



Stonehouse Town Council

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

MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting)
OF A MEETING OF STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 22 JUNE 2015
COMMENCING AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE.

Present: Chairman/Town Mayor Councillor Theresa Watt
Vice Chair/Deputy Town Mayor Councillor Pam Swain
Councillors Gwen Atkinson, Jo Byrne, Amy Coombs, Deborah Curtis, Neil Gibbs,
Gary Powell

Also Present: District Councillor Mrs Mattie Ross
Liz Lawrence – Deputy Town Clerk

Attendees were reminded that the PROCEEDINGS of the meeting may be filmed, photographed or recorded

TC1607 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Town Councillors Carol Kambites, Paul Stephens and Robin Waite
District Councillor Chris Brine
County Councillor Lesley Williams

TC1608 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.

Councillor Deborah Curtis declared an interest in TC1620 – Accounts for Payment

TC1609 To agree the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 May 2015

The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

TC1610 Adjournment for Public Participation

Mrs Ross enquired about the second Resolution in TC1617-what was the exact location of land off Bramble Lane?

Councillor Theresa Watt explained that this referred to land leading up to Doverow Hill from the top of Verney Road.

TC1611 To receive brief written reports from County/District Councillors on matters of concern to Stonehouse

Councillor Mrs Ross briefed Members present on various matters including her great pleasure at being re-appointed as Chair of Housing for the forthcoming year – the first meeting of the Committee will soon be taking place. Proposals for new housing in Wharfdale Way are continuing albeit there are some planning issues still to be resolved. The work on new houses being built in Mankley Road, Leonard Stanley is due to commence very soon. Councillor Mrs Ross stressed that she will continue to pursue an increase in the availability of social housing in Stonehouse.

Members were also informed that Councillor Chris Brine has been re-appointed as Chair of Community Services and Licensing. Councillor Gary Powell is also a member of both the Housing and Licensing Committees.

TC1612 To receive Chairman's report and External Representative Reports

Please note that Members may ask for an explanation of wording but not raise new matters or amendments which are to be referred to the Committee Chair for the next Agenda:

- Both Councillors Watt and Swain reported on their attendance at the Cotswold Canals Partnership Phase 1B consultation which was held in the Community Centre on 20th June. The Partnership are appealing for as many people as possible to show their support by becoming a member as it is felt this will most certainly add impact to their funding bid.
- Councillor Watt has been requested to submit a formal item from the Town Council. It was agreed that this should be included for discussion at the next Regeneration & Environment Committee.
- Councillor Gibbs reported on his attendance at the Joint Cluster Group meeting recently held at Stroud District Council offices. There was good representation from most of the parishes. Issues discussed included crime, dog fouling, travellers and changes in policing resources within the District.
- Members have been invited to attend a meeting on 9th July where PCSO Tracy Wren will be giving detailed information on the police changes.

TC1613 To receive the Minutes of the Development Control Panel Meeting of 26 May 2015

The Minutes were accepted.

TC1614 To receive the Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee of 26 May 2015

The Minutes were accepted.

TC1615 To receive the Minutes of the Amenities Recreation & Tourism Committee of 1 June 2015

K3/285 – Councillor Powell wished to record that in addition to Mrs Ross there were some 20 volunteers also helping with the work in the Rest Garden and other areas. This will be noted at the next Committee meeting.

TC1616 To receive the Minutes of the Finance & Strategy Committee of 8 June 2015

Resolution Required:

K1/206 To adopt the Communications Policy

Councillor Byrne proposed that the Town Council adopt the Communications Policy. This was seconded by Councillor Swain and agreed by all Members present.

TC1617 Community Right to Bid

A response to the Council's Expression of Interest for Asset Transfer indicates that the County Council have not listed the Athletics Field for disposal. Following discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government County Councillor Williams has been asked to ascertain how the County Council will manage the athletics field for public recreation and to request that the Council considers a lease or management agreement with the Town Council.

In the meantime the DCLG have advised the Town Council to make a community right to bid.

For Resolution

Councillor Powell proposed that the Town Council should make a community right to bid for the area of land currently used for athletic related sports. This was seconded by Councillor Gwen Atkinson and agreed by all Members present.

TC1617 Community Right to Bid (continued)

New rules allow Councils to bid for privately owned land which fulfils the purpose of dog walking. With this in mind the Council may want to make a bid for land off Bramble Lane.

For Resolution.

Following discussion, Councillor Gwen Atkinson proposed that the Town Council should make a community right to bid on the land leading up to Doverow Hill, off Verney Road. This was seconded by Councillor Deborah Curtis and agreed by all Members present.

TC1618 Local Council Award

The Council hereby passes a Resolution that it will publish online:

Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

Code of Conduct & link to Councillors Register of Interests

Publication Scheme

Annual Return

Transparent information about Council payments

Calendar of all meetings

Minutes for a 12 month period published within 4 weeks of a meeting

Current Agendas

Budget & Precept information

Complaints Procedure

Council contact details and councillor profiles

Action plan for the current year

Evidence of consulting the community

Publicity advertising council activities

Evidence of participating in town and country planning

Health & Safety Policy

Equality Policy

Community Engagement Policy

Minutes of Annual Town Meeting

Evidence of helping the community plan for its future – (NDP)

Annual Report

And that it has:

Risk Management Scheme

Register of Assets

Staff contracts

Disciplinary & Grievance Procedures

Grants Policy

Training Policy & Records

Clerk working towards 12 CPD points

Up to date insurance cover

Addressed complaints received in the last year

At least two-thirds of its councillors elected who stood for election

A qualified clerk

A Deputy Clerk (both clerks paid to national pay scales)

A staff appraisal process

It was unanimously agreed by all Members present that the Resolution as recorded be approved.

TC1619 To review the Local Plan Hearing – SPA submission

Councillors who attended to give a quick update

Councillors Watt, Gibbs and Redding attended the Hearing. Councillor Watt felt that the Inspector had been very thorough in his examination of the evidence presented by all parties.

Members wished to record their thanks for the work undertaken by Gill Jennings (Strategic Planning Alliance) and Vicky Redding (Neighbourhood Development Plan).

TC1620 To approve payments due

It was proposed by Councillor Powell, seconded by Councillor Byrne and agreed by all Members that the accounts be approved for payment.

TC1621 To agree the advertisement of 2 vacancies for Co-option

Members present agreed that the vacancy in both Central and South Ward should now be advertised.

TC1622 Date of Next Meeting

7th September 2015

For information: Councillor Watt informed Members that details had been received of the Annual General Meeting of the Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils. This is to be held on Saturday 18th July at Highnam Community Centre. Members were advised to inform the Town Council office if they wished to attend.
