



Stonehouse Town Council

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

**MINUTES (subject to approval at the next meeting)
OF A MEETING OF STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 8th DECEMBER
2014 COMMENCING AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE.**

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

Present: Chairman/Town Mayor Councillor Chris Brine
Vice Chairman/Deputy Town Mayor Theresa Watt
Councillor John Aldis, Roger Govier, Gary Powell, Pam Swain, Rob Waite,
Paul Stephens, Vicky Redding, Carol Kambites, Simon Lewis
Also Present: Town Clerk Gill Jennings, County Councillor Lesley Williams, District
Councillor Mattie Ross

TC1546 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. Jan Dyer, David Drew

TC1547 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 Waite declared an interest in TC1558a and took no part in the matter.

Councillor Simon Lewis declared an interest in TC1563 and left the meeting before the discussion.

TC1548 To agree the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th October 2014

The Minutes were agreed as a true record

TC1549 To consider an application for Co-option to the Council

The Council voted unanimously in favour of co-opting Neil Gibbs as Town Councillor.

TC1550 Public Adjournment (15 minutes duration)

Members of the public may speak only once for a maximum of 5 minutes on any specific Agenda item.

Lesley Williams (as a member of the public) asked whether the Town Council had firm views on the number of houses proposed within Local Plan review. She felt that the West of Stonehouse application would have a detrimental effect on Stonehouse community. Councillor Kambites advised that the Council were concerned that the five year land supply proposed could not be fulfilled within the 5 years, also that it was likely there was 7.1 year supply already identified, and that West of Stonehouse pending planning application was being used to take the additional numbers in one lot. Councillor Brine stated that Stroud District Council needed a Local Plan.

TC1551 To receive the Minutes of the Development Control Panel meeting of 10th November 2014

The Minutes were received and noted.

TC1552 To receive the Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee meeting of 10th November 2014

The Minutes were received and noted.

The Council debated at length the works currently being carried out on the station premises. Cllr Kambites offered to contact Network Rail in this regard.

TC1553 To receive the Minutes of the Amenities, Recreation & Tourism Committee meeting of 17th November 2014

The Minutes were received and noted.

TC1554 To receive the Minutes of the Finance & Strategy Committee meeting of 24th November 2014

The Minutes were received and noted.

K1/162.1 Resolution to adopt Strategic Plan for 2015-2020

The Council Resolved to adopt this as the Town Council's Strategic Plan Document 2015-2020. Work would continue to expand on the document and identify method of delivery.

TC1555 To receive Minutes from the Neighbourhood Plan Group of 14th November 2014

The Minutes were not available. A further meeting had been convened on the 27th November and a further consultation had been carried out at the Goodwill Event on the 28th November.

The Group had also created an online survey which would be promoted through the Stonehouse News. The funding from CDF for expert advice could not be spent within the specified timeframe therefore the Group would be writing to the Community Development Foundation to request retention of the funding for other purposes.

TC1556 To receive Brief Reports from County/District Councillors

County Councillor Lesley Williams advised the County Council's budget was available on line for consultation and presented a standstill tax figure. The Council had to find £27million savings, adult services represented 2% of the budget to be cut.

District Councillor Mattie Ross also reported a standstill budget and Stroud District Council were also working to increase income. Staff who left were not being replaced. She was very proud to report the recent handover of the first council house to be completed in many years.

She urged Councillors to attend the consultation on Wharfdale Way development being held on the 11th December. (The Town Council had not received an invitation to this event). She also advised the Council that a site visit would take place on the site opposite Avenue Terrace to discuss the development of 90 dwellings.

She asked if Stonehouse Town Council website could give publicity to the work of the Stonehouse Trustees. She was asked to ensure that Stroud District Council also promotes the facilities available at Maidenhill School.

TC1557 To receive Brief Reports from Chairpersons & Town Councillors on any external meetings attended.

