

Stonehouse Town Council



MINUTES ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

held on MONDAY 27TH APRIL 2015 at 7pm in the Town Hall, High Street, Stonehouse

The Report of the Annual Town Meeting of the 19 May 2014 was circulated
Annual Reports from Stonehouse Community Organisations were invited
Recipients of Grant funding were invited to submit written reports

1. Welcome from the Chair of Council

Chairman/Town Mayor Chris Brine welcomed 34 members of the public, Ward Councillors, County Councillors, Town Councillors and staff to the meeting. The meeting was joined by Terri Penny of Greensquare Group and Colm Coyle of Quattro Designs. Councillor Brine indicated that the Annual Report had been circulated and there would be an opportunity for questions in item 4.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Jan Dyer

3. Annual Town Council Report

There were no questions on the Annual Town Report

4. Public Question Time

Q A resident of Rosedale Avenue explained the problems experienced by residents affected by commuter parking. His own driveway had been blocked for 3 months on one occasion and more recently for a whole week without there being any action on the part of the police. The PCSOs had been unable to help which he believed was due to their lack of knowledge of the law. He felt it was time Glos County Council revisited the question of parking restrictions.

A The Town Council will progress this enquiry through the County Council and police.

Q A resident stated that the Boules Court was an enjoyable facility but needs to be made more accessible. Not always easy to obtain the key. The surface did not seem to be correctly compacted.

A The ART Committee will review the decision to lock the court although this action was deemed necessary due to misuse. The surface would be checked.

Q A resident asked if dog bins could be provided on the trading estate at Oldends Lane.

A The enquiry will be progressed through Stroud District Council

Q A business owner enquired whether parking restrictions could be enforced outside Orchard Place. It appeared that a van was parked on a regular basis for over 3 hours at a time.

A The enquiry will be put to the Parking Enforcement Team.

Q Stagholt field used to be a dog free zone but now used mainly by dog walkers. Could signs and legislation be removed from the field to allow this?

A The ART Committee will consider the request.

5. Presentation of Civic Awards 2014-15

Town Mayor Chris Brine made the following awards with Councillor Watt reading the citations:

Business of the Year – Baytree Café, High Street, Stonehouse

This award had the highest number of nominations with customers praising the high quality home cooked food, friendly atmosphere, welcoming staff and clean premises.

Young Person of the Year – Oliver King (Year 9 Maidenhill School)

Oliver has made a tremendous contribution to the Neighbourhood Plan and as the youngest member of the group he brings a refreshing view on things.

Also, Highly Commended for this Award – Willow Driver-Sharp

Willow has helped the Girl Guides for many years now undertaking her adult leader award. She is also involved in the drama groups at Wycliffe and Maidenhill and is a perfect role model for others to follow.

Person making an Outstanding Contribution to Stonehouse - Kevin Howlett

There were a large number of nominations attributed to Kevin's music workshops for young people over a period of 10 years. The workshops have been a huge success enjoyed by youngsters from all over the county. Kevin stated that it gave him immense pleasure to see others enjoying music and he had started off in a modest way playing guitar in Maidenhill School at lunchtimes which then developed into music sessions with over 76 participants. He now freelances through Tewkesbury School and he thanked John West, resident of Stonehouse, for his help over the years.

Community Group of the Year – Stonehouse Community Choir

The choir had started in the Town Hall and were now 40 members strong meeting alternate Wednesdays and Thursday at the premises of Stonehouse Community Partnership. The choir members receiving the award stated that they were enjoying putting on performances in the community.

Following these awards Councillor Watt paid tribute to members of the Council who were leaving and presented them with framed memoirs.

Simon Lewis, Former Deputy Town Mayor/Vice Chairman would be missed as a friendly, approachable Councillor who put extra time and effort into events such as the Goodwill and Horticultural Show.

David Drew, 28 years as a Town Councillor, has worked tirelessly for the good of the town and will continue to do so whilst giving up his seat on the Council for "new blood"

Chris Brine, Town Mayor/Chairman has been instrumental in obtaining capital for Town Council projects such as the High Street Shared Space which has helped keep our shops occupied with active business, and the youth centre and skatepark. Chris will continue in the role of District Councillor if elected.

6. Presentation by the Neighbourhood Plan Group

Councillor Carol Kambites gave a presentation and invited members of the public to become involved. The presentation is available to view on the Council's website. Comments invited to: stonehousenp@gmail.com

7. Consultation on Plans for Redevelopment of Oldends Lane Site

Councillor Pam Swain gave a presentation of plans for redevelopment and the reasons why the Town Council/Football Clubs/Magpies have chosen to work with Greensquare. Presentations are available on the Council's website. Comments invited to: townclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.com

8. Close and Refreshments