



## STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a meeting of STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 23 JANUARY 2017 COMMENCING AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE.

**Present:** Chairman/Town Mayor Cllr Theresa Watt  
Vice Chairman/Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Pam Swain  
Gwen Atkinson, John Callinan, Ray Clegg, Neil Gibbs  
Tim Jackson, Carol Kambites, Gary Powell, Trevor Baker

**Also Present:** Town Clerk/RFO, County Councillor Lesley Williams, District Councillor Chris Brine

#### TC1808 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Byrne (illness) Cllr Stephens (work commitments)  
District Councillor Mattie Ross gave her apologies and a written report.  
Cllr Curtis was absent

#### TC1809 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.  
None were declared at the start of the meeting

#### TC1810 TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

Councillor Baker raised a point about compliance with Standing Orders as he felt he had requested a recorded vote on item TC1799, TC1801, TC1804.2 and TC1807.3. The Clerk and Councillors had no recollection of the request but agreed a misunderstanding of what was required. **Cllr Baker gave way on the matter and it was agreed by unanimous vote that the Minutes were correct with alteration to the count of votes on the Minute Book copy. For completeness the vote on those items is recorded here:**

#### TC1799

For  
Cllr Watt, Swain, Atkinson, Byrne, Curtis, Gibbs, Jackson, Kambites, Powell, Stephens, Callinan  
Abstained  
Cllr Baker

#### TC1801

For  
Cllr Watt, Swain, Atkinson, Byrne, Curtis, Gibbs, Jackson, Kambites, Powell, Stephens  
Against  
Cllr Baker  
Abstained  
Cllr Callinan

TC1804.2

For

Cllr Watt, Swain, Atkinson, Byrne, Curtis, Gibbs, Jackson, Kambites, Stephens

Against

Cllr Baker, Callinan

TC1807.3

For

Cllr Watt, Swain, Atkinson, Byrne, Curtis, Gibbs, Jackson, Kambites, Stephens

Against

Cllr Baker, Callinan

And (not disputed but again minuted herewith)

TC1794

For:

Councillors Gibbs, Atkinson, Byrne, Curtis, Jackson, Kambites, Powell, Stephens, Watts, Swain

Against:

Cllr Baker/Cllr Callinan

The Clerk was asked to Minute that during the debate on the matter Councillors felt that Cllr Baker was out of order and disrespectful in a remark to Cllr Atkinson which insinuated that her recollection of his request for a recorded vote might be contrived.

TC1811 TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR CO-OPTION FOR EBLEY WARD FROM MRS MAUREEN FREEMAN AND AGREE APPOINTMENT BY CO-OPTION (ITEM DEFERRED FROM LAST MEETING)

The candidate must receive an absolute majority from those present and voting to be co-opted. Mrs Freeman had written with her apologies for non-attendance at the meeting. Councillors accepted that she was unable to attend.

**Cllr Clegg proposed, Cllr Atkinson seconded that Mrs Freeman be invited to the next Council meeting. All in favour.**

TC1812 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (15 minutes)

No adjournment was called

TC1813 TO RECEIVE AND REQUEST REPORTS ON MATTERS OF INTEREST IN STONEHOUSE FROM COUNTY/WARD COUNCILLORS

- Javelin Park Liaison Meeting County Councillor Williams gave a report that 3 options were being considered by Western Power for cabling to Javelin Park. The first was through the High Street, the second was over Laburnum Park, the third had not been divulged. Ryeford substation had been chosen due to Tuffley and Hardwicke being at full capacity. It was suggested by Cllr Callinan that the Ryeford substation had been modified with a transformer in advance of this consultation. Western Power will report back to UBB who will then take a proposal to the County Council for agreement. The County Council will decide on the route taken bearing in mind cost. Cllr Kambites felt that the Liaison Group had been told that the proposals would go back there first before going to the County Council. Cllr Williams reported that she was involved in meetings regarding the management of cyclists at Horsetrough roundabout. The County Council will be increasing their budget by 1.99%. It was suggested by the Cllr. that the Town Council deferred a decision on the library proposal until a meeting could be set up with another officer of the County Council.
- Councillor Brine agreed with the report provided by Councillor Mattie Ross

## TC1813 (continued)

The Ship Inn site has recently been cleared and a notice has been erected advertising that it's a new homes development site, this has been approved by the housing committee as part of the new homes and regeneration programme, and will be part of the 2017/18 programme. Planning permission has finally been granted on the SDC Wharfdale Way site which means SDC can proceed with social housing on the Ship Inn site. This will no doubt be challenging to find something acceptable to the planners as they "do not wish to see a continuous line of brick houses all along the canal" Architects have been given a brief and once something is in place the town council will be consulted prior to any public consultation. Cllr Ross would like to discuss with the town council and ward cllrs the old garage site adjacent to the canal on Wharfdale Way

Regarding Betty Baker - Cllr Ross had the privilege to attend the service of celebration for the life of Betty Baker, who died earlier in the month in her 99<sup>th</sup> year. It was in no way a sad occasion but full of happiness laughter, music and love. A talented musician, teacher and lifelong pacifist and socialist she touched many lives, and her contribution to our town is worth remembering as the first ever woman to be elected to the parish council back in the 1940's and she with her sister Rosie organised the first meeting of an agricultural union in the Stonehouse Assembly rooms

Councillor Brine reported that the District Council had finalised its budget with a 1.99% increase.

Councillor Powell reported that the Aldi supermarket application had been turned down by Stroud District Council.

