



STONEHOUSE **TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Town Council meeting)
of a meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 10 JULY 2017 AT 7PM IN THE TOWN
HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE.**

Present: Councillors Gwen Atkinson, John Callinan, Deborah Curtis, Ray Clegg, Neil Gibbs, Tim Jackson, Carol Kambites (Vice Chairman/Deputy Town Mayor), Gary Powell, Pam Swain

Also Present: Town Clerk/RFO, County Councillor Lesley Williams, Stroud News & Journal, Carol Novoth (Stroud District Council Neighbourhood Warden)

TC1889 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Watt (family matter) and Cllr Stephens (family matter)
Councillor Kambites chaired the meeting

TC1890 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Curtis declared an interest in TC1902 (reimbursement of expenses In Bloom)

TC1891 To agree the Minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting of 22nd May 2017

Proposed Cllr Powell/seconded Cllr Atkinson that the minutes be accepted as a true record.

All in favour.

TC1892 Accept the Minutes of the Development Control Panel Meeting of 12th June 2017

The Minutes were noted

TC1893 Accept the Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee Meeting of 12th June 2017

The Minutes were noted

TC1894 Accept the Minutes of the Amenities & Recreation Committee Meeting of 19th June 2017

The Minutes were noted

TC1895 Accept the Minutes of the Finance & Strategy Meeting of 26th June 2017

The Minutes were noted

- The Committee require a volunteer to join the Events Working Group
Cllr Atkinson volunteered and was accepted.

TC1896 Councillor Vacancies - Update

The Clerk advised the Council that a by-election had not been called. Cllr Swain proposed, Cllr Atkinson seconded, to advertise the vacancies for co-option in the Stonehouse Ward. The Council agreed in the majority (1 against)

TC1897 Adjournment for Public Participation

Carol Novoth, Neighbourhood Warden was present to explain how she was covering Andy Murray's leave and stated that she was dealing with ongoing sensitive issues in Stonehouse. She has reported fly tipping and the litter on the B4008. Keen to assist with any enquiries councillors have.

TC1898 To receive reports from the Chair of Town Council/Town Councillors

Cllr Kambites read out a letter of appreciation from a resident who felt that the town council was working well for the benefit of the community.

TC1899 To receive and request Reports from County/District Councillors

- Discuss future management of Maidenhill Sports Centre (Officer invited to attend)

In the absence of the officer the council debated the lack of consultation on the matter. County Councillor Williams advised the council to look at information available from Local Insight and consider how important it was to have leisure facilities open to the public for health and wellbeing. Councillors agreed that many residents had transport or health issues which meant they could not reach out of town facilities and that this was probably a cost saving exercise with a lack of commitment to Stonehouse whereas money was being poured into other towns such as Dursley (e.g. CCTV and pool). Councillors keen to see parking revenue figures and to also understand the financial considerations of the Maidenhill withdrawal.

- Benefits of Ship Inn Site proposal (enquiry to Cllr Mattie Ross by email) Funding of amenity facilities on site or at open space area, links to town centre?

Councillor Williams reminded the Council that the Ship Inn Site had been passed to the District Council as an amenity site. It was extremely disappointing that it would not become a stop-off point on the canal and bring benefit to the town. Councillors were keen to hear from their district councillors who were not present and expressed individual concerns about the lack of imaginative and beneficial design. A meeting would be requested to try and salvage something of the Ship Inn site as an amenity, to bring trade to the town and also ensure there was a plan and funding for the site at Wharfdale.

- Update on UBB cable route (update from Cllr Williams)

Councillor Williams explained that GCC would meet with the Town Clerk to discuss the possibility of an easement over Laburnum Park. A decision was imminent.

TC1900 To discuss and formulate a response to Proposed Highway Improvements to:

• Chipmans Platt Roundabout • Oldends Lane Roundabout • Downton Road Signalised Junction • Horsetrough Roundabout

The Council discussed each part in turn. The consensus of opinion was that although the traffic might flow more freely around the roundabouts it would soon become congested again. The Council was concerned that Oldends Lane proposals did not provide more safety. The Council also felt that there was a lack of evidence to support the claim that future development has been considered in the scheme. Overall the Council doubts that the scheme will provide any improvement at all and could not understand why the County Council have not drawn up a scheme for a new railway station instead.

TC1901 To discuss and formulate a response to Ship Inn Site development

The Council felt that Stroud District Council has missed an opportunity to develop the site to provide a link between the canal and town centre. There was a chance to provide a footpath, moorings, slipway, refreshment kiosk and seating area on site. There was mixed reaction to the colourful façade of the buildings but it was suggested this could have been exploited to entice people into the town for refreshment. The hint of an amenity area at Bridgend as a swap was not sufficient. It should have been integrated into the proposal with funding set aside for the purpose of its development. The development of this area should be fully explained within the proposal and incorporate facilities for canal users and the public. The scheme failed to deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities (i.e. mooring bollards a token gesture). The Town Council did not approve of the scheme. The Council would seek involvement in the development of the amenity site.

TC1902 To agree bank transactions and reconciliation to end of June 2017 and agree accounts for payment to date

Payments in June £29397.16 and Receipts £1122.16 and bank balance £144056.55 were proposed by Cllr Powell, seconded by Cllr Clegg, majority in favour (Cllr Curtis abstained from voting)

TC1903 GAPTC Information

1. Vacancy on the Executive Committee - nominations required by 28th July
Cllr Callinan expressed an interest and was nominated by Cllr Swain, seconded by Cllr Curtis.

2. AGM of 15th July 10am - 12.45pm - representative to be appointed
Cllr Callinan would attend

TC1904 Date of Next Meeting

11th September 2017
