



Stonehouse Town Council

Town Hall, High Street, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 2NG

MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Town Council Meeting) OF A MEETING OF STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2013 COMMENCING AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE.

Present: Chairman/Town Mayor Chris Brine

Vice Chairman Simon Lewis

Councillors John Aldis, Rogier Govier, Anthony Howarth, Carol Kambites, Gary Powell, Clare Sheridan, Pam Swain, Theresa Watt

Also Present: Town Clerk Gill Jennings, District Councillor Mattie Ross

Kate Wilson (Stroud News & Journal) 2 representatives SWJP Developments

Rick Jordan, John Jaynes

TC1387 To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Drew, Redding, Stephens, Waite. County Councillor Williams had also expressed her apologies.

TC1388 Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded of their obligation within the requirements of the Adopted Model Code of Conduct, to declare personal or disclosable pecuniary interests where applicable. Councillor John Aldis declared an interest in K3/62 and took no part in the discussion.

TC1389 To agree the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 7th October 2013

Proposed Theresa Watt, Seconded Clare Sheridan. The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

TC1390 To agree the Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Town Council Meeting held on 14th October 2013

Proposed Theresa Watt, Seconded Clare Sheridan. The Minutes were agreed as a true record. The Project Manager had not produced further reports in time for this meeting.

TC1391 Adjournment for Public Participation (to a maximum of 15 minutes)

The Town Council had been asked to receive a report from the Elm Road Project Group. Rick Jordan explained that on Wednesday 16th October Elm Road Project Group had been set up to campaign against the development of the Elm Road site, save as a community building. It was the objective of the group to take ownership of the site depending on the outcome of the planning application under consideration by Stroud District Council. The group were currently looking at funding streams towards a multi-functional community facility which would also provide jobs in Stonehouse. David Barnes, architect for SWJP Developments explained that the developer had been open to discussion with the community and had offered a draft revised plan to the action group which made available the whole of the downstairs space of the new build. The development had been held in abeyance for a number of years and the developers were keen on bringing a close to the matter. The action group had not given their views on the draft revised plan or made a firm proposal for purchase of the site therefore the developer was at a loss to progress the matter. The Town Council were asked for their opinion of the draft plan and this was delegated as an action for the Regeneration Committee.

TC1392 To Receive Minutes of the Development Control Panel Meeting of the 21st October 2013

Members may address questions to the Chair.
There were no questions and the Minutes were noted.

TC1393 To Receive Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee Meeting of the 21st October

Members may address questions to the Chair
There were no questions and the Minutes were noted.

TC1394 Ship Inn Site

Report from John Jaynes circulated:

The Chief Executive of Stroud District Council has written to say that the Ship Inn Site has now been transferred to the District Council in lieu of a capital contribution towards restoration of the canal. A report is expected to go to Strategy & Resources Committee recommending the site is marketed on a leasehold basis to fulfil the community vision of a public house (discussed with District Councillor Chris Brine, County Councillor Lesley Williams, and John Jaynes representing Stonehouse Community Partnership). At the same time the Chief Executive has written dismissing the Town Council's complaint about the way in which the nomination of the Ship Inn Site was dealt with before process was in place.

The Council have no choice but to withdraw the petition against the transfer.

Councillor Chris Brine explained that the Strategy & Resources Committee would consider whether the proposal was viable. The Clerk is to write to the Chief Executive asking that the Town Council is consulted on any alternative uses.

TC1395 Bristol Road Station

The GLTB funding scheme has been re-scoped to provide £3.3 million and the Town Council has an opportunity to revise the current proforma with new information. The Council to consider whether to obtain expert advice in the sum of £500.

Proposed: Theresa Watt Seconded: Carol Kambites The Council agreed to fund the expert advice in the sum of £500 however it was crucial that Ward Councillors ensured that Stroud District Council engaged in the process and sought a joint meeting with Network Rail and First Great Western to discuss viability of the station. It was not enough to just mention it in the Local Plan.

TC1396 To receive Brief Reports from County/District Councillors/Town Councillors

- High Street Repairs – A report has been circulated

The County Council had met with Town Council on the 16th October. Having considered other surfacing materials the Town Council were still of the opinion that paving blocks in a superior material would have been preferable but the County Council were of the opinion that the mastertint tarmac would achieve a satisfactory repair. The County Council confirmed that the contractor's workmanship was not at fault and took responsibility for agreeing the specification of the concrete blocks. The repair work would take place on a Sunday to avoid disruption to business and there would be full publicity to raise awareness.

