



# Stonehouse Town Council

**MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting)**  
**of A MEETING OF THE REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON**  
**MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016 AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE**

**Present:**

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

**Also present:** County Councillor Lesley Williams, four members of the public

---

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

---

**K2/300 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Coombs

**K2/301 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**K2/302 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2016**

The Minutes were approved as a true record.

**K2/303 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public asked what work is due to be carried out on the High Street shared space scheme. The Committee Clerk showed some draft plans of the work to members of the public present.

County Cllr. Williams explained that the current information was that the work, which is funded by the County Council, would be carried out in the day time under temporary traffic lights and the road would be shut for two Sundays to allow resurfacing to be carried out.

Caroline Wynn, owner of Wynn's Coffee Shop expressed the following concerns:

- The speed ramps have slowed down traffic rather than the shared space. She would prefer a 20mph speed limit with a zebra crossing.
- Signage for parking restrictions and shared space is inadequate.
- Parking restrictions outside Wynn's are unclear as there are no double yellows and poor signage.

County Cllr. Williams said scheme had improved safety and she will check if temporary traffic lights be removed when not needed.

Another trader spoke of the high level of concern amongst High Street traders about the potential disruption which may be caused by work to the shared space scheme and a perception that the Town Council are not aware of this depth of feeling.

Cllr. Watts said the Town Council were aware that conditions are difficult for traders due to national economic conditions and the Town Council had invited traders last year to a meeting about setting up a Chamber of Commerce but only two traders came. Cllr. Redding reported that the Development Control Panel had objected to a planning application for a supermarket at

Brunsdon's Yard on the ground that it was likely to have an adverse impact on High Street traders. Cllr. Kambites said the Town Council welcomed communication and comments from traders particularly on how to best work with and support traders.

## **K2/304 HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

### **1. Oldends Lane**

a) The Committee Clerk reported that Scott Tompkins of Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Highways advised that that a 20mph would not necessarily provide an improved safe access to facilities when average speeds are already as low as 26mph. He suggested that Andrew Middlecote, Area Manager, could assist in assessing options to improve road safety. A meeting with Andrew Middlecote will be arranged; County Cllr. Williams will be invited.

b) A Community Speed Toolkit with a range of possible actions to improve safety sent by GCC Highways had been circulated with the agenda.

**Proposal for Town Council:** That a working group on Traffic is set up to look at the Toolkit and which actions needed in relation to traffic, safety and parking.

2. **High Street improvements:** The current information from GCC is that work is due to begin around 21<sup>st</sup> June and will continue for around 10-12 weeks. The work is likely to overlap with In Bloom which will be judged in the first week of July. Cllr. Watts reported that when GCC Highways gave a presentation on the proposed improvements to the full Town Council meeting in December they said the work would be taking place on Sundays only. County Cllr. Williams to find out if work will only be taking place on Sundays.

### **3. GCC Parking Review:**

a) The Committee Clerk report that the GCC Parking Manager, Jim Daniels, had contacted the Town Council to arrange a meeting with Town Councillors about a Parking Review of Stonehouse. The Parking Review will take around 9 months and GCC consult initially with councillors, then with the public. The resulting proposals will also be subject to consultation. Cllrs. Kambites and Swain will attend a meeting with the GCC Parking Manager on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016; County Cllr. Williams to be invited.

b) The Committee Clerk reported that the Town Council has made several requests for the area outside Co-op funeral care to be made a designated parking bay and GCC Highways suggested at a meeting in October 2015 that some changes to parking bays might be done alongside shared space improvements. County Cllr. Williams will find out whether this bay will be designated as part of shared space work or if action will have to wait until Parking Review carried out.

4. It was agreed that the following Highways issues will be put forward for funding in 2016/17 and reported to County Councillor Lesley Williams:

- Improvements to footpath from Horsetrough roundabout up West side of Bath Road.
- Repairs to Town Green near bus stop outside pharmacy where a rut is being caused by vehicles mounting kerb. The Committee Clerk reported that the Town Clerk is liaising with GCC Highways about this.

5. It was agreed that the information on GCC's Big Community Offer – Highways Your Way regarding Community Action (support and advice), Community Match (funding) and Community Top-up (extra charged for services) should be looked into by the Traffic Working Group proposed under K2/304/1 (b).

6. Although flooding on Horsetrough Roundabout seems to have been dealt with, problems have been reported with the footpath around the roundabout. County Cllr. Williams advised photographs of the issue would be useful.

7. It was reported by Councillors that no action regarding a request/petition to Stroud District Council to allow one hour's free parking in the town centre car park will be taken as a Parking Review is imminent.

## **K2/305 BRISTOL ROAD STATION FEASIBILITY STUDY**

1. The Committee Clerk reported that the Town Clerk had advised that a feasibility study should have sufficient detail to support funding bids, to counter the position taken in the Amey report for the Local Plan which only identified Bristol Road as a long term project and to meet Network Rail GRIP requirements.  
Cllr. Watts reported that she was attending a meeting about Bristol Road Station organised by Neil Carmichael MP with various partners including GCC, the Local Economic Partnership and Ecotricity on 7<sup>th</sup> April. It was decided to postpone a decision about the content of a feasibility study until after this meeting.
2. The Committee Clerk will contact Ecotricity regarding their offer of £15,000 towards the cost of a feasibility study to inform them of the above decision. Until the Town Council has a specification and quotes it will not be able to accept the funding.

