



Minutes (subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting) of a meeting of the Town Environment Committee at the Main Hall of Park Junior School, Elm Road, Stonehouse held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7pm.

**Present:** Councillors Rachel Armstrong, Neil Gibbs (Committee Vice Chair), Carol Kambites (Vice Chair of Council, Committee Chair), Val Randell, Pam Swain, Keith Terry,

**In attendance:** One resident, Rachel Russell, Deputy Clerk (Minutes)

---

**Public participation**

A resident attended to listen to the meeting.

**E/366 To receive apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Powell and Thorpe

**E/367 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**E/368 To approve the minutes of the Town Environment Committee meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

The minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were agreed as a true record. All in favour.

**E/369 To comment on planning applications as listed**

**21/1904/HHOLD 46 Midland Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2DH**

Erection of side extension & porch

**No observations**

**21/1884/LBC 31 High Street, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2NG.**

Listed Building Application: Description: Proposed stud partition and new doorway

**No observations**

**21/1950/TPO 80 Woodcock Lane, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2ER.**

Tree Preservation Order: 1 x common ash - Fell to leave a 3m monolith.

**No observations**

**21/1663/FUL Land Adjacent To, Oldends Lane, Stonehouse,**

Proposed access to site to be located opposite Brunel Way (alternative to access from Oldends Lane as approved under planning permission S.21/1663/FUL).

**SUPPORT: The proposal to move the access to the car park to Brunel Way rather than Oldends Lane as shown in the plans submitted is supported.**

**21/1989/TCA**                      **East Wing, Bridgend House, Downton Road, Bridgend.**  
Trees in a Conservation Area: Willow tree - reduce by approximately 6m and the sides by 4m to shape. Overall height when finished 10.5m.  
**No observations.**

**21/1982/HHOLD**    **31 Rosedale Avenue, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2QH**  
Erection of double garage & side extension  
**No objection if no objection from neighbours.**

**E/370 To note response given to a planning consultation using delegated powers**

**21/1344/FUL**                      **Land At, Oldends Lane, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.**  
Erection of four terraced dwellings & associated access & parking. (Revised drawings received 12.8.21)

No extension of time could be obtained to respond to the above consultation. Therefore the following response was agreed using delegated powers:

**COMMENT:** The reduction from 4 to 3 dwellings is an improvement. The requirements of the Environmental Health Officer regarding noise and vibration from the nearby railway line must be met as must any Highways recommendations regarding access to the site given its proximity to a level crossing.

It is concerning that the Revised Noise and Vibration Assessment dated 16 August 2021 recommends that: “Based on external noise levels, it is seen that windows should remain closed therefore alternative means of ventilation should be provided to achieve BS8233 internal noise level targets.” (para 6.4, p.12). The report suggests use of windows with passive ventilation vents but this will mean that windows can’t be used to help with cooling the homes. Therefore mechanical cooling mechanisms will be needed and it is questionable whether the design of the development is sustainable and in line with Local Plan policy Delivery Policy ES1 Sustainable Construction and Design. ES1 requires that that sustainable design and construction will be integral to new development and that planning applications should include evidence on how a development will maximising energy efficiency and integrate the use of renewable and low carbon energy. The revised version of this policy ES1 in the pre-submission Draft Local Plan includes the following requirement which the proposed development is unlikely to meet: “Reduce the potential for overheating - All new development should include a recognised overheating risk assessment (Home Quality Mark (HQM) or equivalent)”

**E/371 To receive a report on planning decisions received from Stroud District Council, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 to 31st August 2021**

The report was noted.

**E/372 To receive a report on the Committee budget**

The report to 31 August 2021 with income at £3,997.33 and expenditure at £16,337.22 was noted.

**E/373 To consider quotations received for printing of Stonehouse Community Arboretum Management Plan and agree expenditure**

Quotes to print in colour the Stonehouse Community Arboretum Management Plan had been received: 500 copies for £545, 250 copies for £372. The firm is a local company which has given the best price for a number of jobs.

