



Stonehouse Town Council

TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL10 2NG

**MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Town Council meeting)
of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the TOWN COUNCIL held at 7pm on 18 May 2015
in the Town Hall.**

**Present: Councillors Theresa Watt, Gary Powell, Amy Coombs, Jo Byrne, Paul Stephens,
Neil Gibbs, Carol Kambites, Rob Waite, Deborah Curtis, Gwen Atkinson
Also Present: Town Clerk Gill Jennings, County Councillor Lesley Williams, District
Councillor Mattie Ross, 5 members of the public**

1. Councillors are to complete Declarations of Acceptance of Office and confirm compliance with the Council's Code of Conduct

Councillors completed their declarations in the presence of the Town Clerk.

2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Pam Swain (holiday)

3. The Appointment of a Chairman/Town Mayor

Councillor Theresa Watt was proposed by Carol Kambites, seconded by Gary Powell. Carried by unanimous vote.

4. The Appointment of a Vice Chairman/Deputy Town Mayor

Councillor Pam Swain was proposed by Theresa Watt, seconded by Gary Powell. Carried by unanimous vote.

5. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Rob Waite declared an interest in item 22 (payment to Hostpipe)

6. Confirmation that the Town Council is eligible to adopt the General Power of Competence and to pass a Resolution to use that power

The Council Resolved to adopt the General Power of Competence

7. Confirmation that the current Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Health & Safety Policy, Complaints Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, FOI Scheme are sufficient for governance of the Council

The Council confirmed that the stated Governance Documents were sufficient.

8. Confirmation of the accuracy of the Minutes of the last meeting of the Council of the 23rd March 2015

The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

9. Receipt of the Minutes of the Development Control Panel Meeting of 30th March 2015

The Minutes were noted.

10. Receipt of the Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee Meeting of 30th March 2015

The Minutes were noted. The Committee were asked to progress the matter of the Wi-Fi box

11. Receipt of the Minutes of the Amenities, Recreation & Tourism Committee Meeting of 13th April 2015

The Minutes were noted.

12. Receipt of the Minutes of the Finance & Strategy Meeting of 20th April 2015

The Minutes were noted.

The Council passed a Resolution to adopt the Community Engagement Policy, Training Policy, Staffing Policies

13. To agree a Risk Management Policy and Co-option Policy

The Council passed a Resolution to adopt both policies.

**The Chair called an adjournment to make an award to Oliver King – Young Person of the Year
Oliver was presented with the Vicky Wakefield-Heath Cup for his assistance to the
Neighbourhood Plan Group.**

14. Appointment of 3/4 members to existing Committees in addition to Chair/Vice Chair:

The Council made the following appointments

Development Control Panel: Gwen Atkinson, Carol Kambites, Amy Coombs, Vicky Redding

Regeneration & Environment: Carol Kambites, Vicky Redding, Amy Coombs

Amenities, Recreation & Tourism: Gary Powell, Neil Gibbs, Deborah Curtis, Gwen Atkinson

Staffing Committee: Paul Stephens, Theresa Watt, Neil Gibbs

Finance & Strategy: Paul Stephens, Rob Waite, Jo Byrne

15. Appoint Members to Council Working Groups and confirm the remit of those Groups:

Town Council Auditors – to make quarterly checks on the accuracy of the accounts and prevent fraudulent activity: **Paul Stephens, Vicky Redding**

Neighbourhood Plan Group – to engage with residents in the formation of a Neighbourhood Plan
Rob Waite, Carol Kambites, Vicky Redding, Gary Powell

16. Appoint 2 new cheque signatories

The Council appointed Deborah Curtis and Carol Kambites

17. Review of arrangements in appointing Members to external groups as representatives:

The Council were advised by the Clerk that none of the following groups had approached the Council For representation. In the case of Doverow arrangements were included in the Trust Deed. The Council decided however that as part of community engagement they would maintain links through a representative

as follows:

Stonehouse Allotment Tenants Association – **Deborah Curtis**

Citizens Advice Bureau – **Carol Kambites**

Cotswold Canals Western Executive Committee – **Paul Stephens**

Stonehouse Community Partnership – **Jo Byrne**

Stonehouse School Trustees – **Pam Swain**

Doverow Hill Trust – **Theresa Watt, Gill Jennings**

Crime & Disorder Cluster Group – **Neil Gibbs**

18. Confirmation that a review of land, premises and investments has been carried out and current Values included in the Statement of Accounts.

