

Stonehouse Town Council



MINUTES (subject to approval at the next Committee meeting)
Of a MEETING OF THE FINANCE & STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 24TH
NOVEMBER 2014 AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE

Present:

Simon Lewis (Convenor of Committee)
Pam Swain (Deputy Convenor of Committee)
Theresa Watt (Vice-Chair of Town Council)
Rob Waite

Also Present: Town Clerk Gill Jennings

K1/155 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Brine (SDC meeting) Cllr Stephens (Governors meeting)

K1/156 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 Waite declared an interest in K1/161.1 in so far as there was a payment to Hostpipe.

Councillor Lewis declared an interest in K1/161.9 & 10 in relation to involvement with Stonehouse Memory Link.

K1/157 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 adjournment was called

K1/158 TO FORMALLY APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th OCTOBER 2014

The Minutes were agreed as a true record

K1/159 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

1. To agree a Communications Policy – Further draft for consideration

Councillor Waite proposed that the Policy be referred back to the Communication Working Group for further amendment. This was seconded by Councillor Swain and carried.

K1/160 YOUTH MATTERS

1. To receive a report from the Youth Working Group and to consider a proposal for new junior session and joint working with Cainscross Parish Council - **The Committee agreed in principle the additional session at the current session price. The costs of the joint working arrangement with Cainscross Parish Council needed further clarification as there was a contract in place for sessions at £105 each whereas the figures presented implied an increase in the session price to £120 each if based on a 50 week term.**
2. To receive a report from Young Gloucestershire 1st Quarter report – **The report was noted and indicated a vast improvement in participation and outcomes.**

K1/161 FINANCE

1. To check and agree expenditure/receipts totals against budget headings for October 2014
Receipts £10862.85 Expenditure £10528.15
2. To consider and agree any recommendations from the Staffing Committee – **The Committee agreed that the Council must put succession planning in place, also that allowance should be made for extended Neighbourhood Plan administration. Council Chairpersons to meet with staff to discuss.**
3. To consider and discuss the 2nd draft budget – **The Committee discussed the draft budget but could not make any recommendation until Stroud DC had fixed the tax bands and LCTS. The budget would go to Council for resolution in January. F & S Committee to meet on 5th January to prepare.**
4. To review account balances, consider and agree future investment options – **The Committee agreed to split investment £60K to Santander (Dec) and £50K to Lloyds (Jan).**
5. To agree payments to date November – **Payments to cheque no. 7822 £7771.37 were agreed.**
6. To review the insurance policy cover and agree amendments – **The increase in cover was agreed to include new computer and grounds maintenance equipment.**
7. To receive a report on funding opportunities – **The Committee agreed that an analysis of funding criteria and suitable projects should be undertaken. A working group of Cllr Redding, Cllr Watt and Town Clerk were appointed.**
8. To consider renewal subscription to FIT £50 and GPFA £100 – **The Committee agreed the renewal of subscriptions.**
9. To consider grant applications
CAB £2000 – the application seemed to indicate that £2000 was required in 2015/16 but the narrative indicated that £2500 was required. In any case the Committee would not consider this application until April 2015 but sufficient budget was in place.
Stonehouse Memory Link £500 – **The Committee agreed to support the cost of producing 160 books at £3 each - £480.**
10. To consider request from Stonehouse Memory Link to become trust fund holder – **The Committee agreed that it would be difficult to hold the funds without becoming involved in further accounting and administration, therefore the request would be declined.**

K1/162 STRATEGY

1. To discuss and agree strategic plans for prioritisation in 2015-20 – **The Committee recommended adoption of the Strategic Plan with the addition of the sentence Improve the Town environment**
2. To receive an update on the Quality Parish Council Scheme – **The Committee noted the proposals to introduce a three tier scheme in 2015.**
3. CIL – These payments are due to be paid direct to parishes – Committee to discuss approach to SDC – **The Committee agreed that more information was required from Stroud District Council regarding their administration of the Community Infrastructure Levy. Clerk to write.**

K1/163 TOWN HALL

To consider modifications to the interior space. – **The Committee agreed that further quotations to incorporate changes to the stairs and a new display cabinet were required.**

K1/164 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5th JANUARY 2015 (budget meeting)

9TH FEBRUARY 2015
