



STONEHOUSE **TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Town Council meeting)
of a meeting of STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 5th September 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, Ray Clegg, Deborah Curtis,
Tim Jackson, Carol Kambites, Gary Powell, Paul Stephens

Also Present: Town Clerk, County Cllr Lesley Williams, District Cllrs Mattie Ross and Chris Brine, Stroud News & Journal, 1 resident and Shirley Godsall (GAPTC)

TC1751 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Smart, and Cllr Gibbs (training)

TC1752 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.

Cllr Byrne declared an interest in TC1764 (payments to Jo Mew Creative)

TC1753 TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 27TH JUNE 2016

The Minutes were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman

TC1754 KEV ADCOCK LOCAL RISK MANAGER FOR STROUD DISTRICT TRI SERVICE CENTRE WILL BE PRESENT TO TALK ABOUT THE TRI SERVICE (15 Minutes)

Mr Adcock was not present at the meeting despite the meeting being offered at his request.

TC1755 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (15 minutes)

Gordon Head was present to explain his continued complaints about delivery vans parking outside the charity shop. He explained that it prevented him from parking there as a disabled driver. He felt that the disabled bay was not properly marked with a blue sign or road markings. Apcoa and the County Council had ignored his complaints. Cllr Lesley Williams took his details and would be in touch.

TC1756 TO RECEIVE AND REQUEST REPORTS ON MATTERS OF INTEREST IN STONEHOUSE FROM COUNTY/WARD COUNCILLORS

Cllr Ross stated that the Housing Review Team would like a meeting with town councillors following the sheltered housing report.

Cllr Williams stated that she was a member of Cycle Champions who are promoting the increased use of the designated cycle paths in the district.

Cllr Williams provided a report on her exchanges between the public, town council and Amey regarding the High Street works. The works had been delayed by equipment hire but still within schedule. The traffic lights appeared to cause the most concern with the coned off laybys being an inconvenience. The work will be completed by the 30th September and Glos County Council keen that all the scheduled work is carried out without cancellation as suggested by some parties.

She offered to hold a public meeting at which the reasons for the work would be explained. The Town Council agreed that this was a good idea. Cllr Ross asked whether parking in Regent Street could be considered within the parking review.

TC1757 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS (external meetings)

Cllr Byrne reported that she and Cllr Gibbs had attended the Cluster Group meeting and crime in Stonehouse was down but an increase in opportunist card stealing was on the up.

There is currently a shortage of fire fighters and there will be a recruitment drive.

Neighbourhood wardens can do up to 4 clear up events per year and the town council should find a project for them.

Cllr Curtis has attended a meeting of the Standish Partnership Board and was pleased to report that the site will be sold to a developer with experience of restoring historic buildings.

Cllr Callinan attended the GAPTC AGM and was reassured to hear that other parishes were experiencing the same difficulties and obstacles. He encouraged a resolution from the town council next year.

Cllr Byrne had attended the AGM of Stonehouse Community Partnership who reported a successful year with many events including a junior wardens scheme. APT have also formed new social clubs.

TC1758 To receive the Minutes of the Development Control Panel meeting held on 11th July 2016

The Minutes were accepted. Cllr Callinan congratulated the Committee Clerk on her use of Local Plan knowledge in compiling responses.

TC1759 To receive the Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee held on 11th July 2016

The Minutes were accepted.

Resolution Required:

K2/347 To agree the recommendation of footpaths closure/diversion at Stagholt

The Council agreed to the modification recommended by the clerk to divert the footpath along Stagholt field with new kissing gates to join Oldends Lane via Stagholt track and the Athletics field.

TC1760 To receive the Minutes of the Amenities Recreation and Tourism Committee held on 18th July 2016

The Minutes were accepted.

