



STONEHOUSE **TOWN COUNCIL**

MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a meeting of the Town Council HELD ON MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2017 AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE.

Councillors: Councillors Becky Amor, Gwen Atkinson, Leigh Binns, John Callinan, Deborah Curtis, Neil Gibbs, Gary Powell, Pam Swain, Theresa Watt (Chairman/Town Mayor)

Also present: John Aldis, Ray Fennell, David Thorpe, County Councillor Lesley Williams, District Councillors Chris Brine and Mattie Ross, Rachel Russell, Committee Clerk,

TC1946 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Jackson and Kambites and from Gill Jennings, Town Clerk/RFO.

TC1947 To Consider Applications for Co-option and make 2 appointments

The Chairman moved this agenda item to the end of the agenda to allow the candidates for co-option to listen to a meeting. All councillors present agreed to the change in the order of business.

TC1948 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC1949 To agree the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 23 October 2017

The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Powell, seconded by Cllr Callinan. Nine in favour, one abstention.

TC1950 To receive the Results of the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum and thank everyone who took part in making it a success

It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan had been accepted at referendum by 523 votes to 90 and was now part of Stroud District Council's planning policy. The Chair thanked all those involved in developing the neighbourhood plan; residents and councillors on the Neighbourhood Plan Group; staff including the Committee Clerk; and residents who had attended consultations, completed surveys and voted. There was a vote of thanks to John Jaynes, Clare Sheridan and Terry Webb, residents who were long term members of Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group until its completion; also Chris Cowcher and Vicky Redding who had made a significant contribution.

TC1951 To receive and request reports from County/District Councillors

County Councillor Williams gave a brief verbal report:

- **Incinerator cable installation work.** County Cllr. Williams asked for any feedback on this.

Currently night working taking place from Ryeford to Horsetrough roundabout. Residents had raised concerns about the reinstatement of the road after Horsemarling Lane causing a bumpy surface. She reported there is a two year period for the contractors to correct any problems with the road surface.

- Gloucestershire has the highest number of school exclusions in the South West and County Councillor Williams is on a working group to look at the causes of this. A relatively large proportion of children are being home schooled. Cllr. Binns suggested that a possible link between children with Special Educational Needs and home schooling would be worth investigating.
- Gloucestershire County Council budget will be dealt with in February; a reduction of £25 million is needed.

County Cllr. Williams asked if coverage of new street lighting in Stonehouse was patchy and councillors confirmed it was as only certain sizes of light fitting installed at one time.

District Councillor Ross gave a brief verbal report:

Stonehouse Goodwill 2017: District Cllr. Ross congratulated the Town Council and all those involved in organising Goodwill. She reported that the three ward councillors had written to the Stroud News and Journal regarding errors in information about Goodwill and the correct information was now shown on their website.

Ship Inn Site: In order to satisfy issues raised by Highways, the plan has been revised with one less house and a turning area. Work continues towards visitor moorings on the opposite bank. There will be 9 houses, 6 social housing and 3 shared ownership. District Council staff can talk to the Town Council if necessary.

The District Council's 30 year plan for housing looks set to proceed.

TC1952 Adjournment for Public Participation

There was no call for an adjournment.

TC1953 To receive reports from the Council Chairman and Town Councillors

The chairman thanked all councillors involved in Goodwill for their hard work with particular thanks to Cllr. Swain and to Caroline Field, Customer Services Officer. A trader's message of congratulation on the success of the event was read out. The Chairman had attended the following events and meetings:

- Judging a photography competition at Hopelands School
- 90th birthday party for Royal British Legion Women's Section.
- Remembrance Day Parade
- Meeting with AMCO and Stroud District Council Environmental Protection staff on Stonehouse Station Platform Extension, 23 November 2017. Notes of this meeting were circulated to councillors and copies provided at the meeting. The station bridge will be moved for adjustments in February.
- Opening of Ticket Hall, Stonehouse Station: The Chairman and other councillors attended; David Drew, MP opened the Ticket Hall.

The Town Council has received an invitation from Stroud District Council to a meeting with Parish and Town Councils, Tuesday, 30th January 2018, 7pm, Council Chamber. The Chairman

cannot attend but invited other councillors to consider attending. From 4pm on the same day, Planning staff will provide an update which the Committee Clerk may attend.

The Chair encouraged support for Carols on the Town Green, 16th December, organised by Stonehouse Town Council, Churches Together and other members of the community.

Cllr. Swain had attended a meeting of Stonehouse School Trustees in November. There was only one request for assistance from a local child to consider.

Cllr. Gibbs had attended a meeting of the Allotments Association which is running well and fundraising. Their AGM is at the Pavilion, Oldends Lane, 7.30pm, Weds 6th December.

Cllr Watts advised that the next UBB Liaison Group meeting was at the Town Hall on Weds 6th December.

Cllr. Powell reported that Stonehouse in Bloom had donated £60 towards white lights for small trees on High Street.

Cllr. Callinan had attended a GAPTC meeting. The annual subscription fee would be increasing by 1% from 31.9p to 32.36p per elector.

TC1954 To receive the Minutes of the Development Control Panel of 6th November 2017

The Minutes were noted.

TC1955 To receive the Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee Meeting of 6th November 2017 and consider any Resolutions requested

The Minutes were noted.

There was discussion regarding the functioning of the High Street shared space and suggestions made for improvements including better signage.

Resolution Required:

That Stonehouse Town Council request GCC Highways to further investigate the options for a crossing on the High Street between Co-op and car park area.

That should a suitable crossing solution be found, then parking places are removed from this area and added to outside Co-op Funeral Care.

Proposed by Cllr. Callinan, seconded by Cllr. Atkinson. Four in favour, five against.

