



STONEHOUSE **TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Town Council meeting)
of a meeting of STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2016
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, Jo Byrne, John Callinan, Deborah Curtis, Neil Gibbs
Tim Jackson, Carol Kambites, Gary Powell, Paul Stephens

Also Present:

Town Clerk Gill Jennings, County Councillor Lesley Williams, District Councillor Mattie Ross,
4 members of the public, members of the Press

TC1790 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Clegg

TC1791 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.

There were no declarations of interest

TC1792 TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 17th OCTOBER 2016

The Minutes were agreed by majority vote. Cllr Callinan abstained from voting as he was not present at the meeting in question.

**TC1793 FOLLOWING AN UNCONTESTED BYE-ELECTION TO RECEIVE ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE
FROM ELECTED MEMBER TREVOR BAKER**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Trevor Baker who had signed his Acceptance of Office and had submitted his DPI form.

**TC1794 TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR CO-OPTION FOR EBLEY WARD FROM MRS MAUREEN
FREEMAN**

The candidate must receive an absolute majority from those present and voting

The candidate had not been able to attend. Councillors debated the application. **It was proposed by Cllr Gibbs, that the application be deferred until such time as the candidate could be present. Seconded by Cllr Atkinson. Carried by 10 votes for, Cllr Baker/Cllr Callinan against as they felt the application should be decided.**

TC1795 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (15 minutes)

Members of the public may speak on any item on the agenda for 3 minutes.

Shelley Bray represented traders in the town by explaining their anxiety about further disruption to business from the proposed cabling through the town. Traders felt that they could not withstand further roadworks on the B4008 and explained how they were near to financial crisis, emphasised by the recent closure of banks and the previous 6 months roadworks.

TC1796 TO RECEIVE AND REQUEST REPORTS ON MATTERS OF INTEREST IN STONEHOUSE FROM COUNTY/WARD COUNCILLORS

Under this item there will be discussion regarding Western Power's intention to run new underground power cables through the town centre to a new operation at Junction 12.

On Friday 18th November WP had contacted the Town Council to explain they were intending to run a cable along the High Street and up the B4008 to Javelin Park. This was due to this being public land where they needed no consents for the work. Councillors were against this proposal due to business disruption and damage to the shared space surface. On Friday 25th November WP came up with an alternative route which would go up Regent St across Laburnum Playing Field and up Elm Rd.

The Council felt that further alternatives needed to be explored and that contact should be made with UBB to ensure that they considered the community. **Matter referred to Regeneration Committee for progression with WP/UBB.**

County Councillor Lesley Williams offered support to the Council and was in talks with GCC CEO to obtain assistance in preventing High St works. She also offered to run a petition.

District Councillor Mattie Ross was dismayed that such a thoughtless plan was proposed.

She asked whether the uncontested election could be publicised so that people didn't turn out to vote as she had received a poll card in the post. She reported that the District Council would be holding a seminar on their new Tree Contracts available to parishes, she advised that SDC were selling labels on their Christmas tree which would provide gifts for children in need.

Councillor Powell reported that the Aldi supermarket application was up for debate on the 29th Nov. (Cllr Kambites attending for the Town Council) He advised that proposals for West of Stonehouse had been given the nod.

TC1797 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS (external meetings)

Cllr Watt read out a letter from Glos Constabulary which explained that Oldends Lane was at the top of their priorities to combat anti-social behaviour. She reported on a successful tree planting day on the 25/26 Nov which was attended by children from Hopelands School.

Cllr Gibbs had attended a Cluster Group meeting and reported that cyber crime was of concern and on the increase.

Cllr Curtis had attended a Standish Partnership Board meeting. The buildings are currently being made safe and a planning application will be submitted after Christmas. A community walkround was organised and was well attended.

Cllr Swain reported that Stonehouse School Trustees now have a website which has increased the number of applications received.

Cllr Atkinson had attended a Chartered Parishes meeting at which Highways explained their budget constraints and that it would take 10 years to bring all county roads up to standard.