## TC1814 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS (external meetings)

Cllr Gibbs reported attending the Crimestoppers National Conference at which Crimestopper Ambassadors were sought. There will be a new attempt to engage with young people and get them involved and this will be promoted through local authorities. Young Gloucestershire were present at the Conference.

## TC1815 To receive the Minutes of the Development Control Panel meeting held on 12<sup>TH</sup> December 2016

**The Minutes were noted.**

## TC1816 To receive the Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016

**The Minutes were noted.**

### **Resolution Required:**

K2/397 The Committee proposes that the Council will contribute £350 towards a crossing and speed survey for Oldends Lane. ( Should the Council make this resolution budget allocation is within the 17-18 budget and not available at this time. )

**Proposed Cllr Baker, Seconded Cllr Kambites, All in favour**

## TC1817 To receive the Minutes of the Amenities Recreation and Tourism Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**The Minutes were noted**

## TC1818 To receive the Minutes of the Finance & Strategy Committee held on 16 January 2017

**The Minutes were noted**

### **Resolutions Required:**

K1/346.1 To agree the appointment of Cllr Byrne as Nominated Media Councillor

**Proposed Cllr Clegg, Seconded Cllr Kambites, Agreed by the majority (1 abstention)**

## TC1818 (continued)

K1/347.6

To consider and agree a proposal for the sum of precept to be requested from Stroud District Council.

The budgets having been debated at Committee were presented to Council. The total requirement was £272250 and taking income into account left a precept requirement of £254000.

**Proposed Cllr Kambites, seconded Cllr Atkinson that the precept be RESOLVED and requested from Stroud District Council at £254000 (A recorded vote was requested)**

**For:**

**Cllrs Watt, Swain, Atkinson, Kambites, Jackson, Clegg, Gibbs, Powell**

**Against:**

**Cllrs Baker, Callinan**

To consider and agree the allocation of earmarked reserves.

The reserves had been considered by each Committee and were set out in a list to Council totalling £392500.

**The list and total was proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Powell, seconded Cllr Swain.**

**The majority of councillors were in favour (1 abstention, 1 against)**

**K1/351 To agree staff salaries are increased to NALC recommended rates from April 2017**

**The National Joint Council agreement was circulated to councillors.**

**Cllr Kambites proposed, Cllr Jackson seconded that the 2017 salary awards be adopted by Council for current and future staff effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.**

**The majority of Councillors were in favour (1 abstention)**

## TC1819 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 1. To receive the Minutes of meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016 - The Minutes were noted**
- 2. To approve a submission draft of the Stonehouse Neighbourhood Development Plan to Stroud District Council and to note the contents of the other submission documents: consultation statement, conditions statement and Town Character Assessment.**

Councillors had been given an opportunity to consider the draft. **Cllr Kambites and Cllr Callinan declared an interest (members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group) and took no part in the vote.**

**Cllr Clegg proposed approval of the draft, seconded Cllr Atkinson, carried by majority vote (3 abstentions)**

## TC1820 FINANCE

To agree payments due - **Payments to cheque no. 8425 £11682.62 including emergency repairs to play equipment £1332 were proposed by Cllr Powell, seconded by Cllr Clegg and approved by unanimous vote**

## TC1821 MATTERS OF INFORMATION

- 1. GAPTC intends to set up engagement sessions with the Crime Commissioner. Parishes are asked to advise what issues require discussion**  
Councillors considered this. Vandalism and anti-social behaviour were of concern.

- 2. Further correspondence with Lloyds Bank**

The clerk advised that she had again written to Lloyds Bank to obtain more details of mobile banking and also ask for reconsideration of the closure, a letter to the MP had resulted in a response that there was nothing which could be done.

## TC1822 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6 March 2017

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

The Council will by resolution exclude the public from item TC1823 due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and publicity of the item would be prejudicial to the public interest.

## TC1823 LEGAL/CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

### 1. Stopping up of railway crossing and diversion of a footpath - Stagholt

To agree footpath route and to agree any compensation

The Council agreed a new route through the bottom of Stagholt field without encroachment on the allotments. A sum of £5000 for upkeep and insurance would be requested.

**To note Network Rail's agreement - This was duly noted.**

### 2. To discuss Glos. County Council's refusal to review their decision on Covenant charge on Stagholt and agree a way forward with land disposal

A fresh approach has been made to the County Council pointing out that they are charging for 7 houses rather than 2. The Council agreed that this matter should not be allowed to drift beyond the January meeting.

**To note lack of response from GCC and to agree a way forward - A few hours before the meeting an uncooperative response had been obtained which indicated that the County Council would still make a charge for 2 houses in the sum of £23628. This effectively took up the sale price between 5 and 7 houses. The Council debated this and decided that this was unacceptable.**

**Cllr Kambites proposed that the Council proceed to offer the land for sale for 5 dwellings (in the first instance to the current interested party) to achieve as near as possible the current valuation failing which to offer back onto the open market, seconded Cllr Baker, all in favour.**

### 3. To discuss correspondence received from Glos County Council regarding Town Hall premises

To discuss options put forward by the County Council and agree a way forward - The County Council had belatedly put forward their thoughts on various options. They expressed a preference to purchase the freehold of the town hall part of the building, which could be subject to a pre-emption agreement. The alternative they offered was a 125 year lease for a one-off capital payment. The Council discussed the communication. The Council also heard from the Clerk that costs on the empty Post Office were being incurred with rates due in February. Lettings fees had been considered and a long term void should not be allowed. **The Council were in agreement that the sale of the freehold was not an option. It was agreed that the matter should not become protracted, that a further meeting with an officer of the County Council would be entered into by the Building Facilities Working Group, but that a conclusion should be reached at the Town Council meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> March.**

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