



Stonehouse Town Council

MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting)
of A MEETING OF THE REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE

Present:

Councillors: Carol Kambites (Convenor)
Vicky Redding (Deputy Convenor)
Theresa Watt (Chair of Council/Mayor)
Amy Coombs
Committee Clerk: Rachel Russell

Attendees are reminded that the Proceedings of this meeting may be filmed, photographed or recorded.

K2/247 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. Swain

K2/248 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

K2/249 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21
SEPTEMBER 2015

The Minutes were approved as a true record.

K2/250 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no call for an adjournment.

K2/251 HIGH STREET HIGHWAYS ISSUES

1. The notes of the meeting held at Stonehouse Town Council with Gloucestershire County Highways and Amey on 2nd October 2015 were received.
 - a) Cllrs. noted that the improvements to the High Street shared space scheme proposed by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and Amey would be presented to the full Town Council meeting in December 2015. Cllr. Watt advised that County Councillor Lesley Williams has asked there can be any use of different coloured channels to visually narrow the shared space section.
 - b) Accessibility at The Elms; it was noted that Andrew Middlecote, Area Manager for GCC Highways was investigating this.
2. **Parking outside Co-op Funeral Care**
The Committee agreed to recommend to GCC Highways that the area outside Co-op Funeral Care should become a designated parking space.
3. **Parking bays and road markings, High Street, near The Computer Shop**
It was agreed to ask GCC Highways to propose solutions to the parking problems in this area. for consideration at the December 2015 Town Council meeting as they have suggested improvements could be part of High Street improvement scheme scheduled for Spring 2016. It was agreed to request that Traffic Wardens visit the town centre more regularly.

K2/252 CONSULTATIONS

1. FIRE & RESCUE Integrated Risk Management Plan 2015-18: Operational Response Review Consultation

It was agreed that Stonehouse Town Council's response to this consultation should support the emphasis on prevention of emergencies so long as fire and rescue services to Stonehouse are not affected by any additional demands on Stroud Fire Station.

2. FUNDED PUBLIC TRANSPORT CONSULTATION, Gloucestershire County Council

There are no proposals to change bus routes to Stonehouse. Responses to the consultation survey questions suitable for a response from an organisation rather than an individual were agreed:

- The highest priority for local funding for concessionary bus passes should be allowing disability related pass holders to travel before 9.30 to access work and volunteering opportunities.
- The 2011 level of maximum funding per person is too low.
- The removal of a subsidy for bus pass users on Park and Ride services would be supported.
- Further comments: Funded Public Transport services are vital to communities. Different bus services and rail services should be well integrated to allow easy onward journeys. Real time bus information would be a very useful improvement.

3. Gloucestershire's draft Local Transport Plan (2015-2031) Consultation It was noted that this consultation will run for 11 weeks between 20 November 2015 and 5 February 2016. A link to the formal consultation documents will be circulated when available.

K2/253 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

The guidance in the Community Approaches to Reducing Traffic Speed Toolkit (GRCC and Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership) circulated with the agenda was considered. It was agreed to take no action at present as current information suggests that setting up such a scheme is not a high priority; GCC advised at the meeting on 2 October 2015 that the High Street improvement schemes have reduced speeds to an average of 20-24 miles per hour.

K2/254 STREET AUDIT

Cllr. Coombs offered to liaise with Liz Lawrence, Deputy Town Clerk to arrange a street audit to look at condition of street furniture such as bus shelters and seats and produce list of any that need replacement over the next 5 years for consideration at the Town Council meeting, February 2016.

K2/255 AMEY'S PARISH & TOWN COUNCIL SURVEY 2015

It was agreed that the Town Council's response to survey will include the following comments: Service is generally poor. Specific problems include:

- Footpaths not cleared, brambles and undergrowth not cleared.
- Potholes not dealt with.
- Signs and traffic lights not kept visible
- Verges not cut.
- Overgrown and difficult to cycle near Court View.

K2/256 ECO-PARK ON LAND AT M5 JUNCTION 13

Cllrs. Kambites and Redding reported that no clear answers were received during the pre-planning application consultation to questions about what sustainable transport connections to the site would be or what green criteria a business would have to meet to be based on the site. A request was made during the consultation for the Eco Park developers to fund a feasibility study

into the re-opening of Bristol Road station. Stonehouse Town Council have been asked if they could contribute to this cost. Cllr. Watt to check that the site remains protected within the Local Transport Plan and to investigate seeking funding from other partners such as Stroud District Council and GCC.