- A letter has been sent from the Town Council to Glos County Council (Mark Hawthorne) asking what funding provision might be made towards youth facilities in Stonehouse.

There was no response to report.

Councillor Chris Brine advised the meeting that Pegasus Group were holding a public consultation of making an urban extension to the west of Stonehouse comprising of 1500 houses, 10 hectares of employment land, primary school. This would take place in the Town Hall on the 21st November.

He reported on the large attendance at the Memorial Service on the 10th November with over 1000 people attending. The Council were asked to consider a total road closure for next year's ceremony.

Councillor Brine advised that SDC had debated the subject of unitary authorities but this was a matter being pursued by the County Council.

Councillor Mattie Ross felt she could not contribute to the meeting without knowing what the Town Council expected of her and without receiving all the reports. The Clerk explained that some reports for the meeting had been circulated to Councillor Ross from source. It would be useful if District/County Councillors could bring reports of their Council's activities which affected Stonehouse. If the Town Council wanted assistance in a Town Council matter then this could be referred to District/County Members by the Chairman at the appropriate time during a meeting.

TC1397 To receive Minutes of the Amenities & Recreation Committee Meeting of the 28th October 2013

Members may address questions to the Chair. Councillor Swain explained that the Working Group had not yet seen any plans for the workshop. The Minutes were noted.

Resolutions required:

- The Council are to consider K3/61 and to decide whether to delay or whether to proceed with The Boule Court

The Council Resolved to proceed with the Boule Court with payment from S106 Dove Hill funding. (2 members abstained from voting/1 against)

- The Council are required to consider K3/62 and to decide whether to adopt or amend the Youth Strategic Plan Sept 2013-Sept 2018

Councillor Swain explained that "advertising" meant information about activities and not advertising use of the youth centre.

It was agreed that the youth working group should consult with local parishes to find out whether the South West model would work here and to ascertain what funding might be available. However some members had not seen the Strategic Plan and a decision on its adoption was deferred.

TC 1398 To receive the Minutes of the Finance & Strategy Meeting held on the 4th November 2013

Members may raise questions to the Chair. Cllr. Carol Kambites asked whether the Council were agreeing with the proposal of no more than 2% increase in the precept. The Clerk explained that draft budgets would be put back to the respective committees with the recommendation from Finance Committee but would be for Council to decide at its meeting on 16th December.

Resolutions required:

- To adopt a template for Working Group Reports setting out the purpose of the Group, names of Working Group Members and to whom the Group Reports

Proposed: Theresa Watt Seconded: Simon Lewis

The Council Resolved to adopt the template for Working Group reports.

- To rejoin the Local Government Pension Scheme

Proposed: Theresa Watt Seconded: Carol Kambites

The Council Resolved by unanimous vote to join the Gloucestershire County Council Local Government Pension Scheme. Employees of 12 months duration of service earning more than £9000 per annum would be eligible to join. The eligibility criteria would be reviewed against statutory requirements.

TC1399 Finance

1. The Council are asked to agree payments to date in November.

Payments from cheque 7580-7591 totalling £8323.06 were agreed for payment.

2. The Council are to consider additional items of expenditure on the youth building

The Project Manager had cautioned that costs had risen above the contingencies sums set aside (£12500) but had not produced the totals. The Council had raised a complaint with regard to the external finishing of the building. The Project Manager had been asked to investigate. In the meantime the Contractor had produced a 4th valuation notice in the sum of £52379.21. The Council agreed to pay £35000 on account whilst matters were being resolved.

TC1400 Matters of Information

1. The Planning Inquiry into Javelin Park development by Urbaser will commence on the 19th November.

2. Getting It Built – Community Led Housing Event on 22nd November

TC1401 Dates of Future Meetings

25th November	Development Control Panel	6.15pm
	Regeneration & Environment Committee	7.00pm
2nd December	Staffing Committee	
	Amenities Recreation & Tourism Committee	7.00pm
9th December	Finance & Strategy Committee	7.00pm
16th December	Full Town Council	7.00pm
