



Stonehouse Town Council

MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Finance & Strategy Meeting)
OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 9TH
DECEMBER 2013 AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE

Present:

Theresa Watt (Convenor of Committee)
Pam Swain (Deputy Convenor of Committee)
Chris Brine (Chairman Town Council)
Simon Lewis (Vice Chairman Town Council)
Vicky Redding
Paul Stephens

In attendance:

Gill Jennings Town Clerk

A G E N D A

K1/65 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

None received/.

K1/66 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 Paul Stephens declared an interest in K1/74 as a Governor of Park Junior School and left the room whilst the item was under discussion.

K1/67 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Maximum of 15 minutes – Any

member of the public may speak only once in respect of any business itemised on the Agenda for a maximum of 5 minutes)

No Participation

K1/68 TO FORMALLY APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4TH
NOVEMBER 2013

The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

K1/69 TO CONSIDER COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2014

There were adjustments to the previously agreed dates due to bank holidays.

K1/70 TO CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE TOWN HALL TO INCREASE HIRE &
SERVICES

A report by the Building Facilities Group will be given and agreement of a plan is required before quotations are sought

A sketch plan showing the possible layout of 3 interview rooms for use by Citizens Advice Bureau and the creation of a council chamber were considered. With minor adjustment to the stairs access the plan was agreed in principle. The Clerk is to obtain costs for further consideration.

K1/71 FINANCE

1. To consider a Risk Assessment Report

The Committee requested slight amendments and discussion with ART Committee before signing off.

2. To agree a programme of capital projects for 2014-15

In 2014-15 the following capital projects would proceed:

Boule Court

Alterations to Town Hall accommodation

Oldends Lane Redevelopment

3. To review earmarked reserve balances and make any necessary changes

The Committee considered unspent reserves and predicted new commitments and agreed these as follows:

Elections	4000
Pensions & Gratuities	12500
Oldends Pavilion	80000
Town Hall Project	15000
Carpark Improvements	30000
Land	7000
Play Equipment	12000
Office Equipment	5000
Street Furniture	5000
Bus Shelters	10000
Recreation	20000
Neighbourhood Plan	3000
Boule Court Contingency	1000
Tools & Machinery	24000
Youth Building (Fencing)	8000

4. To agree payments/receipts for November against budget headings

Committee expenditure £5231.48 and receipts £1533.50 were agreed as correct.

5. To agree payments to date (December)

There were no payments to report.

6. Stroud District Council have agreed to allow those Councils who did not receive the support last year to bid for funds, this will be added to the support grant for 2014-15. The Committee is asked to decide on which project is most suitable for the bid.

Depending on the criteria set by the District Council the Committee agreed that funding might be required for Oldends redevelopment or the Town Hall alterations.

Both schemes were intended to increase income and increase community facilities.

K1/72 TO REVIEW THE BUDGETS OF ALL THREE COMMITTEES FOR 2014-15

All three Committees projected increased costs, with ART projecting decreased income. The Committee felt that the increase should be minimised with any surplus funds, although the Auditors had recommended an increase in the general fund. The District Council had not yet released the D band figure for Stonehouse and this would have to be considered before fixing the precept. The Committee recommends to Council that the Precept is fixed at the January meeting.

K1/73 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

The report was noted. The Committee agreed that it would be useful for all Council Members to have training on the social media sections of the site. Cllr Redding to arrange.

K1/74 TO CONSIDER A GRANT APPLICATION FROM PARK JUNIOR SCHOOL PTA

Park Junior School PTA had requested £500 towards a theatre trip costing £3822. The Committee agreed to provide funds in the sum of £500. (Local Government Act 1972, s.145)

K1/75 MATTERS OF INFORMATION

1. **GAPTC** have issued an update on the new Quality Council Scheme
The information was noted, further details awaited.

K1/76 STAFFING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Meeting adjourned to discuss a confidential report from the Staffing Committee and by Resolution excluded the press and public.

Following the Council's decision to join the Local Government Pension Scheme the Staffing Committee considered and completed the entry documents and had appointed Councillor Theresa Watt to be the Nominated Person for dealing with disputes under stage 1 of the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure. The Committee would now draft the Pension Policy (dispensations) for agreement by Town Council.

The Staffing Committee had also agreed to the Clerk's request for training as part of CPD. She would attend an SLCC course on VAT in February and would find out details of further Local Policy training through the University of Birmingham.

The Staffing Committee would make recommendations to the ART Committee regarding grounds staff contract.

K1/77 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

20 January 2014
