

Stonehouse Town Council



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MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the TOWN COUNCIL held at 7pm on 27 May 2014 in the Town Hall.

Present: Councillors Chris Brine, David Drew, John Aldis, Roger Govier, Anthony Howarth, Carol Kambites, Simon Lewis, Gary Powell, Vicky Redding, Paul Stephens, Pam Swain, Rob Waite, Theresa Watt
Also Present: County Councillor Lesley Williams, District Councillor Mattie Ross, Rick Jordan
Town Clerk Gill Jennings

TC1466 Apologies

There were no apologies

TC1467 The Appointment of a Chairman/Town Mayor

Proposed: Theresa Watt Seconded: Paul Stephens
Chris Brine was appointed by unanimous vote

TC1468 The Appointment of a Vice Chairman/Deputy Town Mayor

Cllr. Simon Lewis indicated that he wished to stand down.

Proposed: Gary Powell Seconded: Paul Stephens
Theresa Watt was appointed by unanimous vote

Chairman Chris Brine thanked Simon Lewis for his assistance as Vice Chairman over the last 3 years.

TC1469 Adoption of New Code of Conduct (NALC 2011 version adapted)

Proposed: David Drew Seconded: Pam Swain Carried unanimously

TC1470 Declarations of Interest

None declared

TC1471 Adoption of New Standing Orders (NALC 2013 version adapted)

Proposed: Simon Lewis Seconded: Anthony Howarth Carried unanimously

TC1472 Adoption of New Financial Regulations (NALC 2014 adapted)

Proposed: Simon Lewis Seconded: Gary Powell Carried unanimously

TC1473 Adoption of New Terms of Reference for Committees

"Each Committee to appoint working groups" (to be inserted)

Proposed: David Drew Seconded: John Aldis Carried unanimously

TC1474 Adoption of Vexatious Complainants Policy

Proposed: Vicky Redding Seconded: Rob Waite Carried unanimously

TC1475 Confirmation of the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting of the council of the 22nd April 2014

The Minutes were agreed as a true record

TC1476 Receipt of the minutes of the Development Control Panel Meeting of 28th April 2014

The Minutes were noted.

TC1477 Receipt of the minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee Meeting of 28th April 2014

The Minutes were noted.

TC1478 Receipt of the minutes of the Amenities, Recreation & Tourism Committee Meeting of 6th May 2014

The Minutes were noted. A request was passed on from a resident that the trees in Doverow were not felled where woodpeckers were present.

TC1479 Receipt of the minutes of the Finance & Strategy Meeting of 12th May 2014

The Minutes were noted.

TC1480 Receipt of the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Group of 25th April 2014

The Minutes were noted. The Working Group were congratulated on their consultation work to date and were asked to consult with the business community. Cllr Brine offered his assistance in making any necessary contacts.

TC1481 Consideration of the recommendations made by a committee:

Resolutions required:

K3/153.2 That Finance & Strategy Committee be responsible for the maintenance of the youth building and youth strategy and the budget to be passed across from ART Committee

Proposed: Simon Lewis Seconded: Anthony Howarth Carried by unanimous vote.

TC1482 Appointment of 4 members to existing committees in addition to Chair/Vice Chair:

Appointments were made as follows:

Development Control Panel – Roger Govier, Carol Kambites, Chris Brine, (Rob Waite offered to stand in if necessary)

Regeneration & Environment – Vicky Redding, Carol Kambites, David Drew, Chris Brine, Theresa Watt, vacancy

Amenities, Recreation & Tourism – John Aldis, Anthony Howarth, Gary Powell, Roger Govier, Chris Brine, Theresa Watt

Staffing Committee – Chair/Vice Chair Council, ART Committee Chair, F & S Committee Chair

Finance & Strategy – Simon Lewis, Rob Waite, Paul Stephens, Pam Swain, Chris Brine, Theresa Watt

TC1483 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

Simon Lewis, Pam Swain, Paul Stephens

Neighbourhood Plan Group – to engage with residents in the formation of a Neighbourhood Plan

Rob Waite, Carol Kambites, Vicky Redding, Gary Powell

(Working Groups which work under a Committee will be reviewed at the next Committee meeting)

TC1484 Review of arrangements in appointing Members to external groups as representatives:

Council to consider whether formal appointments are necessary (these are normally made in the case of other public bodies not voluntary groups although some Terms of Reference may ask for Council representation):

After School Club – No appointment made

Stonehouse Allotment Tenants Association – Roger Govier

Citizens Advice Bureau – Carol Kambites

Community Centre Management Committee – Mattie Ross

Cotswold Canals Western Executive Committee – Chris Brine

Stonehouse Community Safety Partnership – No appointment made

Stonehouse Community Partnership – Simon Lewis, John Aldis

Stonehouse School Trustees – Pam Swain

Doverow Hill Trust – Chair/Town Clerk

TC1485 Review of inventory of land, buildings and equipment

The list was reviewed and approved.