It was confirmed that current values had been reviewed and were included in the Statement of Accounts.

19. Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insured risks

The Council Resolved that the renewal premium quoted at £9229.95 is accepted and covers all risks.

20. Consideration of the Internal Auditor's Report, approval of the Year End Accounts and to make a Statement of Assurance

The Council noted that the Independent Internal Auditor had examined the Council's records and was satisfied that the system of internal controls was adequate for the purpose intended and there were no matters to bring to the Council's attention.

The Council approved the Year End Accounts with a balance carried forward of £431718 and made a Statement of Assurances in the affirmative. Both were signed by the RFO and Chair.

21. To determine the time and place of ordinary meetings of the full Council up to and including the next Annual Meeting of full Council.

A list of meeting dates was circulated.

Ordinary Business Session

22. To agree the bank reconciliation to end of April 2015 and agree accounts for payment

The Current Account Bank Balance was agreed at £217166.25 Payments for April were agreed as £14940.03 Receipts £195773.73

23. To consider any urgent planning matters/consultations (see below), to receive a report from SPA and authorise further expenditure:

S.15/0601/FUL Land adjacent to Stonehouse Commercial Centre, Bristol Road
Erection of 5 buildings (B1, B2 and B8)
No Observations

S.15/0031/STREG Property Strategy Lead, Gloucestershire County Council
The Shrubberies School, Oldends Lane
Extension to form new Medical Room, Speech Therapy and Hygiene/Changing Room for the School. The extension has been designed to match the aesthetics of the existing building.
Support

Appeal By: Robert Hitchins Limited

Land south of Bristol Road, Stonehouse

Residential Development (up to 90 dwellings) including infrastructure, ancillary facilities, open space and landscaping. Construction of new vehicular access from the A419, Bristol Road.

The Appeal is to be dealt with at a Public Inquiry – date to be advised.

Opposed

Councillor Kambites briefed the Council on the progress made by SPA at the Stage 1 Hearing. It seemed unlikely that the Inspector could be persuaded to reject the number put forward by Stroud District Council but there was still doubt about the Council's methodology and consultation process. SPA had £9000 left in funding and this would need to be used very sparingly in Stage 2. The Council had previously agreed the limit of expenditure by the Council at £7000 and this would not be exceeded.

24. Brief Reports from County/District/Town Councillors

County Councillor Lesley Williams has visited the area with the new highways manager to take stock of issues which require attention. She asked the Council to advise her of any issues which might be funded out of the £20000 local fund. She advised that the County Council were redesigning childrens services and may bring adult social services back in house. Waiting for next Government budget.

She suggested that Regeneration Committee should revisit the Great British High Street Competition as there was scope for improvement of the High Street.

Councillor Mattie Ross congratulated Theresa Watt on her appointment as Chair/Town Mayoress and wanted it minuted that she was grateful for all the hard work of Chris Brine as Town Mayor in the years before. She reported that the District Council's AGM will take place later this week and the DLO going ahead with new gas fittings in council properties. Council waiting to hear about the Right to Buy. She commended the new children's play area at Stratford and had attended a meeting at Gloucester Services which was much bigger than the last one and would have a hotel on site.

25. Adjournment for Public Participation

John West mentioned that he volunteers at The Elms with people who are disadvantaged and unable to walk into the town due to the varying heights of pavements and awkward angles. He found wheelchair access particularly difficult and invited members of the Council to try it out.

Mattie Ross mentioned that the potholes on Park Estate needed attention by the County Council.

She drew attention to the Breast Cancer Awareness Week and she was knitting to turn Stonehouse pink with tree decorations.

Tim Williams, 1st Team Captain Stonehouse Football Club and Will Pedrick were present to explain that they have an opportunity to move up the league if they can upgrade their changing room facilities now, rather than wait for the larger redevelopment scheme. They asked the Town Council to consider allowing temporary use of the workshop which they would adapt with funds they had raised of £8-10,000.

Following questions the Council agreed that more detail was needed and that the Recreation Working Group would be required to look into this and report back.

The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

The Council will by resolution exclude the public from item 26 due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and publicity of the item would be prejudicial to the public interest.

26. Legal Matters

The Council Resolved to Exchange of Contracts - Perth

The date of the next Town Council Meeting is 22 June 2015
