



Stonehouse Town Council

MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Town Council Meeting)
of a meeting of STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL held on Monday 16th December 2013 at 7pm in the Town Hall, High Street, Stonehouse

Present: Chairman/Town Mayor Councillor Brine
Vice Chairman Simon Lewis
Councillors John Aldis, David Drew, Roger Govier,
Carol Kambites, Gary Powell, Vicky Redding, Paul Stephens,
Pam Swain, Theresa Watt

Also Present:
District Councillor Mattie Ross, Kate Wilson (Stroud News & Journal)
9 members of the public Town Clerk Gill Jennings

The Chairman opened the meeting to congratulate everyone who took part in the very successful Carol Service on the Green and special thanks were noted to Terry Webb for the provision of a tremendous sound system. The Service was well attended.

TC1402 To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Anthony Howarth, Clare Sheridan, Rob Waite
County Councillor Lesley Williams had also given her apologies

TC1403 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.
Councillors Paul Stephens and David Drew declared an interest in K2/68 and left the room during discussions.

TC1404 To agree the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 11th November 2013

The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

TC1405 Matters Arising –

(TC1397) Youth Strategic Plan 2013-2018

The Plan was adopted by the Town Council.

(TC1396) Youth Funding – Cllr Mark Hawthorne GCC has responded to say that funding would only be available if circumstances allowed i.e. as a capital sum from the relocation of the library to the Town Council offices.

The County Councillor's comments were noted but the Town Council was aggrieved by the lack of re-investment in Stonehouse from gains in the disposal of County land.

TC1406 Adjournment for Public Participation (to a maximum of 15 minutes)

Members of the public made reference to K2/68 Elm Road Site.

Rick Jordan asked the Town Council to support the concept of a new community facility on the entire site.

Anna Creed stated that Stonehouse was missing out and losing facilities and people wanted to see something put back. The Elm Road Community Project were working on a business plan for a multi-functional community facility with a view to purchasing and redeveloping the site.

Continued overleaf -

TC/1406 Adjournment for Public Participation (continued)

The Project had visited other facilities and had in mind a space which catered for breakfast, After School and holiday Play Schemes, toddler groups, adult learning centre, community café, library, arts venue, counselling/healthcare rooms, and space for private functions.

A resident mentioned that the community space offered by the developer would not be suitable alongside residential buildings.

A resident expressed concern that a leaseholder might not come forward to take the space offered by SWJP and it would be difficult to sustain a facility over the long term.

A resident felt that Stonehouse lacked a facility for marriages/private functions.

A representative for SWJP stated that use by large social functions had not been envisaged.

The offer to the Project for them to purchase the site for £250,000 would remain on the table until the end of March 2014 but the developer would now proceed with the planning application.

Cllr Brine requested that the Town Council was kept up to date with ERCP's efforts to obtain funding.

TC1407 Ship Inn Site

To consider a report on proposals made by the District Council and to agree a response.

The Council considered the two proposals put forward by the District Council and agreed that the second proposal was more acceptable in that it offered wider scope for community use.

The Council hoped that the District Council would be persuaded not to dispose of the site without restrictions.

TC1408 To Receive Minutes of the Development Control Panel Meeting of the 25th November 2013

Members may address questions to the Chair.

There were no questions.

TC1409 To Receive Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee Meeting of the 25th November 2013

Members may address questions to the Chair

There were no questions on the Minutes.

(K2/68) Elm Road Site

To receive the Minutes of a meeting held between the Elm Road Project Group and stakeholders. (Due to procedure the Council may not make a decision on any new proposals put forward by the group but may make a decision on the existing proposal put forward by the developer)

Council noted the Minutes and Councillors made the following comments on the proposal put forward by SWJP Developments.

The space offered is only suitable for day use/ A larger facility on the whole site would create parking problems and noise/ The current building is an eyesore to the detriment of two good schools and development is needed to tidy up the area/ The church hall had been popular in its day but had deteriorated over the years through a lack of funding for upkeep and although it was nice to think it could be restored it was probably not feasible/ Mixed residential and evening community use not compatible.

The Council concluded that the space offered was useful but limited.

(K2/71) Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

To note the Minutes of the Working Group.

The Minutes were noted. The Working Group having made some inroads, had explored the requirements and were now trying to create a formal Neighbourhood Plan Group ready to sign up to the Nolan principles.

TC1410 Bristol Road Station

An updated bid has been submitted and is competing with other bids under an independent review. Councillor Drew felt it was important to reinforce the view of the railway company that Bristol Road station was a better option than a new station at Standish.

TC1411 To receive Brief Reports from County/District Councillors/Town Councillors

Councillor Gary Powell reported on a presentation given by Lovell Homes. A review of regulations regarding pets in sheltered homes had concluded to allow new pets being brought in. Arrangements were being made to assist tenants obtain credit rating. Councillor Mattie Ross added that the District Council Housing Revenue Account was extremely healthy but due to welfare reform there was increased work with Foodbank and Credit Union. The District Council were making progress with housing provision working with CLTs.

TC1412 To receive Minutes of the Amenities & Recreation Committee Meeting of the 2nd December 2013

Members may raise questions to the Chair. Councillor Kambites asked for an explanation of the pension entry criteria.

K1/76 Draft Pension Policy

The Council agreed the entry criteria and draft Pension Dispensations.

TC 1413 To receive the Minutes of the Finance & Strategy Meeting held on the 9th December 2013

Members may raise questions to the Chair.

There were no questions.

TC1414 Finance

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

Payments were agreed to cheque no. 7611 £45164.95

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

- Kitchen Tiling in the sum of £391
- Additional fire fighting equipment required to satisfy regulations
- Render finish to the building £2500

These additions were agreed.

3. The Council are asked to complete payment of Valuation No. 4 (Youth Building)

Information was still outstanding from the Project Manager

4. Committee Budgets are circulated for approval – Please refer to Finance & Strategy recommendation K1/72.

The Council considered the budget requirements of all three Committees totalling £212900 but deferred a decision until the impact of the Government's Autumn statement became clear. Councillors voiced reluctance to deplete capital reserves.

TC1415 Matters for Brief Discussion

1. GRCC have provided an update on the District Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

Towns and parishes are invited to compose a parish-specific addendum and adopt the Protocol.

TC1415 Matters for Brief Discussion (continued)

A meeting of the parishes to discuss the Protocol will take place at Stroud District Council offices on 7th January 2014 and a decision on adoption was deferred until the New Year. Regeneration Committee are tasked to examine the detail and to complete the addendum.

2. Standish Parish Council have consulted the Town Council regarding the future of Standish Hospital

Councillor Drew expressed his concern about a meeting which took place between the District Council Planning Department and the agents for the NHS Property Services that did not refer to the extant provision for the site to be used for community health care. He felt that previous research by Housing 21 had come up with a workable proposal which should have provided a basis for discussion on the future of the site. The Council asked the Clerk to write to the District Council and NHS Property Services for further details of their policies.

TC1416 Dates of Future Meetings

6 th January	Development Control Panel	6.15pm
6 th January	Regeneration & Environmental Committee	7.00pm
13 th January	Staffing Committee	6.15pm
13 th January	Amenities Recreation & Tourism Committee	7.00pm
20 th January	Finance & Strategy Committee	7.00pm
27 th January	Full Town Council	7.00pm