## **K2/306 STATION LINK PATH PROJECT**

The Committee Clerk reported that GCC Highways have awarded a grant of £3,000 in addition to the grant of £6,000 awarded by Great Western Railway (GWR) and that GWR have been advised the work will be completed by November 2016. The next steps are

- to obtain quotes for the work, ensuring contractors are aware of issues with puddles and drainage on the path.
- to get permission from Network Rail to cut back vegetation
- to arrange signage. Cllr Watts can provide contacts for relevant contractors.

## **K2/307 INFORMATION FOR STATION USERS ON PUBLIC CAR PARK**

The Committee Clerk present two versions of a poster with logos from GCC and GWR included. She reported that GWR cannot display within the station due to their contract with parking provided APCOA although will be able to keep as fliers at ticket office. It was decided to use version with GWR logo also in words and to have posters laminated thickly to make them durable.

## **K2/308 NETWORK RAIL MEETING ON LEVEL CROSSINGS**

The Committee Clerk reported back from the earlier meeting with Network Rail on level crossings. Daniel Collins, Network Rail's sponsor for level crossing closures, gave a presentation on the 6 level crossings in Stonehouse. Network Rail's priority is safety and the safest option is to close level crossings.

- Stonehouse 2 will be closed as usage increases when West of Stonehouse is developed.
- Stonehouse 26 will be closed as part of plans for station.
- Globe Inn crossing: a report on options is being prepared.
- Oldends Lane crossing is one of the safest types available. A foot bridge costs around £1.5m, a road bridge around £6m and Network Rail have to bid for funding. Cllrs. pointed out to Network Rail that the Western Route Strategy proposes heavier use of the South Line and West of Stonehouse means there will be more use of the Oldends crossing over time. The Town Council will submit a form to Network Rail's asset management team registering their wish that a bridge be constructed at Oldends Lane.

## **K2/309 STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL'S SHELTERED HOUSING REVIEW AND PARK ESTATE**

Cllr. Kambites reported back on a meeting with Stroud District Council (SDC) Asset Management and District Councillors and Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group to discuss a proposal to designate the Park Estate greens as Local Green Space; SDC want to maintain flexibility over use of these areas to aid possible future regeneration projects on the estate.. The Committee Clerk reported back on a Town Council meeting with SDC Asset Management of 24 March 2016. The Sheltered Housing Review identified six "red" schemes which are likely to be dealt with in three broad phases: 1: Nailsworth and Wooton-under-Edge, 2: Dursley and Cam

and 3: Stonehouse (Burdett and Willow). It is hard to set a timescale as this is dependent on funding. Costed option appraisals for each scheme are likely to be put before a June meeting of SDC Housing committee. A meeting with Dave Milner, SDC's Sheltered Housing Project Manager, will be arranged for the end of May.

### **K2/310 STREET AUDIT**

Three of the seven shelters which are the Town Council's responsibility have not yet been inspected.

### **K2/311 THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHARTER**

The sixth edition of this agreement regarding County Council commitment to parish and town councils was noted.

### **K2/312 LOCATION OF STONEHOUSE SIGN, GLOUCESTER ROAD**

The observations of a Standish Parish Councillor that a Stonehouse sign may be in Standish parish were noted. The Town Council thanks him for this information. The signs were sited some time ago in line with advice from Gloucestershire County Council Highways.

### **K2/313 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE**

1. Minutes of Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group meetings of 25 February 2016 and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 had been circulated with the agenda. Cllr Kambites gave a progress report including an update on the current timetable. A full draft will be presented for approval to the Town Council's AGM in May and a 6 week public consultation will take place from 2 July to 14 August.

2. The Committee supports the inclusion of the following areas as Local Green Space in the draft Neighbourhood Plan: Boakes Drive green, Court View newt ponds

3. Cllr. Kambites is working on a draft of the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring and Review process. It is proposed that the Town Council report on a set of indicators related to Neighbourhood Plan policies, which will be collated annually for the Town Annual meeting and probably bi-annually for the Regeneration and Environment Committee.

4. It was agreed to send a response supporting the proposals in the government's Implementation of Planning Changes Technical Consultation to set time limits for district councils to implement various stages of the neighbourhood plan process including a proposed time period within which a referendum must be held.

### **K2/314 COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE**

Councillors requested that the income and expenditure from the first CDF grant received by Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group continues to be shown with the Committee expenditure information.

### **K2/315 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)

#### **15/2212 80, Woodcock Lane, Stonehouse**

Proposed demolition and reconstruction of existing coach house, garages and stables  
**WITHDRAWN (COMMENT)**

#### **15/2828 Gardeners Cottage, Downton Road, Bridgend, Stonehouse.**

Two storey extension to provide additional bedroom, utility and cloakroom, with stairs leading to bathroom. Wall to be knocked through from kitchen to bathroom. Door in court yard to be blocked up.

**CONSENT (N.O)**

- 15/2852 Delphi Diesel Systems Ltd, Brunel Way, Stonehouse. Permission**  
Erection of modular storage building with an electric roller shutter door and pvc roof.  
**CONSENT (NOT CONSULTED ON)**
- 15/2872 Unit 27, Bonds Mill, Bristol Road, Stonehouse.**  
Renovation of an existing warehouse as office space including reconstruction of a partly demolished wing  
**CONSENT (SUPPORT)**
- 16/0047 67 Adelaide Gardens, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2PZ.**  
The addition of a first floor side extension and single storey rear extension with associated internal and external demolition and remodelling.  
**CONSENT (N.O)**
- 16/0155 40 Osprey Drive, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2EJ.**  
Two storey extension to existing house.  
**CONSENT (N.O)**

**K2/316 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS**

The Committee Clerk is away on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016; Councillors requested that the next meeting be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

---