



Minutes (subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting) of a meeting of the Town Environment Committee at the Library, High Street, Stonehouse, GL10 2NG held on Monday 22nd November 2021 at 7pm.

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

In attendance: Three residents
Rachel Russell, Deputy Clerk (Minutes)

Public Participation.

A resident suggested that Bristol Road was the wrong place for a mobile phone mast as very visible from nearby housing. Cllr. Kambites advised that if planning permission required for changes to the mast, then this issue would come before Town Environment Committee but was not on the Agenda for 22nd November 2021.

E/413 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Powell and Thorpe.

E/414 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs. Randell and Terry advised that they lived opposite location to be discussed under item E/419. As item concerned pre application consultation on alteration to the building use within a business category, Deputy Clerk advised that Cllrs. Randell and Terry did not have a pecuniary interest.

Cllr. Kambites reported that she is a member, as a representative of a cycling group, of the Stroud District Council Walking and Cycling Task and Finish Group referred to in E/421; Deputy Clerk advised that this was not a pecuniary interest.

E/415 To approve the minutes of the Town Environment Committee meeting held on 18th October 2021

The minutes of 18th October 2021 were **agreed** as a true record. Four in favour; two abstentions.

E/416 To comment on planning applications as listed

21/2465/FUL

Land At, Oldends Lane, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.

Erection of three terraced dwellings and associated access and parking (Revised scheme to S.21/1344/FUL)

OBJECTION: The access arrangements are dangerous given the site's proximity to a level crossing. The proposed mitigation to manage noise and vibration from the railway is to have sealed windows and rely on passive ventilation; this does not seem to be sustainable design in line with Local Plan delivery policy ES1 as mechanical ventilation may be needed to avoid overheating.

21/2567/HHOLD 10 Sydney, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2PU.

Garage conversion, single storey extension & provision of parking space

COMMENT: No objection but suggest that permeable paving is required in line with Local Plan Delivery Policy ES4 Water resources, quality and flood risk.

21/2530/HHOLD 8A Gloucester Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2PB.

Amendments to drive

COMMENT: No objection but suggest that permeable paving is required in line with Local Plan Delivery Policy ES4 Water resources, quality and flood risk.

21/2611/CPE 38 Burdett Close, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2LS

Certificate of existing lawfulness for parking and access.

No observations.

21/2652/ADV 7 High Street, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2NN.

1 no. replacement sign.

SUPPORT: The new sign improves appearance of building.

21/2525/FUL 18 High Street, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2NA.

Erection of first-floor rear extension & change of use of first floor ancillary retail storage space (Class E) to a self-contained flat.

SUPPORT: The proposal helps meet a need for smaller unit housing identified in the Stonehouse Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP policy H1: Local Needs Housing (Dwelling Size and Type)) and is in line with NDP policy AF3: Design and quality in the Town Centre.

20/1576/FUL Bridge at Bonds Mill, Bristol Road, Stonehouse.

Removal of the failed existing bridge deck and its operating mechanisms and the installation of new deck and operating controls

SUPPORT: The proposal to replace the bridge with a working lifting bridge contributes to the Cotswold Canals Connected project to open up the canal between The Ocean, Stonehouse and Saul.

E/417 To receive a report on planning decisions received from Stroud District Council, 12 October 2021 to 15 November 2021

The report was noted.

E/418 To note response to planning consultation agreed using delegated powers

The consultation below was not included in the agenda for TEC 18 October 2021 and a response was agreed using delegated powers in order to meet planning deadlines.

21/2211/HHOLD 9 Whitefield Close, Bridgend, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.

Erection of single storey rear extension and internal alterations

No objections.

E/419 To agree a pre-application response to change of use proposal, Bath Road, Stonehouse.

The owner of 32 Bath Rd, the office for Cloud 2020 has asked the Town Council if they would support the conversion of some of the premises to an on demand workspace. Due to home working, Cloud 2020 premises will not go back to full occupancy with its own staff.

It was **agreed** to support the proposal which was viewed as potentially beneficial to the town centre and in line with Stonehouse Neighbourhood Development Plan policy EM3: Supporting Small and Medium sized Business which supports the provision of small, “hot-desk” and incubator offices or units.

E/420 To note formal submission of Stroud District Council Local Plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

The formal submission of the Stroud District Council Local Plan to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for independent examination was noted.

E/421 To note submission of information to Stroud District Council Walking and Cycling Task and Finish Group

Cllr. Kambites advised that the SDC Walking and Cycling Task and Finish Group is working on prioritising projects. The information on current and future projects sent by the Deputy Clerk was noted.

E/422 To receive report of site visit from Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Highways to High Street and consider, for recommendation to Town Council, proposals for changes to parking around the Shared Space.

