

# Stonehouse Town Council

Town Hall, High Street, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 2NG



**MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Town Council meeting)  
of a meeting of STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 21 MARCH 2016  
COMMENCING AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE.**

Present: Chairman/Town Mayor Theresa Watt  
Vice Chairman/Deputy Town Mayor Pam Swain  
Councillors Gwen Atkinson, Jo Byrne, Deborah Curtis, Neil Gibbs, Tim Jackson,  
Carol Kambites, Gary Powell, Vicky Redding, Paul Stephens, Robin Waite  
Also Present: Town Clerk Gill Jennings, County Councillor Lesley Williams, District Councillor  
Chris Brine, 2 officers Stroud District Council, 1 member of the public (Kings Stanley)  
Saul Cooke-Black (Stroud News)

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**Attendees were reminded that the PROCEEDINGS of the meeting may be filmed, photographed or recorded. The Chairman also reminded attendees that there was an appropriate time for public participation and that attendees should not speak during proceedings unless by invitation of the Chairman.**

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TC1694 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Amy Coombs (family matter) Cllr Mattie Ross (meeting District Council)

TC1695 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.  
Cllr Waite declared an interest in TC1704 (payments to Coconut Group) Cllr Jackson declared an interest in TC1702 (allotment tenant)

TC1696 To agree the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016

The Minutes were agreed

TC1697 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)

Andy Murray and Stuart Beard were present to introduce themselves as Neighbourhood Wardens for the Stonehouse area. They have been reacting to reports from the Town Council and have been able to resolve the problem of the hedge at Blackwell Close.

Councillor Williams enquired about the reports of £10,000 funding being found to replace play equipment at Laburnum Field. The Clerk explained that a resident had identified funding available from Awards for All – an application would have to be submitted if it matched the criteria. The Council had to be mindful that any application for lottery funding would reduce the ability to raise funds for other projects.

TC1698 To receive and give reports to/from County/District Councillors on matters of concern to Stonehouse

County Councillor Williams was disappointed that Amey had taken so long to react to emails from neighbourhood wardens. Ultimately the hedge was the responsibility of the landowner and they would be charged for the work. She reported that the flooding at Horsetrough Roundabout had been dealt with. The County Council have fixed their budget and highways budget was unaffected. She reminded the Council to have schemes for Highways Local Funding 2016-17 – perhaps there was a need for a footpath from Horsetrough roundabout.

Councillor Powell reported that he had attended an opening ceremony for the Walled Garden at Stratford Park. He advised that the Council were awaiting a report on the condition of sheltered housing and future provision.

TC1699 To receive reports from the Chairman and Town Councillors (external meetings)

Councillor Watt was pleased to report that the Town Council have been awarded Quality Status under the Local Council Award Scheme. Staff were thanked for their hard work. Councillors had attended the ceremonies to reopen the Caroline Suite at Stonehouse Court Hotel, installation of information panels by Stonehouse History Group, and launch of the defibrillator equipment. Cllr Watt also advised that the HSBC will be closing their Stonehouse branch in May 2016.

Councillor Byrne reported that Stonehouse Community Partnership are progressing with their Arts Project and will be working with Stonehouse History Group. They are interested in creating a mural in the railway tunnel at the approach to Stonehouse. They would also like to decorate litter bins and recycling bins and create a "sculpture trail".

Councillor Redding reported that bids had been received for a scheme at Standish Hospital and the bidding closed on 26<sup>th</sup> February.

Councillor Powell reported that the AGM of Stonehouse in Bloom had been successful in attracting more volunteers. The Group were now waiting to hear from sponsors.

TC1700 To receive the Minutes of the Development Control Panel Meeting of 22 February 2016

The Minutes were noted.

TC1701 To receive the Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee Meeting of 22 February 2016

The Minutes were noted.

**K2/288 Highway Issues – the Town Council are asked to consider raising a petition against parking charges in the District Council car park**

The Council debated this proposal and could not find common ground. Councillor Swain proposed, Councillor Jackson seconded that the issue of the carpark is discussed with the County Council's parking review.

TC1702 To receive the Minutes of the Amenities Recreation & Tourism Committee of 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016

To receive the minutes and consider the proposals:

The Minutes were noted.

**K3/367** The Committee has proposed that the Council now consults with allotment tenants regarding the transfer of the management of the allotment site to the Stonehouse Allotment Tenants Association **For Resolution**

**Proposed Councillor Atkinson, Seconded Councillor Swain All agreed that the Council now consults with allotment tenants as proposed.**

K3/369.1 To agree release of reserve for expenditure over the S106 funding for penultimate instalment on pavilion works. Additional works have been necessary to create external ramp and to attend to faulty electrical installations.

**The Council were provided with a list of costs which amounted to £122,017 awaiting Project Manager's certification. The Clerk advised that the project would result in costs to the £125000 predicted. In addition there would be the cost of the toilets already agreed at £6770 and an unknown sum for emergency replacement of one immersion heater, timer and thermostat.**

**Proposed Councillor Gibbs, Seconded Councillor Curtis. The Council agreed the release of reserves to cover these costs.**

K3/369.2 The Committee has proposed to appoint an architect to draw up plans for the creation of a new community room and bar attached to Oldends Lane pavilion, housing and additional community rooms. For Resolution

**Proposed Councillor Swain, Seconded Councillor Atkinson – All in favour of appointing an architect for the purpose proposed.**

**K3/370 The Committee has proposed an updated Fixed Asset Register for approval. For Resolution.**

**Proposed Councillor Waite, Seconded Councillor Stephens – All in favour**

TC1703 To receive the Minutes of the Finance & Strategy Committee Meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016  
To receive the Minutes and consider the proposals:

The Minutes were noted.

**K1/271 The Committee has proposed new Complaints Policy, Data Protection Policy, Council Strategy Document, Standing Orders For Resolution**

**Proposed Councillor Jo Byrne, Seconded Councillor Rob Waite – All in favour that these documents be adopted.**

**TC1704 To agree payments to date**

**Payments totalling £8132.33 to cheque 8181 were checked and agreed**

TC1705 To receive the Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Group and to consider preliminary draft Plan

A preliminary draft was circulated and feedback was invited in writing from Council Members. The public consultation is likely to take place in July with submission of the plan to Stroud District Council in October 2016. Councillors were unsure of the referendum date. Members of the group and Rachel Russell were thanked for their hard work to date.

TC1706 Celebration of the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

To receive a report of the Working Group

Councillor Byrne reported that the Group were planning to hold a Big Picnic on Oldends field on the 12<sup>th</sup> June with stalls, refreshments, games and music provided by the Young Gloucestershire bus. On the 21<sup>st</sup> April the WI would be decorating the High Street trees with yarn bombing and shopkeepers being encouraged to hang bunting. 90 candles will be lit and a large birthday cake available to share on the Town Green. Stonehouse Rotary were reluctant to take responsibility for lighting the beacon. Councillors would look into this.

TC1707 Date of Next Meeting

16 May 2016 (AGM)

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Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

The Council will by resolution exclude the public from item TC1708 due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and publicity of the item would be prejudicial to the public interest.

TC1708 Legal Matter

To provide instructions

The Council discussed correspondence received from Davies & Partners and agreed to instruct solicitors to respond.

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