**It was agreed to accept the quotes, that the cost would be met by the Committee's Climate Change budget and that Cllr. Kambites and the Deputy Clerk would confirm the quantities required after consulting with the Plan's author. All in favour.**

**E/374 To consider creating an earmarked reserve for repairs to Stagholt Brook with an initial transfer in of £8,350 from the General Fund and transfer out of £8,350 to account for expenditure to date.**

Emergency works to Stagholt Brook had been approved by Town Council, 15 Feb 2021 (TC/2561) and by Town Business Committee, 21 April 2021 (B/227). A payment of £8.350 related to 2 invoices from JP Environmental was made in May 2021. They have been shown as being met from the budget heading 1190/1 Amenity Areas/ Grounds Maintenance (Contract). As this was exceptional and unplanned expenditure it is proposed that this should be met from Reserves, rather than from the annual budget.

**It was agreed to create an earmarked reserve for repairs to Stagholt Brook with an initial transfer in of £8,350 from the General Fund and transfer out of £8,350 to account for expenditure to date. All in favour.**

**E/375 To consider report on Highways issues from County Councillor and agree further action**

It was agreed that Transport and Highways Working Group would arrange a meeting with County Councillor to discuss issues raised in further detail.

**E/376 To consider Highways issues to be raised with County Councillor.**

Highways issues to be raised with County Councillor to include: speeding Oldends Lane, possible VAS, tailbacks of lorries Oldends Lane, road safety & crossing Oldends Lane, speeding and weight limit Bath Road, shared space resurfacing.

**E/377 To note update from GCC on proposed alterations to A419 at Downton Road and Horsetrough roundabout.**

Gloucestershire County Council are now proposing the following revisions to the recent alternations to the A419:

- 1) Downton Road Junction -to reinstall the priority cycle phase at the signals and create a gap in the Regent Street guardrail. Work to be completed at the earliest opportunity.
- 2) Horsetrough Roundabout: likely to revert to the original layout prior to the works with the dedicated left turn lane converted to cyclists only, this will be blocked off to prevent unauthorised access by motor vehicles.

The proposed revisions were welcomed as they will improve road safety.

**E/378 To consider supporting a proposal to adopt Stonehouse to Nailsworth and the Dudbridge to Stroud Cycleways as a Public Highway, both as a Public Footpath and as Cycle Tracks.**

**It was agreed to support the proposal to adopt Stonehouse to Nailsworth and the Dudbridge to Stroud Cycleways as a Public Highway, both as a Public Footpath and as Cycle Tracks. All in favour.**

Deputy Clerk to confirm support in writing to County Cllr. Smith as requested by Stroud Path Rights Project.

**E/379 To recommend to Town Council community infrastructure projects for support by Stroud District Council from monies obtained through Community Infrastructure Levy developer contributions.**

**Recommendation to Town Council: That bids for funding from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) developer contributions for the following projects are made to Stroud District Council, subject to discussion with CIL officer:**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Bid type</b>
<b>Stroudwater Bristol Road Station, Stonehouse:</b>	<b>Feasibility and timetabling studies: project to be delivered in 2022/23</b> <b>Further studies: Expressions of Interest for funding for further development work.</b>
<b>Route 45 Cycle Path</b>	<b>Resurfacing/other improvements: project to be delivered in 2022/23</b>
<b>Canal side community hub site</b>	<b>Expressions of Interest for funding in future years.</b>

**E/380 To consider proposals for funding by County Councillor’s Build Back Better grants programme.**

Cllr. Kambites advised that there are two Gloucestershire County Council Build Back Better grants programmes, the Market Towns Fund and the County Councillor’s fund.

Events Committee to consider proposals for the Market Towns Fund. County Councillor’s fund can be used for a wide variety of projects for community benefit. Possible projects include improving accessibility of play areas and supporting young people’s mental health; all working groups to consider use of fund.

