



## **STONEHOUSE** **TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting)**  
**of a meeting of THE AMENITIES, RECREATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY**  
**26 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE.**

**Present:**

Theresa Watt (Chair/Town Mayor)  
Pam Swain (Vice Chair/Town Mayor)  
Deborah Curtis  
Neil Gibbs (Convenor)

**Also Present:**

Town Clerk Gill Jennings, Architect David Barnes, 1 member of the public

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*Attendees are reminded that the Proceedings of this meeting may be filmed, photographed or recorded but anyone wishing to make a record should first inform the Chairman*

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**K3/425 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Powell. Councillor Smart was absent without apology.

**K3/426 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are reminded of their obligation within the requirements of the adopted Model Code of Conduct to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests where applicable. There were no declarations of interest.

**K3/427 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 JULY 2016**

The Minutes were approved as a correct record.

**K3/428 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT**

A maximum time limit of 15 minutes allocated for residents to raise comments on any item on this agenda (3 minutes per person)

Mr. David Gregory spoke regarding K3/430, he felt that it was only by his intervention that any maintenance was carried out at Court View. If left to Taylor Wimpey nothing would get done. The hedge height alongside the industrial estate had still not been dealt with.

There was no grass cutting or maintenance carried out in the new pond areas in the last 12 months. He could not continue to chase for action or become the local contact person therefore he felt that Stroud District Council should enforce their agreement with the developer.

**K3/429 ALLOTMENTS - HANDOVER TO ASSOCIATION**

1. The Association have requested changes to the Agreement proposed between them and the Town Council. Committee to consider.

The Committee agreed that the changes requested were not necessary and an explanation of the wording would be provided.

2. The Association have identified costs in erecting fencing and have requested a grant from the council. This is not appropriate for grant funding therefore Committee are to respond.

The Committee agreed that funding for fencing should come out of any revenue balances passed over to the Association on handover. It was a decision for the Association whether to use the balances for the purpose of fencing.

### **K3/430 COURT VIEW**

To receive councillors observations on conditions on site. A resident has telephoned requesting that Stroud DC be contacted to enforce handover.

The Clerk explained that the agreement drawn up by Stroud District Council was very weak and not legally enforceable. If Mr. Gregory has evidence that the houses were marketed on the strength of the agreement he is to provide it. The Town Council would write to Stroud DC and ask them to contact the developer.

### **K3/431 REVIEW MEMBERSHIP OF RECREATION WORKING GROUP**

The Committee agreed that the membership numbers should be reduced. Councillor Powell had indicated he would stand down. Membership therefore confirmed as Cllr Gibbs, Swain, Curtis, Atkinson.

### **K3/432 OLDENDS LANE REDEVELOPMENT**

The Council's architect has raised concerns regarding the cost of the proposed building due to its size. The Recreation Working Group have met with user groups to discuss fund raising.

Reports to be discussed in detail by Committee.

David Barnes advised the Committee that costs of the building in its current design would be in the region of £600,000. Given that funds need to be spent on resurfacing the carpark, and mains drainage this would push the Council over budget. The Committee were keen to have a building which was functional for the future. Some redesign of the internal layout would be required. Working Group to meet with architect to discuss and to keep costs down as much as possible. The Clerk will meet with Magpies to discuss future management arrangements and will report back to the Committee.

### **K3/433 TOWN GREEN**

1. To consider proposal by GCC to deal with buses over running the green - Cllr Swain reported that Regeneration Committee had reconsidered this issue and it had been agreed that the section should be cut back to provide easier access to the bus stop. The Committee agreed this was the best solution.
2. To consider quotations for tree maintenance - The Committee considered the 2/3 quotations available and agreed to proceed with Nature First re-pollarding the willow and crown lift to the lime at £500. Funding to come out of Town green budget.

### **K3/434 GRANT EXPENDITURE**

1. A grant has been awarded by The Tree Council for £308 towards tree planting in Meadow Road playing field. Photographic evidence of the work is required together with evidence of educational work and planting involvement. A working group is required to take this forward over the next 2 months. The Grant Request was for £500 but the Tree Council have stated that trees should be sourced at £50 each. Therefore the project will be 6 trees at £50 each with stakes at £30 each at £480 with funding towards the shortfall required £172. Committee to agree. The Committee agreed to fund in the sum of £172. Councillor Watt to project manage.

2. Cllr Curtis to provide a report on number of benches/gates to be replaced in Doverow Wood from the grant of £3000 from the Cotswolds Conservation Board. Agree style of bench and number to be purchased. The Committee did not like the idea of bench seats suggested by the Clerk. The Committee agreed to purchase 4 x Malvern style seats in green. Costs to be confirmed. A Volunteer Day would be advertised in the Stonehouse News for assistance with clearing viewpoints. Cllr. Curtis will explore repairs to Victorian kissing gate or replica.
3. An additional 420 tree whips will be provided by the Woodland Trust in November. Committee to consider locations for planting. As above, volunteers would be sought to help with planting preferably in National Tree Planting week. Meadow Road, Laburnum would be suitable locations. Councillor Watt to project manage.

### **K3/435 FINANCE**

1. To check and agree Committee expenditure/receipts against budget July/August  
July Expenditure £6666.01 and Receipts £4118 were agreed against budget  
August Expenditure £4107.18 and receipts £8043.23 were agreed against budget
2. To agree outstanding payments September - Payments were agreed at £5242.79

### **K3/436 STONEHOUSE IN BLOOM**

To receive an update on outcome of Awards and plans for 2017-18 - Councillor Powell provided a written report. The Committee congratulated the In Bloom Group for their achievement of a Silver Gilt Award and noted the plans for planting in 2017-18.

To request a report on finance - Councillor Curtis would provide a report at the next meeting.

### **K3/437 RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS**

1. Further quotations have been obtained for the self-closing dog gate. Committee to consider. The Committee considered three quotations and agreed to proceed with the purchase of 2 gates, one for Laburnum in green, one for Meadow Road in blue at £1275 each.
2. Quotations have been obtained for repairs to existing play equipment - The Committee considered quotations for repairs and agreed to have the clock removed by grounds staff. The remaining repairs were agreed at a cost of £893.
3. Committee to consider further improvements to Laburnum Park following vandalism  
Constant littering would be remedied by the purchase of 4 closed top bins at £1163.08 from the budget for bins. The picnic table to be removed, the concrete base broken up. A memorial seat has been donated by a member of the public and the Committee agreed to meet with the family to agree a suitable position for it within the Garden of Rest.
4. Anti-social behaviour at skatepark - Committee considered this was a seasonal problem, Cllr Gibbs to arrange police presence.
5. Recreation Working Group to revisit ROSPA reports for replacement equipment - The Working Group were provided with the reports and details of the repairs being carried out in order that they may identify replacement equipment.

### **K3/438 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

To discuss proposals for this year's display and consider costs for installation/dismantling current lighting and any further purchases. Details of solar lighting options were discussed. It was agreed that Cllr Swain would look into suitable locations for string lighting and lamp-post lighting up to £2000. The cost of installing the existing lights was agreed at £2890.

### **K3/439 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

7<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

The Council will by resolution exclude the public from item K3/440 due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and publicity of the item would be prejudicial to the public interest.

**K3/440 STAGHOLT**

To receive District Valuer's report which confirms offer of £100,000 as realistic. **The Committee agreed that the sale of land should proceed at the valuation as per the agreement.** To consider any relevant legal issues. The Council await the variation of the covenant.

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