Councillor Vicky Redding had attended meetings of the Standish House Local Partnership Board. She found it difficult to represent views of the Town Council without some feedback from councillors on the proposals. The Council agreed these would be managed through Regeneration & Environment Committee.

Councillor Carol Kambites reported that she had attended a meeting of the Canals Trust regarding the Phase 1B funding bid. She had emphasised the need for Stonehouse Town to have a link to the canal. It appears there is a problem with repairs to one of the railway bridges and joined up development needed between the Wycliffe site and Ship Inn site.

Councillor Carol Kambites had attended the meeting with the Strategic Parish Alliance on the 1st December and reported that the Town Council's funding would be taken up in obtaining planning advice for stage 1 of the Local Plan.

TC1558 Finance

- a. To agree payments (Nov and December to date of meeting)

Payments to the end of November at £22492.29 and the Bank Reconciliation to a balance of £14107.93 were agreed as correct. Receipts for November £11941.03 were agreed. Payments to date in December £17851.69 were agreed.

- b. To receive draft budgets from each Committee (for agreement at the January budget meeting)

Revised budgets were received and noted. Stroud District Council had not yet issued the LCTS figure.

TC1559 Matters of Information

Gloucestershire County Highways will be reducing levels of service and helping communities to do more for themselves. For full details of new service standards visit

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highwaysyourway

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

The Council will by resolution exclude the public from item TC1561/1562 due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and publicity of the item would be prejudicial to the public interest.

TC 1560 Legal Representation – Orange (EE)

To consider advice and to agree instructions

The Council considered the advice from solicitors and the Clerk and decided to offer a renewal of the lease at £5200 per annum with an independent market rent review every 2 years. If the figure was refused then an independent review would be put in place at 50% cost to EE. The solicitor is to also seek payment of the full amount owing in arrears of £4500 per annum and a contribution towards screening the area from future development.

TC 1561 Oldends and Stagholt Redevelopment

The existing buildings had been surveyed. The land would be surveyed for contamination. Further site layout plans were being prepared for consideration.

TC 1562 Tenders for Refurbishment of the Pavilion

An alternative layout plan by way of a 5m extension had been prepared with a view to reducing the cost of providing a female referees room, spectator toilets and storage, and a separate entrance for players. The objective being to protect the meeting room/kitchen area from contamination by muddy boots and to create an enhanced area for separate hire.

The Council debated this at length. Councillor Brine suggested that there was very little income from football teams and match costs becoming too expensive to be sustainable. Councillor Redding felt that there should be more defined purpose for each half of the building. The Recreation Working Group asked the Council to look ahead into the future.

Whilst there was no appetite to spend a vast sum on this project, tenders would be invited for the new layout.

TC 1563 Post Office - Update

Post Office Limited had advised that the applicant proposing the current post office premises had failed interview. The current tenants had again requested release from the tenancy, being unable to sustain the post office counter services. The Clerk advised the Council to have the premises valued for market rent. **Councillor Watt proposed that the valuation should be carried out but the Council should then consider the future use of all of the building space including library provision. This was seconded by Councillor Paul Stephens. The Council agreed to have a valuation carried out and to invite Gloucestershire County Council Library Services to the next meeting. The Council did not advise the Clerk how to respond to the current tenants.**

TC 1564 To Agree National Pay Scales

Councillor Brine advised the Council that they did not have to accept the national pay scales. The Council debated the cost and agreed that provision was in the budget and the Council should conform to national pay scales. **The increases were agreed as follows:**

To pay in December 2014 a one-off tax deductible payment equivalent to £2.70 per hour for every hour worked in a 37 hour week and to pay a further amount in April 2015 in accordance with circular E03-14 dated November 2014 and to apply the SCP salary scales from 1st January 2015, Deputy Clerk SCP26 Town Clerk SCP36.

TC 1565 Date of Next Meeting

The Council will meet to set the budget on the 12th January 2015.