Resolutions required:

K3/418 Council are asked to consider a rent increase to be applied to all tenants. At least 2.5% is recommended - **The Council debated this and decided that having not adequately reviewed this in the past the rents for the Wessex Reserves, Magpies and Stonehouse Football Club would be increased by 5%.**

K3/418 To request F & S Committee for make adequate provision in the budget 2017-18 for new leases. **F & S to consider in their budget.**

K3/418 To agree the review of the annual rent of the Community Centre through a professional survey and allow for costs in the 2017-18 budget. **The Town Council agreed this proposal**

K3/407 To consider the use of S106 funding in respect of Elm Road development £48,488

Having originally thought that the funds could be used in the Oldends Lane redevelopment, Stroud District Council have insisted in an outdoor recreation use. **The Council debated this and agreed that the funds should be spent on replacing outdated or worn play equipment. ART Committee to explore possibilities.**

TC1761 To receive the Minutes of the Finance & Strategy Committee held on the 25th July 2016

The Minutes were accepted.

Resolution Required:

To consider the proposal put forward to allow the leaseholder of the Post Office to terminate their lease at the 31st March 2017 subject to redecoration of the whole premises, removal of the glass screens, restoration of the wooden counters and payment of the Council's legal fees in dealing with formalities. **The Council agreed to release the current tenant from their lease as stated.**

To debate and agree procedure for re-letting.

The Council had offered the premises to the County Council and waiting to hear whether of interest. The matter would be deferred until the next Town Council meeting.

Resolution required:

To consider quotations for Newsletter printing (item deferred from F & S meeting) and agree contract. **The Council considered 4 quotations and agreed to place the next order with MDL Kelex.**

TC1762 UPDATE - NOMINATION OF VERNEY FIELDS AS A COMMUNITY ASSET.

To consider application refusal and next steps. The Clerk reported that Stroud District Council were quite likely to refuse the application since the landowner had challenged the land included in the application. The Council were asked whether to withdraw the application and negotiate with the landowner, or continue. **The Council, in the majority, agreed to continue with the application. The landowner's agents had written to the council and the Council agreed to respond explaining that there was an interest in purchasing the land.**

TC1763 UPDATE - TRANSFER OF AN ASSET - ATHLETICS FIELD

Legal Services Glos County Council have been asked to consider how to process an application for a Transfer of an Asset, a meeting is awaited.

TC1764 FINANCE

1. To agree payments, bank reconciliation
Payments in August £95064.36 and September to date £3381.65 were agreed.
Bank Reconciliation July £44677.99 agreed
2. To receive the external auditors report (if available)
Not yet received
3. Disputed invoice - the County Council raised an invoice for £1020 in 2014 for cabling to the town clock during High St works in 2011. Being late in presentation the clerk has sought clarification. The county council maintain this is separate to the High St works paid for by the Town Council and is due for payment.
Cllr Brine asserted that the clock was relocated due to the power being connected to the Police station. **Council agreed, in the majority, to settle the account.**

TC1765 MATTERS OF INFORMATION

- Councillors are reminded of the Remembrance Day Parade to be held on 13th November at 11.30am - a road closure has been applied for. **The road closure notice now received.**
- Gaptc have asked for new nominations to the Executive - **Councillors to advise clerk if Interested.**
- Barclays Bank branch closure - Clerk has responded but no change in their arrangements.
- To consider police priorities for the next 6 months - Councillors are asked to consider what these might be. **Cllr Byrne suggested that underage drinking on Oldends, Laburnam and Meadow Rd playing field should be monitored. This was agreed.**
- Response to GAPTC re. Leadership Gloucestershire - **Response to be compiled by Cllr Byrne, Kambites and the Clerk.**

TC1766 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

17TH October 2016

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

The Council will by resolution exclude the public from item TC1767 due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and publicity of the item would be prejudicial to the public interest.

TC1767 LEGAL MATTERS

To consider the report circulated and agree any necessary action - Regarding the sale of Stagholt the Council agreed to proceed with the variation to the covenant on the carpark area only. Waiting for District Valuers report when land value may subject to review. Two Rivers have not yet confirmed agreement to conditions but are paying for the valuation report.

The legal matter at court was pending decision on the complainants new plea.

To consider land available for purchase at Newtown - Councillors had not considered the plan. Clerk to investigate status for discussion at another meeting.
