



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 2nd
December 2013 at 7pm in the Town Hall, High Street, Stonehouse

Present:

Councillors John Aldis (Convenor of Committee)
Chris Brine (Chair of Town Council)
Simon Lewis (Vice Chair of Town Council)
Roger Govier
Gary Powell (Deputy Convenor of Committee)
Anthony Howarth

Also Present: Pam Swain, Theresa Watt, (Paul Stephens during discussion K3/82)
Gill Jennings Town Clerk

K3/69 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

None received

K3/70 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 K3/77 and K3/83

K3/71 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28TH
OCTOBER 2013

The Minutes were approved as a correct record.

K3/72 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

K3/73 OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE

1. Laburnum Field Boundary – the resident has called into the office to say that he would only move the fence whilst the trees were being attended to. **Committee instructed the Clerk to proceed with work to T9 and T10. Mr Kiff would be required to carry out works to the remaining trees whilst they are within his boundary.**

2. The Council are reminded by their insurers that they are not to salt, grit or clear snow except on their own property

Noted

3. The Clerk has inspected Stagholt Brook and will make recommendations for annual maintenance

The Committee agreed that the contractors had previously made a thorough job of clearing the banks of the brook but this work had not been budgeted for in 2013-14. The sum of the quotation would be added to the budget for 2014-15. The condition of the brook would be monitored with the grille being cleared on a regular basis.

K3/73 Open Space Maintenance (continued)

4. To consider the part exchange of the current mowing equipment against a new/ex demo compact mower

The Ransome and damaged Etesia mower were no longer in use and the Committee agreed to proceed with the purchase of a smaller ride-on mower which with part-exchange would cost £2050.

5. The Committee to appoint a responsible person to hoist/take down the flag on flag flying days.

The Committee agreed that it would be of benefit to have a local person responsible for the flag pole. Councillor Lewis to make arrangements.

K3/74 RECREATIONAL BUILDINGS

To receive a report from the Building Facilities Group held on the 11th October 2013.

The report was received and noted. The Group had met with Martin Hutchings, Rural Housing Enabler from GRCC and were exploring the options of development funding.

The housing need in Standish was for one bungalow and 2 two-bed units. 1st preference on affordable housing provided at Stagholt would be given to Standish residents with 2nd preference to Stonehouse. The Government were encouraging councils to build affordable housing using capital gained from private dwellings therefore the ratio of 3/2 could work. The Group would also have discussions with Stroud District Council.

K3/75 STAGHOLT

Gloucestershire County Council have confirmed changes to the restrictive Covenant on the car park area which will allow the Town Council to develop this land. In light of the report from Building Facilities Group the Committee are asked to consider whether to find another buyer for the land, to enter into a community-led project or to enter into a contract with the current interested party.

The Committee discussed the matter at length and decided to market the land more extensively.

K3/76 OLDEDS LANE PAVILION

1. The shutter door is becoming problematic and given that the usage will increase over the football season the Committee are asked to agree that the door is replaced with an electrically operated shutter at £1900.

The Committee requested the Clerk to investigate further options of securing the building.

2. A Grant of £15000 has been awarded from Gloucestershire County Council towards the 1st phase project costs of £21500 for expenditure in April 2014. The Committee are asked to agree the specification, accept the grant and agree to the match funding of £6500 so that the Clerk may place the order with the contractor.

The Committee agreed the 1st phase objectives but required two further quotations before proceeding.

K3/77 YOUTH BUILDING

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

1. A breakdown of costs as at Valuation No. 4 (circulated). The Committee will be asked to authorise any overspend items.

The Committee were made aware of additional expenditure of £12435 authorised by the project manager under valuation no. 4 some of which was disputed by the Town Clerk. There were additional costs of £8446 for unforeseen items. These were approved by the Committee. The Council had sought clarification over the exterior cladding boards and had been assured by the manufacturer and builder that these would be weather proof when painted with suitable grade paint.

K3/77 Youth Building (continued)

2. Progress report – the work under contract is complete apart from small items of wiring, plumbing, decorating and final snagging

The Clerk would be meeting the Project Manager and contractor for a snagging meeting on 6th December when points 1 and 2 would be discussed.

3. The Committee are asked to agree a Management Policy (circulated)

The Committee agreed the Management Policy adding that the centre would be open to youth groups providing services to young people (under 25 years).

K3/78 FINANCE

- To review Committee expenditure/receipts to date.

Expenditure in October of £4849.81 and Receipts of £555 were agreed as correct.

- To consider a draft budget for 2014-2015

The budget was amended to reflect a reduced income on the football pitches, one-off clearance of Stagholt Brook and to allow for equipment renewal.

K3/79 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Depending on the outcome of K3/73.4 there is an opportunity for storage. For discussion.

The Committee agreed the lights could be stored in the workshop. The current contract runs to October 2014 and the Clerk was to assess the saving to be made. The Committee were disappointed that the power supply on the Green had not been installed as envisaged. Councillor Brine would meet with the contractor to get this altered.

K3/80 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Cllr Govier reported that the AGM took place on 18th November with 17 tenants in attendance. New Committee appointments were made. A comparison of rents on other sites showed that Stonehouse was very reasonable. A tenant had taken the initiative to make repairs to the access road using tarmac scrapings from the recent roadworks.

K3/81 LAND AT PERTH

Stroud District Council have not accepted the suggestion of an inexpensive legal agreement between Councils but insist on a S106 which will cost £500. The Committee are asked to agree that this cost is met by utilising funds from the training budget.

The Committee agreed to meet the cost of the S106 agreement.

K3/82 SKATEPARK

A copy of the payment plan dated 12th November to the contract value of £117,038 + VAT is circulated for agreement.

The plan was approved. Due to the delay in receipt of the lottery funding the RFO was authorised to transfer funds from deposit to maintain cashflow.

K3/83 ARROWSMITH DRIVE

A further complaint has been received about ball games on the open spaces.

The Council has been asked by several residents to install a No Ball Games sign.

The Committee were mindful that the open spaces had not been adopted and were still under the ownership of the developer in which case temporary signs would be put up.

K3/84 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

13th January 2014
