

# Stonehouse Town Council



**MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting)**  
**OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES RECREATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE HELD ON**  
**MONDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2013 AT 7.00PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET,**  
**STONEHOUSE**

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**Present:**

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>John Aldis</b>	<b>(Convenor of Committee)</b>
	<b>Chris Brine</b>	<b>(Chair of Town Council)</b>
	<b>Simon Lewis</b>	<b>(Vice Chair of Town Council)</b>
	<b>Roger Govier</b>	
	<b>Gary Powell</b>	

**Also Present: Councillor Watt, Town Clerk Gill Jennings**

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**K3/55 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

**Apologies were received from Cllr Howarth**

**K3/56 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. Councillor Aldis declared an interest in K3/62 and took no part in the discussion.

**K3/57 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013**

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 were approved.

**K3/58 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT (15 minutes)**

Members of the public may speak only once for a maximum of 5 minutes on any specific agenda item.

**No participation. Mr Carl Berry had called into the office earlier in the evening to ask whether the junior footballers might lease Stagholt pavilion. The Committee recalled that the hire of the building had been problematic with burst pipes over the Winter months through lack of use. The building was now being vandalised. The site was still under review for possible development.**

**K3/59 OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE**

1. A litter bin has been ordered for Laburnum playing field @ £231 plus vat
2. With reference to K3/45.3 the clerk has requested the resident to reinstate the boundary to Laburnum Field at its correct position. Committee to discuss.

**The Committee agreed that the resident Mr Kiff should be complying with his agreement not to take possession of the land. It appeared he was now selling the property with a garden enlarged by public open space.**

3. The Committee are asked to consider the provision of free trees under the Big Tree Plant scheme which might enhance the landscaping of Oldends Playing Field

**The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial if small specimen trees such as hawthorn and maple could be planted along the bund at Oldends with further fruit trees alongside the brook. An application would be made to The Big Tree Plant.**

### **K3/60 MAGPIES SOCIAL CLUB**

With reference to K3/45.4 Magpies Social Club have confirmed the cost of materials at £903.00 to make repairs to the roof - for Committee agreement.

**The Committee agreed to meet the cost of materials against an invoice and till receipts in order that the building might be made watertight.**

Magpies have asked the Committee to consider extending the term of their lease in order to attract investment.

**The Clerk advised that more detail was required about the investor and long term plans before proceeding. Magpies had been asked to provide further details.**

### **K3/61 RECREATION WORKING GROUP**

1. To receive a report from the Recreation Working Group – a report of a meeting held the 2nd October is circulated for information.

**Reporting on recent meetings with the football clubs and Magpies Social Club, the Working Group had seen a drawing of the layout of the proposed changing rooms at the Oldends workshop site. Unfortunately these had not been put before ART Committee and would be brought to the next meeting for discussion.**

The Clerk was asked to ascertain whether there would be an opportunity for the S106 monies from Elgin Mall to be used in the vicinity rather than being restricted to use on Laburnum Field. The answer is that the Council would have to justify why they have moved away from the planned boule court which was supported by members of the public and explain how any alternative provides more advantage to the community and is therefore a better use of money.

**This is a decision which can only be made by the Town Council. The Working Group had planned to carry out a consultation exercise around a proposal for a sensory garden but the Committee agreed that a sensory garden in the Garden of Rest would be likely to attract the same type of vandalism as the orchard in Laburnum Field and the Working Group needed to think of sustainable options.**

**The Committee were not in favour of carrying out a consultation until the Town Council revisited the matter of the boules court.**

### **K3/62 YOUTH BUILDING**

To receive a report from the Youth Working Group of a meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

- The Committee are asked to consider increasing the youth budget to facilitate the development of youth work following the “hub model”.

**The Working Group were keen to follow the model of South of Stroud Youth Partnership which has an annual contract of £45000 with Young Gloucestershire which includes one full-time and one part-time youth worker delivering sessions in each parish with a permanent base in one. The WG asked the Committee to raise the budget from £15000 to £20000 based on the hub principle joining Stonehouse with Cainscross, Eastington, Kings Stanley and Leonard Stanley.**

**The Committee asked for evidence of what services would be provided for the extra payment as the Committee felt it should look for savings rather than additional expenditure and perhaps consider direct employment of a youth worker.**

- The Committee are asked to agree a Youth Strategic Plan Sept 2013-Sept 2018

The Plan made reference to working to the hub model.

**The Clerk raised concerns about the key task “to advertise use of the youth building” and advised the Committee to view HMRC rules on VAT (700 & 749). The building was for exclusive use as a youth centre and could not be used by groups who were “in competition.”**

**The Committee agreed the Youth Strategic Plan Sept 2013-Sept 2018 as written.**

### **K3/62 Youth Building** (continued)

- To receive a progress report from the Town Clerk.

The Clerk had met with the project manager and builder on site to go through snagging issues and security refinement. The project manager would liaise with the Clerk over additional costs and the Clerk would progress the works direct with the builder. A written report was circulated. A budget had been set at the extra-ordinary meeting.

### **K3/63 FINANCE**

- To review Committee expenditure/receipts to date.

Expenditure in September of £34282.05 and Receipts of £13989.09 were agreed as correct.

- To consider a draft budget for 2014-2015

The Committee considered the draft budget prepared by the RFO. The 2013-14 budget of £96740 had been increased by a virement of £3000 to cover temporary staff costs to £99740. The suggested total for 2014-15 included the additional employment of a part-time caretaker/maintenance person and additional running costs of the new youth building but held the budget at £100450.

The Committee Members were asked to consider possible savings and any additional costs which might be incurred. The draft budget would be revisited at the next Committee meeting. (refer also to K3/66)

### **K3/64 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

A further attempt has been made in resolving the lighting of the Christmas Tree on the green and a quotation is enclosed in the sum of £271.

The Committee agreed to meet the cost in accordance with the quotation.

### **K3/65 ALLOTMENTS**

A report from the Allotments Committee meeting of the 29<sup>th</sup> July is enclosed for comment. The Committee were advised that the Clerk had responded to Cllr Sheridan regarding the queries raised in the report. With regards to the request to repair the road to the allotments enquiries would be made of Network Rail. With regards to repair to sheds, it was the responsibility of the hirer to keep the Town Council informed of problems.

### **K3/66 STONEHOUSE IN BLOOM**

Cllr Powell reported that he was attempting to tidy up the border by the Globe although the remnants of railings there might have to be removed and replaced as they were rusted through. There was some public comment that planting would not be sustained in that area due to vandalism but he would try to make an improvement. The Committee were concerned that the flower displays in the town might not continue without voluntary work on the part of Cllr and Mrs Powell and felt that unless the businesses got more involved there might be additional costs to consider in the budget i.e. if Town Council staff had to be employed to maintain the borders. It was difficult to keep the displays watered as it meant attending to the beds in the early morning and an automatic watering system would be explored where possible.

### **K3/67 CORRESPONDENCE**

1. A report has been provided by Stonehouse History Group regarding a new walk along the Cotswold Canals

The Committee welcomed the report and the efforts to improve information about interesting walks.

### **K3/68 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013

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