The GCC Local Highways Manager, Senior Engineer, Traffic Regulation Order Team Cllrs. Powell and Terry and the Deputy Clerk attended a site visit on 9th November to consider long standing requests from the Town Council for changes to the parking in and around the shared space to improve safety of exit from Laburnum Road and add spaces in area near Wynn’s. The GCC Local Highways Manager confirmed that funding for a TRO was now available.

The following recommendation to Town Council was agreed:

That GCC draws up a Traffic Regulation Order for consultation for changes to parking in and around Shared Space as follows:

- **Replace the bay to the South of the exit from Laburnum Road with planters, replace bay to the North with a clearly marked loading bay.**
- **Subject to consultation with business owners, two permanent short stay parking places are provided in the area outside Wynn’s and Harry Daniel’s.**
- **Additional planters of a suitable height to be provided as existing wooden planters not suitable for proposed location.**

E/423 To receive a report from site meeting with GCC Highways regarding further proposed alterations to A419

Cllrs. Kambites and Parsons and the Deputy Clerk met on site with Construction Manager, Major Projects, GCC Highways Commissioning Team who outlined proposed change to make slip road off bypass a cycle path only. Proposal still to be signed off. Recent changes to the cycle crossing point at junction with Downton Road and signage were also discussed.

E/424 To consider proposal for sedum roof for bus shelters

Cllr Armstrong offered to research costs and suitable sites.

E/425 To consider a proposal for County wide 20mph limit for Gloucestershire from the 20’s plenty campaign.

It was **agreed** to support the proposal for a Countywide 20mph limit and to email the County Council Cabinet and County Councillor regarding a motion to adopt 20mph maximum speeds in areas where vulnerable road users and vehicles mix.

E/426 To receive a report on the Committee budget

The report to 15 November 2021 with income at £10,219.56 and expenditure at £33,720.22 was noted.

E/427 To consider Town Environment Committee budget for 2022/2023

The following comments were made regarding the draft Environment Committee budget for 2022/2023:

- Quotes are being sought for quarterly cleaning of the bus shelters; there may need to be an increase in the street furniture budget.
- Under Cultural Events and Studies, a new sub heading for consultation costs could be introduced with a budget of £1,000.
- A Neighbourhood Plan Review earmarked reserve of up to £8,000 to be created rather than included in 2022/23 budget.
- Suggested that an ear marked reserve of up to £5,000 is created towards proposed allotment extension works.

E/428 To receive a report on results of Community Consultation on Ship Inn Site and agree further action

The initial report was noted. The consultation was well supported by the community with 660 responses received. A more detailed analysis of the results will be prepared for Town Council on 6 December. The Canal Rejuvenation Working Group are arranging a meeting with the new SDC Canals Project Manager and will give further consideration to a recommendation as to how the survey results should be disseminated.

E/429 To receive a report from attendees at Stroud Canals Vision and Strategy Consultation for Parishes event, 1 November 2021.

A report had already been given to Town Council on 8 November. Deputy Clerk reported that the SDC public consultation on Stroud Canals Vision and Strategy began on 19th November and has been publicised on the Town Council's website and social media.

E/430 To consider a recommendation to Town Council that Stonehouse Town Council raise the strategic importance of the land opposite Avenue Terrace with Stroud District Council and works to promote uses for the land appropriate to its location.

The following recommendation to Town Council was agreed:

That Stonehouse Town Council raise the strategic importance of the land opposite Avenue Terrace with Stroud District Council and works to promote uses for the land appropriate to its location.

E/431 To note award of Restoring Your Railways Ideas Fund funding to proposal to re-open a station at Bristol Road Stonehouse and receive report on webinar for bid winners.

The award of Restoring Your Railways Funding to SDC for the re-opening Bristol Road Stonehouse proposal was welcomed. Cllr. Kambites reported from a webinar for bid winners; the Department for Transport want to see Strategic Outline Business Case prepared by September 2022 and will allocate a caseworker to each bid. SDC have invited two Town Council representatives to the initial meeting. It was agreed that Cllr. Kambites and the Deputy Clerk would attend.

E/432 To consider application to GCC's Build Back Better funding for market towns Events Group to consider possible applications.

E/433 To receive update from Stonehouse in Bloom

Cllr. Swain advised that In Bloom are not holding twice weekly working parties currently. Are working on some larger tasks such as creating reservoirs in the "rusty" planters on the shared space.

Cllr. Swain will be stepping down from co-ordinating town litter picks so a volunteer is needed to take on this role.

