oak Way, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2QJ.

Construction of single storey rear extension

Comment: No objection if no objection from neighbours.

The following consultation was received after the agenda had been prepared:

Cllr. Kambites chaired the meeting from this item.

22/0550/FUL Stonehouse Football Ground , Oldends Lane, Stonehouse,

Creation of hospitality suite, toilet block & new turnstyle entrance

Support: The proposed development will improve facilities at Stonehouse Football ground.

E/487 To receive a report on planning decisions received from Stroud District Council, 15 February 2022 to 14 March 2022

The report was noted.

E/488 To consider pre-application consultation information received on possible variation to 19/1905/FUL (Stroud Auctions development, Horsetrough roundabout)

The applicant for the Stroud Auctions development had contacted the Town Council for views on changing the material used for cladding the structure from timber to an alternative due to the increased cost of materials.

It was agreed that the need to change materials was understandable but Stonehouse Town Council would like to see more details on a proposed alternative.

E/489 To receive a report on Committee Budget

The report to 14 March 2022 with income at £13,890.18 and expenditure at £66,073.44 was noted.

E/490 To receive report on progress of Restoring Your Railways scheme re Bristol Road Station

The report in the supporting papers was noted; progress on developing a Strategic Outline Business Case is going well.

E/491 To request payment from Ecotricity of a contribution to the cost of Restoring Your Railways Strategic Outline Business Case for re-opening Stonehouse Bristol Road

The Deputy Clerk advised that Ecotricity have made a longstanding offer of £10,000 towards feasibility studies for the re-opening of Bristol Road Station. With Ecotricity's agreement, this offer was included as potential match funding in both bids to the Department for Transport's Restoring Your Railway Fund.

It was **agreed** to request payment of Ecotricity's £10,000 contribution to feasibility studies for the re-opening of Bristol Road station now that the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) is under way, partly grant funded through the Department for Transport's Restoring Your Railway Fund; Stonehouse Town Council to hold the contribution in an earmarked reserve until payment requested by Stroud District Council who have commissioned the SOBC.

E/492 To consider a response to proposed options from Gloucestershire County Council for a cycle spine route

The Committee considered the options shown on a map "Proposed route of the Gloucestershire 'cycle spine'" from Gloucestershire County Council's website. It was **agreed** that the preferred route would be alongside the B4008 rather than via the canal; ideally the cycle route would be off road and fit with Standish Parish Council's proposals for an off road route from Stonehouse to Black Bridge.

E/493 To agree attendance at Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership's Connecting New Communities event, Great Oldbury

Cllrs. Terry and Thorpe volunteered to attend.

E/494 To consider a response to Stroud District Council consultation - Proposed Canals Strategy

Cllr. Swain had circulated a draft response prepared by the Canal Rejuvenation Working Group and guided the Committee through the consultation documents and suggested response.

The consultation response as prepared by the Canal Rejuvenation Working Group was **agreed** with some minor additions and amendments.

E/495 To consider new location for Kingfisher statue

Cllr. Swain advised that In Bloom volunteers had commented on the impact the Kingfisher statue was having on the turf on the Town Green; it would be preferable to place the statue on hardstanding. A possible new location could be near to the Canal although some favoured keeping the statue in the town centre.

It was **agreed** that councillors would consider possible locations for the statue for consideration at a future meeting.

E/496 To consider request from Circus Ginnett to use Oldends Lane Recreation Ground

It was **agreed** that Circus Ginnett could in principle use Oldends Lane Recreation Ground for a week in July subject to all details being agreed in advance with Town Council officers.

E/497 To receive an update from Stonehouse In Bloom

Cllr. Swain reported that an area in Laburnum had been rotavated and planted with wildflower seeds with help from Town Council ground staff and In Bloom volunteers; confirmation of a national judging date is being sought.

E/498 To receive reports from Working Groups and consider recommendations:

Canal Rejuvenation

See E/494

Events

No recent meeting has been held.

PROW

Cllr. Armstrong reported that:

- the group was looking at possible modification order applications in relation to historic paths near Bonds Mill and the Queens Road/car park link path.
- Some research in relation to the lease or possible sale of Verney Fields has also been carried out.
- Farmers at Far Westrip willing to consider a permissive path subject to access across Verney Fields also being agreed.

Recreation

No recent meeting and lack of progress on projects due to staff shortages.

Transport and Highways

Cllr. Terry had circulated information on a proposed order of work for items identified in the Accessibility Audit commissioned by the Town Council. The list was drawn up by Gloucestershire County Council's Local Highways Manager and discussed at the Transport and highways meeting of 24th February 2022.

The order of work as listed was **agreed**.

E/499 Date of next Environment Committee meeting: 25 April 2022