K2/257 STANDISH HOSPITAL SITE

1. Standish House site Planning Concept Statement, adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by Stroud District Council in June 2015 was circulated with the agenda and noted. Cllr. Redding gave a verbal report on the Standish Partnership meeting of 29 September. The site is on the open market until 17 November (Phase 1 of sale process). In Phase 2, the site will go out to tender to develop with enabling development. Historic England are involved in advising on enabling development. The Westridge site is still used by the NHS and there is no proposal to include with the Standish site.
2. Max Comfort of Stroud Common Wealth Ltd met with Councillors before the meeting to explain their proposals regarding Care Housing on the site. Councillors agreed that there were concerns about the deliverability of the proposals but supported the use of the site for care purposes.

Resolution for next Town Council meeting: That Stonehouse Town Council support the use of the Standish Hospital Site for Care Housing as proposed by Stroud Commonwealth Limited.

K2/258 STANDISH PARISH COUNCIL TRACKS AND TRAILS SCHEME.

1. Cllr. Kambites gave a verbal report of her meeting on 1st October 2015 with two members of Standish Parish Council (PC) on their plan for a horse, cycle and pedestrian route adjacent to the B4008 between Stonehouse and Oxlynch. Cllr. Kambites explained to the Parish Councillors that the path needed to extend to Little Haresfield to be useful to cyclists.
2. A request from Standish PC for contribution to the cost of a feasibility study into this plan, potential cost up to £3,000 was discussed. Councillors were concerned that any scheme could be very expensive. Standish are seeking a detailed quote from Tracks and Trails for the cost of a feasibility study. It was agreed that once Standish have this cost, Councillors will consider the request for a contribution.

K2/259 COMMUNITY R4C PROPOSALS FOR A WASTE FACILITY AT JAVELIN PARK

Councillors considered a request from Community R4C to come and give a presentation to Stonehouse Town Council in connection with the resource, recovery, refining and recycling waste facility they are planning to construct at Javelin Park. Community R4C are seeking statements of support for their proposal. It was agreed to invite Community R4C to attend the next Committee meeting for a 15 minute slot.

K2/260 ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The draft policy prepared by Cllrs. Coombs and Kambites and circulated with the agenda was discussed. The following comments were made:

- Policy would benefit from a statement of purpose
- Environmental policies of some other Town Councils should be reviewed.
- Policy could extend to a Town Council commitment to supporting environmental policies in the town.

K2/261 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllrs reported that they have previously agreed that there was nothing the Town Council could add to the District's Emergency Plan. Cllr Watt will look at GRCC's Community Emergency Plan CD.

K2/262 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Minutes of Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, 17 September 2015 and 1st October 2015 were circulate with the agenda. Rachel Russell gave a verbal update on recent work by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group:

- A successful consultation event on emerging policies attended by around 70 people was held on 17 October; the emerging policies met with a largely positive response.
- There is a further consultation opportunity with the business community at a Stonehouse Town Council event on developing a Chamber of Commerce. Cllr Kambites offered to help prepare a display for this event.
- Stroud District Council are considering extending the submission deadline for a February 2017 referendum to July 2016. Councillors' complaint about the previous timetable, where the submission deadline was March 2016, has been used, along with complaints from other areas, in the SDC report proposing the change.

K2/263 COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE

1. Expenditure against budget is as expected with the main item being wages paid to the Committee Clerk for Neighbourhood Plan administration, £1604.15 spent at October 2015 from budget of £2000.

There will shortly be £1250 drawn down from the £2870 CDF Neighbourhood Plan grant monies held within the Committee's budget to pay for consultancy work.

2. Councillors consider a committee budget for 2016/2017. A possible budget of £8,000 to cover the Committee Clerk/Neighbourhood Administrator's wages had been provided in writing by Gill Jennings, the Town Clerk. Councillors agreed to request the following additions to the budget:
- £7,000 for a contribution to the cost of opening up a feasibility study for the re-opening of Bristol Road station.
 - £1,000 for a contribution to the feasibility study for Standish PC's Tracks and Trails scheme.

K2/264 PLANNING RESULTS (RECEIVED FROM STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL)

(For Members' information – the letter in brackets are an indication of the Town Council observations. N.O. = No Observations/OBJ = Object/SUPP = Support/DNO or Supp = Do Not Object or Support)

S.15/1736/TPO	Elgin Court, High Street, Stonehouse. T1,T2 &T3 - Horse Chestnut trees - fell. Replace with 3 Pride of India trees in the same location.	CONSENT	(OBJ.)
S.15/1882/LBC	Gardeners Cottage, Downton Road, Bridgend. Extension and internal alterations	WITHDRAWN	(N.O)
S.15/2109/TCA	Stonehouse Park , Sperry Way, Stonehouse. Re-pollard 6 Willow trees to the original point of pollarding.	CONSENT	(N.O)

K2/265 DATE OF NEXT MEETING & AGENDA ITEMS

11th January 2016