Amended resolution:

That Stonehouse Town Council request GCC Highways to investigate improving pedestrian safety on the High Street and any improvements considered to include adjustments to timing on the pelican crossings, signage to the shared space and a possible courtesy crossing.

Proposed by Cllr. Swain, seconded by Cllr. Binns. Eight in favour, one against.

Discuss extent of involvement with Wharfdale site and other proposed projects and agree remit of Regeneration & Environment Committee to action these and add to the Council Action Plan where necessary.

Resolution: That Stonehouse Town Council continue to work towards improving the Wharfdale site.

Proposed Cllr. Powell, seconded by Cllr. Swain. All in favour.

TC1956 To receive the Minutes of the Amenities & Recreation Committee Meeting of 13th November 2017 and consider any Resolutions requested

The Minutes were noted.

TC1957 To receive the Minutes of the Finance & Strategy Meeting of 20th November 2017,

The Minutes were noted.

Resolutions:

Communications Working Group: Cllr. Amor to join Cllr. Binns and Cllr. Curtis.

Proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Curtis. All in favour.

Cllr. Watt will remain on editorial group for Stonehouse News.

Youth Working Group: Cllr. Binns to join Cllrs. Callinan, Swain and Watt.

Proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Callinan. All in favour.

Events Working Group: Cllr Amor to join Cllrs. Binns, Kambites and Watt.

Proposed Cllr. Curtis, seconded Cllr. Binns.

Policy Working Group: Cllr. Watts to join Cllrs. Callinan, Kambites and Swain.

Proposed Cllr. Powell, seconded Cllr. Atkinson. All in favour.

Cllr. Binns to be appointed as a Media Councillor to moderate Facebook when officers unavailable.

Proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Callinan. All in favour.

TC1958 Finance

1. To agree payments to end of November.
Payments due to date of £127,898.45 were proposed by Cllr. Callinan and seconded by Cllr. Atkinson. All in favour.
2. To agree the bank reconciliation November
The bank reconciliation of £107193.50 was agreed. Proposed by Cllr. Swain, seconded by Cllr. Binns. All in favour.
3. To receive draft budgets from all three Committees and consider whether these require re-drafting
Draft budgets to be reconsidered by each Committee. With regard to Town Clerk's suggestion that UBB be asked to contribute to costs of Oldends Lane zebra crossing, Cllr. Callinan advised that their fund of £25,000 will be available from May 2018.
4. To appoint 3 to 4 councillors to the Town Council internal audit panel
Cllr. Binns left meeting.
It was agreed this was an important role. The Committee Clerk advised that the Town Clerk will provide training.
Cllr Binns returned.
Decision on membership postponed to next Town Council meeting when membership of council fuller.
5. To appoint an independent internal auditor (Peter Newman £200, GAPTC £250)
The Committee Clerk advised that current costs of GAPTC service are now £350.
Peter Newman to be appointed as internal auditor. Proposed Cllr. Callinan, seconded Cllr. Powell. All in favour.
6. To note the external auditor selected by the SAAA for 2018-19 will be PKF Littlejohn LLP at a cost of £600/800.
Noted.
7. To receive a grant request from St Cyr's Church and consider further investigation of projected costs and support from 2018-19 budget.
Grant request to be considered at next Finance and Strategy Committee meeting.

TC1959 Athletics Field

To receive a report of the Recreation Working Group and consider whether to commission a

valuation (likely cost £500-1000)

District Valuation Officer to be commissioned to provide valuation of Athletic Field.
Proposed by Cllr. Swain, seconded by Cllr. Curtis. Eight in favour, one against.

TC1960 Stroud District Council Plan Review

To agree comments for submission on behalf of the Town Council

The draft response circulated with the agenda to be submitted to the District Council with the following additions to highlight the importance of a parish boundary review before a new Local Plan is agreed:

Are there matters that are likely to grow in importance over the next 20 years?

Affordability of service provision within a constrained development parish boundary which is largely given over to employment land.

What are the options for addressing them? A parish boundary review prior to a new Local Plan

Our towns and villages: Option 4 Boundary changes which offer scope for development will offer an opportunity for expansion and preservation of services and would avoid the development of important green spaces within the parish.

Proposed Cllr. Binns, seconded Cllr. Powell. All in favour.

TC1961 Stroud District Council Car Park Charges

To consider legal advice from NALC which explains that car park charges may not be used to raise “general funds” and the explanation from Stroud District Council that surpluses from car park charges currently reside in “general reserves” prior to them raising the rates. In which case a further explanation might be required as to the end use of the “general reserves”.

It was agreed to defer this item of business until the next Town Council meeting.

Proposed Cllr. Watt, seconded Cllr. Powell. All in favour.

TC1962 Information

To note thanks from the RBL to Cllr Powell & Richard Lacy for their help with marshalling the parade and road closure, to the Mayor for laying the wreath and to staff for arranging the road closure.

Thanks was given to the RBL for organising the parade. They had informed the Town Council that £4,534.40 was raised.

TC1947 To Consider Applications for Co-option and make 2 appointments

Cllr Callinan withdrew from the meeting. Questions to the three candidates were invited.

John Aldis was proposed by Cllr Swain, seconded by Cllr Powell and duly co-opted by majority vote.

Ray Fennell was proposed by Cllr Curtis, seconded by Cllr Watt but did not receive a majority vote.

David Thorpe was proposed by Cllr Binns, seconded by Cllr Amor and duly co-opted by majority vote.

Cllr Callinan re-joined the meeting. The Chair thanked all those who had put themselves forward for co-option and advised Mr Fennell that his application could be kept for consideration if the Council decide to fill the Ebley Ward vacancy.

TC1963 Date of Next Meeting

22nd January 2018 (Precept)

Cllr Atkinson gave her apologies for the January, March and April 2018 Town Council meetings.