E/434 To note options for supply of town centre floral displays for Spring 2023

The baskets etc from Plantscape in 2021 were not all of good quality and they have not accepted any fault for this. However, due to limited options the Town Council may need to consider them as a supplier for 2023. The following options are being considered for the 80 baskets and displays usually purchased:

- Plantscape supply and install planted baskets (with reservoir) and displays.
- Amberol can supply planters with reservoir to be planted by a local nursery subject to a nursery being willing to re-use planters.
- Leyhill Prison may provide planters; Town Clerk is investigating.

E/435 To consider proposal for planting wild flower seeds in two areas in Laburnum Recreation Field

A proposal to plant wild flower seeds in two areas in Laburnum Recreation Field at a cost of £185 for machine hire and seeds was approved. All in favour. Cost to be met from Stonehouse in Bloom budget.

E/436 To note letter received re Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2023 and agree further action.

It was agreed that this matter should be referred to full Town Council.

**E/437 To receive reports from Working Groups and consider recommendations.
Canal Rejuvenation Working Group, Events, Public Rights of Way (PROW),
Recreation Working Group, Transport and Highways**

Canal Rejuvenation Working Group: Notes of a meeting of 16 November 2021 were received.

Events: Notes of a meeting of 12 November 2021 were received. Cllr. Kambites asked all councillors to consider if they could help at Goodwill on 4th December; help required from 8.45 and throughout the day.

PROW: Notes of a meeting of 19 November 2021 were received.

It was **agreed** that the working group consider a compromise to take account of landowner's concerns by agreeing priorities for a footpath designation application regarding paths around Doverow Hill **as a proposal for Town Council on 6th December 2021.**

Working group to research costs of providing a dog waste bin in the Cotswold Green area.

It was **agreed** that the Town Council would make an application for Tree Preservation Orders for two trees in Verney Fields. Cllr. Armstrong to provide photos and details of location.

Recreation: Notes of a meeting of 18 November 2021 were received.

It was agreed that the proposal to extend allotments is supported subject to the result of public consultation and that budget setting for 2022/23 takes account of the estimated costs (up to £4000).

That the public consultation is also on environmental enhancements to Stagholt Field with a variety of options being put forward.

Transport and Highways: Speed survey for Oldends Lane area did not show regular speeding so a VAS not appropriate.

Bus cancellations continue although Stagecoach may have recruited more drivers recently.

Gloucester Road parking: Cllr. Brine is discussing with Stroud District Council.

E/438 Date of next Environment Committee meeting: 13 December 2021

Financial Budget Comparison

for Town Environment Committee

Comparison between 01/04/21 and 15/11/21 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.

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

| | | 2021/2022 | Reserve | Actual Net | Balance | Variance |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| INCOME | | | | | | |
| Town Environment Committee | | | | | | |
| 200 | Stonehouse in Bloom | £0.00 | £1,646.00 | £1,646.00 | £0.00 | 0.00% |
| 205 | Event Income/Donations | £0.00 | £0.00 | £560.00 | £560.00 | 100.00% |
| 210 | Planting Sponsorship | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | 0.00% |
| 215 | Grants | £0.00 | £3,997.33 | £8,013.56 | £4,016.23 | 100.00% |
| Total Town Environment Committee | | £0.00 | £0.00 | £10,219.56 | £10,219.56 | 100.00% |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | | | |
| Town Environment Committee | | | | | | |
| 1190 | Amenity Areas | £37,500.00 | £11,983.00 | £19,796.23 | £29,686.77 | -79.16% |
| 2000 | Christmas Lights | £5,000.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £5,000.00 | -100.00% |
| 2005 | Climate Change | £2,000.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £2,000.00 | -100.00% |
| 2010 | In Bloom | £7,000.00 | £0.00 | £6,230.62 | £769.38 | -10.99% |
| 2020 | Street Furniture/Bus Shelters | £2,000.00 | £0.00 | £1,569.25 | £430.75 | -21.54% |
| 2030 | Traffic Calming/Transport Studies | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | 0.00% |
| 2040 | Town Greens Maintenance | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | 0.00% |
| 2050 | Cultural Events & Studies | £5,000.00 | £0.00 | £5,275.12 | £-275.12 | 5.50% |
| 2060 | Signage | £300.00 | £0.00 | £309.00 | £-9.00 | 3.00% |
| 2070 | Town Centre Partnership | £0.00 | £540.00 | £540.00 | £0.00 | 0.00% |
| 2080 | Neighbourhood Plan Review | £4,000.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £4,000.00 | -100.00% |
| 2090 | Planning Specialist Advice | £1,000.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £1,000.00 | -100.00% |
| Total Town Environment Committee | | £63,800.00 | £12,523.00 | £33,720.22 | £42,602.78 | -66.78% |