TC1798 To receive the Minutes of the Development Control Panel meeting held on 31ST October 2016

Cllr Callinan questioned whether the Panel would make representations regarding electricity supply to ECO park.

The Minutes were noted

TC1799 To receive the Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee held on 31st October 2016

Resolution Proposed:

Stonehouse Town Council agrees to adopt bus shelters replaced by Gloucestershire County Council within Stonehouse parish where the location and type has been agreed with Stonehouse Town Council

Proposed Cllr Jackons/Seconded Pam Swain 12 votes in favour, Cllr Baker abstained

TC1800 To receive the Minutes of the Amenities Recreation and Tourism Committee held on 7th November 2016

The Minutes were noted.

TC1801 To receive the Minutes of the Finance & Strategy Committee held on 14th November 2016
The Minutes were noted.

Resolution Proposed:

To amend the wording of the Communications Policy to allow administration by a nominated Media Councillor

Proposed Pam Swain/Seconded Gary Powell 11 votes in favour, Cllr Baker against/Cllr Callinan abstained

TC1802 To receive a report from the Neighbourhood Plan Group

Cllr Kambites reported that the Plan went through a Healthcheck and various changes were suggested. Plan is being re-drafted for consideration at the January Town Council meeting.

TC1803 UPDATE - NOMINATION OF VERNEY FIELDS AS A COMMUNITY ASSET.

There is no opportunity for appeal. Council to decide whether to make another application with amendment to the detail

Council debated the merits of making a fresh application excluding the land not obviously in public use. It was agreed that a draft application would be prepared for consideration by Town Council.

TC1804 FINANCE

1. To agree bank reconciliation October and payments to date in November
Balance £36814.88 agreed, Payments £111513.99 were agreed.

2. To consider committee draft budgets for 2017-18 and to make recommendations
The Council considered budget proposals from all 3 committees which represented a standstill budget. Items such as Christmas Lights, Chairs Allowance, Insurance had been cut. Risk areas were identified as staff costs, newsletter and professional fees. Although a standstill budget it represented 4.5% increase due to loss of income. The Council were asked for their views on whether the committees should make further cuts or safeguards.

The Council were in favour of reviewing the budget with the objective of safeguarding the Council's objectives with the possibility of a further increase. Proposed Cllr. Swain/Seconded Cllr Kambites 11 votes in favour, Cllr Baker/Cllr Callinan against.

3. To agree subscription to GAPTC for 2017-18 based on 31.98p per elector
Deferred for consideration with F & S budget

TC1805 MATTERS OF INFORMATION

1. Boundary Commission for England is reducing parliamentary constituencies from 650 to 600. A consultation paper is available at www.bce2018.org.uk In Stroud this means that Nailsworth will become part of the Cotswolds. 21 district wards will remain in Stroud with Gloucester city wards of Quedgeley Fieldcourt and Quedgeley Severn Vale. Council to consider whether there is a collective response.

No Comment

2. Royal British Legion have thanked the Council, resident Richard Lacey for their support at the Remembrance Sunday parade. They are in need of new members.
Clerk to write to RBL and Richard Lacey with thanks
3. Lloyds Bank Branch closure is planned for March 2017 - Council to agree collective response

The Clerk had written to the Bank and had received an unhelpful standard letter acknowledging concerns but advising no review. **Clerk to write to CEO.** Council were concerned about the impact on High St businesses.

TC1806 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

23 January 2017

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

The Council will by resolution exclude the public from item TC1807 due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and publicity of the item would be prejudicial to the public interest.

TC1807 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.

2. To discuss Glos. County Council's refusal to review their decision on Covenant charge 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.

3. To receive a project timeline for Oldends Redevelopment and view sketch plans

The project timeline was approved. The sketch plans were proposed for pre-planning advice from Stroud DC by Cllr Powell/Seconded Cllr Atkinson 11 in favour, Cllr Baker & Cllr Callinan against

4. To agree instruction to Stroud District Council regarding Certificate of Compliance Court View

Council considered whether to involve Stroud DC and agreed not to proceed at this stage.
