



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

**MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Town Council meeting)  
Of an Extraordinary meeting of the Town Council HELD ON MONDAY 18th JUNE 2018 AT 6.15 PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE.**

Present: Councillors Becky Amor, Leigh Binns, John Callinan, Neil Gibbs (Vice Chairman/Deputy Town Mayor), Gary Powell, Pam Swain, Theresa Watt (Chairman/Town Mayor)

Also Present: Committee Clerk, County Councillor Lesley Williams (part), District Councillor Mattie Ross (part).

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### **TC2035 To Receive Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Kambites.

### **TC2036 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

County Councillor Lesley Williams requested to speak regarding TC2037. Cllr. Powell informed the meeting that District Councillor Mattie Ross has asked him to read out a letter regarding TC2037.

**Cllr. Callinan proposed and Cllr. Watt seconded that there was a public adjournment to hear statements from the County Councillor and District Councillors. All in favour.**

County Councillor Williams commented that the floral displays in the town were looking lovely. She was pleased that the library project was progressing but concerned about comments on social media. She requested that the Town and County Councils do all they can to let people know what is happening with the project.

District Cllr. Ross entered the meeting, handed a letter to Cllr. Powell and left the meeting. Cllr. Powell read District Cllr. Ross's letter to the meeting in which she expressed her disappointment that the meeting was closed, about lack of consultation on the issue, that a town asset might be gifted to the County Council for no money and that the only payment would be through refurbishment. She suggested that evidence should be sought of who uses the library and concluded that Gloucestershire County Council looked to be getting a good deal but not the people of Stonehouse and questioned whether the town would benefit from the sale of land currently occupied by the library.

Cllr. Callinan advised that, should the proposals regarding the relocation of the library continue to proceed, there would be a period of statutory consultation.

County Councillor Williams left the meeting.

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

The Council will by resolution exclude the public from item TC2037 due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and publicity of the item would be prejudicial to the public interest.

Cllr. Powell resolved to exclude the public from the meeting, seconded by Cllr. Callinan. All in favour.

**TC2037 To discuss draft Lease terms to be offered to Gloucestershire County Council**

Cllr. Binns asked if a commitment to continue with the library project had been made by the Town Council. Cllr. Watt advised that a decision had been made at the Extraordinary Town Council meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017 to enter into a joint project with the County Council on the basis of a statement of intent. She advised that either party can pull out if not content with proposed terms.

Cllrs. discussed a Briefing note prepared by the Town Clerk/RFO which included a summary of a meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018 with Gloucestershire County Council (GCC).

Cllr. Atkinson raised the concerns expressed at the Annual Town Meeting that the Bloomers café would be able to continue within a reconfigured building. Cllr. Swain advised that other uses would be permitted in both parts of the Town Hall building.

Cllr. Powell noted the proposal to remove the spiral staircase and mezzanine storage space and questioned where alternative storage would be.

Cllr. Amor asked if an occupier not paying rent could be a tenant.

Cllrs. expressed concerns regarding the proposal from GCC that the permitted use for the Lease is extended from library use to any community service delivery use. They were also concerned that there was no commitment to extending library hours.

**Resolved: That Stonehouse Town Council seek clarification from Gloucestershire County Council on their definition of the term “community service delivery” in relation to the proposed lease and that Stonehouse Town Council call another Extraordinary Town Council meeting, with no time constraints, to discuss the issue of the library and the lease. Proposed Cllr Swain, seconded Cllr. Binns. All in favour.**

**TC2038 To agree legal fees for the drafting of the Lease**

Estimated at £795.00 plus VAT for the Agreement for Lease (and Lease) and £750.00 plus VAT to prepare a Licence for Alterations though the latter would usually be met by the Tenant

Item deferred until draft lease terms agreed.

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