Councillor Pam Swain left the meeting

TC1486 Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insured risks

The renewal premium is quoted at £9461.86 and covers all risks.

The renewal premium was agreed.

TC1487 Review of the council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies

GAPTC Cotswold Canals Trust

SLCC GPFA

FIT

The Clerk indicated that she no longer wished to be a member of SLCC. The remaining subscriptions were agreed.

TC1488 Consideration of the Internal Auditor's Report, approval of the draft accounts and to make a Statement of Assurance

The Council congratulated the Clerk/RFO for her work on the accounts and noted the internal auditor's comment that the council's accounts were increasing in complexity and she had risen to the challenge very well.

There were no matters of concern brought to the attention of the Council.

Having adjusted the reserves balances, correcting last year's position, the accounts were approved by unanimous vote for submission to the external auditor.

The Accounting Statements and Statement of Assurances were agreed and then signed by the Chair.

The 31 March 2014 balances are noted herewith:

Balance Brought Forward	£394093
Annual Precept	203940
Total Other Receipts	298516
Staff Costs	61952
Loan Interest/Capital Repayments	0
All Other Payments	478315
Balances Carried Forward	356282
Total Cash & Investments	371763
Total Fixed Assets	1372775
Total borrowings	0

TC1489 To determine the time and place of ordinary meetings of the full Council up to and including the next Annual Meeting of full Council.

The meeting dates were fixed to the end of June 2015. DCP & Regen were moved from 7th April to the 30th March.

Ordinary Business Session

TC1490 To agree accounts for payment

Payments totalling £37887.19 were agreed which included a £25000 transfer.

TC1491 To consider any urgent planning matters/consultations

1. update from meeting with parishes regarding West of Stonehouse application – Councillor Brine reported that he had attended a meeting with Eastington & Standish Parish together with Cllr Kambites, Lewis, Watt and Swain to explore joint working and there would be a further meeting with the SDC planning officer. Councillors were urged to attend. Cllr Drew suggested that a planning expert be appointed to assist however it was decided that a collective view would have to be reached in the first instance. Clerk to explore costs involved in obtaining representation.

2. nomination of Elm Road Church Hall as a community asset (Elm Road Community Project)

In response to questions ERCP advised that the group had 27 members but they were not willing to divulge who was on the group. The group had not yet identified stakeholders but were working with GRCC and Community

Roots to formulate questionnaires and carry out consultation. ERCP were also encouraging their supporters to get involved with the Neighbourhood Plan. ERCP had not been able to survey the building within the site but believed it to be a possible restoration project and felt that the value of the site was no more than the original purchase price. There was no costed business plan but ERCP felt this was not needed for the bid. The Project recognised that the building might be demolished by the developer, that the developer might not accept a bid or even open a bid, and that there was no right to acquire the site, however they felt that making the Bid would protect the play space. The Project felt that any compensation due to the developer might be attributed to the Town or District Council as a result of them objecting to the planning application.

The Town Council discussed the matter at length. Cllr Waite felt that the existing planning application put the play space at risk. Paul Stephens stressed that the developer had not addressed the matter of partnership funding, that there would be a guaranteed income to a restored community hall from Early Years and Itchy Feet Dance Company and that the space currently offered by the developer was not sufficient. Gary Powell was concerned that the bid did not necessarily mean success in acquiring the site and it might lead to a further long period of dereliction. His concern was agreed upon by councillors present. Theresa Watt and Simon Lewis both stated that the site was not necessarily suitable as a community hall in the present day with a lack of parking and Cllr Watt stated there was little evidence to date through the neighbourhood plan that restoration of the building was supported.

Councillor Drew Proposed: Paul Stephens/Rob Waite Seconded:

That the Town Council supports the Elm Road Community Project in their Right to Bid for the Elm Road site.

A vote was taken: 5 for/4 against/3 abstentions

TC1492 Brief Reports from County/District/Town Councillors

County Councillor Lesley Williams reported that the County Council would soon be consulting on how to find £75 million. District Councillor Mattie Ross reported that the District had been busy with the elections and congratulated Gary Powell on his re-election. There would changes in the committee structures with a new planning policy group. Stroud District Council now had an MEP. She congratulated the Neighbourhood Plan Group for the public participation to date and felt that the Town Council might do something different to increase attendance at the next Annual Town Meeting.

A late consultation on the Gloucestershire Local Transport Bid was briefly discussed and Cllr Watt was delegated to respond.

TC1493 Adjournment for Public Participation

Rick Jordan expressed his thanks to the Town Council for their support to Elm Road Community Project.

The date of the next Town Council Meeting is 14th July 2014