**E/381 To note and approve convenors for working groups**

**The following convenors were noted and approved:**

<b>Working Group</b>	<b>Convenor</b>
Canal Rejuvenation Working Group	Cllr. Swain
PROW	Cllr. Armstrong
Recreation Working Group	Cllr. Gibbs
Transport and Highways	Cllr. Terry

It was agreed to disband the Town Centre working group which had been established to respond to opening up of High Street after lockdowns. High Street vitality supported by Events and Business Networking Groups.

**E/382 To receive reports from Working Groups and consider recommendations. Canal Rejuvenation Working Group, Events, Town Centre, Public Rights of Way (PROW), Recreation Working Group, Transport and Highways**

**Recommendation from Canal Rejuvenation Working Group: To consider proposed consultation form and make recommendation to Town Council.**

Cllr. Swain confirmed the Working Group’s strong preference for a sole delivery of the consultation form to each house. Deputy Clerk advised that delivery firms with dates available for sole delivery within the next two months are proving very difficult to find.

**Recommendation to Town Council:**

- a) That the proposed Canal Consultation form as agreed by the Canal Rejuvenation Working Group on 1st September 2021 is used for a public consultation on the future of the Ship Inn site.
- b) That the Canal Consultation form is delivered to every house, possibly with Stonehouse News.

All in favour.

**Events:** Cllr. Kambites reported that the Working Group were planning Goodwill and the Tree Day, 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Recommendations from PROW working group:**

To consider and agree further action in relation to adoption of tracks to Doverow Hill as footpaths.

To agree walking routes to recommend to Cotswold Way Association for publication on their website.

Cllr. Armstrong reported that Town Council officers have advised that the farmer at Far Westrip Farm, who also owns land where previously open tracks have been shut off, currently permits the Town Council occasional vehicle access over her land to Doverow Wood; this was useful when larger items are brought to or removed from the Wood. There are a number of residents who strongly support an application to have the tracks added to the Public Rights of Way map.

It was agreed that:

- a) Stonehouse Town Council proceed with collecting evidence for an application for a Definitive Map Modification Order to add all the tracks up to Doverow Wood which were previously open and in use.
- b) the landowner is kept informed of this application.

It was agreed that the short and long routes circulated by Cllr Armstrong for addition to Cotswold Way Association's website can be sent to the Association.

Convenors to arrange meetings of Recreation Working Group and Transport and Highways Working Group.

**E/383 To receive an update on progress towards re-opening Stroudwater Station.**

Cllr. Kambites reported she had received a response to the e-petition from GCC which confirmed that GCC are looking at a new station as a way to facilitate further growth.

**E/384 Date of next Environment Committee meeting: 20 September 2021**

---

# Financial Budget Comparison

## for Town Environment Committee

Comparison between 01/04/21 and 31/08/21 inclusive.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/21

	2021/2022	Reserve	Actual Net	Balance	Bal %age
<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>Town Environment Committee</b>					
200	Stonehouse in Bloom	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
205	Event Income/Donations	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
210	Planting Sponsorship	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
215	Grants	£0.00	£3,997.33	£3,997.33	100.00%
<b>Total Town Environment Committee</b>		£0.00	£3,997.33	£3,997.33	100.00%
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Town Environment Committee</b>					
1190	Amenity Areas	£37,500.00	£0.00	£12,982.60	-65.38%
2000	Christmas Lights	£5,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	-100.00%
2005	Climate Change	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	-100.00%
2010	In Bloom	£7,000.00	£0.00	£2,240.62	-67.99%
2020	Street Furniture/Bus Shelters	£2,000.00	£0.00	£460.00	-77.00%
2030	Traffic Calming/Transport Studies	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2040	Town Greens Maintenance	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2050	Cultural Events & Studies	£5,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	-100.00%
2060	Signage	£300.00	£0.00	£114.00	-62.00%
2070	Town Centre Partnership	£0.00	£0.00	£540.00	100.00%
2080	Neighbourhood Plan Review	£4,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	-100.00%
2090	Planning Specialist Advice	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	-100.00%
<b>Total Town Environment Committee</b>		£63,800.00	£0.00	£16,337.22	-74.39%