



## **STONEHOUSE** **TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes (subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting) of a meeting of the Town Environment Committee on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm at Stonehouse Library, High Street, Stonehouse, GL10 2NG.

### **Present:**

Councillors: Debbie Curtis, Marcus Dixon, Neil Gibbs (Committee Chair) and Theresa Watt.

**Also present:** Carlos Novoth (Town Clerk) and a representative of Transition Stroud

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***Attendees are reminded that the Proceedings of this meeting may be filmed, photographed, or recorded.***

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### **E/745 To receive apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Rachel Armstrong, Carol Kambites, Val Randell and Keith Terry

### **E/746 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

### **E/747 To approve the minutes of the Town Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January.**

Committee APPROVED the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting

### **E/748 To receive the latest updated Environment Budget.**

Committee NOTED the updated report showing a total 'Actual Net' Income of £2,019.64; 'Actual Net' Expenditure of £51,839.67 and Reserve Expenditure of £5,191.70

### **E/749 To discuss and agree a proposal, to present to Stroud District Council to secure Market Towns Vitality Fund for Stonehouse.**

Committee proposed the following initiatives:

- Erection of additional planter posts throughout the town for 'In Bloom'
- Improvements to shop frontages
- Improved and coordinated signage within the town and between the town and the canal
- Re lining of the High street car park
- Improvements to Church walk - the main pedestrian route into the town
- Producing a graphic that could be used as an identity for the town on its streetscape assets
- Funding a Road Traffic Order (RTO) to provide additional on street parking





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**E/750 To note a new project called Wild About Nature, which lists a wide range of wildlife events taking place in the Stroud District.**

Whilst the council are active in a number of projects, only two activities were thought relevant to add to the Wild About Nature project - the walking festival and a 'Bug Hunt' activity based on the Ship Inn site.

A representative of Transition Stroud arrived at the meeting in support of agenda item E/751 - with agreement of the committee, the Chair invited the representative to provide an overview of the initiative.

**E/751 To approve a spend of £2000 from the Climate budget to match funding for Transition Stroud E-bike project.**

The initiative is based on encouraging people to consider the use of electric bikes as an alternative to cars; a combination of normal sized adult bikes and 'Cargo' type bikes are to be provided in two locations within the District; Brimscombe and Minchinhampton; it is hoped that Stonehouse will also be able and willing to join and provide financial support. 'e' bikes will be made available for individuals to hire for a set period of time with a view to encouraging them to purchase an electric bike for themselves. It is anticipated that the two bikes allocated to Stonehouse will be based at Bridge Café where staff will hire them out and provide some basic training on their use. The initiative has received funding of £20,000 through Stroud District Council's 'Access Travel Fund'. Further funding has also been secured but in order to provide the best possible outcome, additional funding is required. The scheme will be fully insured by Transition Stroud. The Chair thanked the representative for attending the meeting. Committee wished to be part of this new initiative and **APPROVED** the £2,000 financial support requested by Transition Stroud.

The representative left the meeting.

**E/752 To note the proposed 20mph zone on various roads in Stonehouse.**

Committee supported Gloucestershire County Council's road traffic order to reinforce the 20 mph limit in certain parts of Stonehouse but asked Officers to feedback the town council's view that there should be a blanket 20mph limit throughout the town.

**E/753 To seek retrospective approval for:**

- the funding associated with the revised ecology report £800 plus VAT
- the required surface water flood risk assessment for the whole of Stagholt field £650 plus VAT
- costs associated with re-application for the change of use for the site (additional allotments).





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Committee were made aware of the need to progress quickly with the necessary reports requested by Stroud District Council's Planning department. The Clerk discussed the matter with the Chair of Council and Chair of Environment Committee prior to placing the order.

Committee retrospectively APPROVED the expenditure totalling £1,450 plus vat in addition to any necessary planning fees.

### E/754 To comment on planning applications.

**S.24/0194/TPO** Sperry Way, Stonehouse

T2. Lime - fell tree and grind out stump. T3. Lime - remove side branches to monolith tree. T4, T5, T7 Lime trees - remove regenerative growth back to trunk (re-pollard).

**Response: Council notes the essential tree works that need to be undertaken. There is some confusion with regards to tree numbers however the town council has no objections**

**S.24/0136/FUL** Site Of Former Reliance Works, Downton Road, Bridgend

Proposed industrial unit.

**Response: The town council OBJECTS to the proposed B2 use of the Reliance works; the land should be allocated for light industrial use only (a maximum of 6 units) bearing in mind the close proximity of the nearby housing estate. The adjacent industrial estate already has a shortage of parking spaces and so adequate parking will be essential. Screening from the housing estate should be in the form of trees rather than fencing.**

**S.23/2391/FUL** Greiner Bio-One Ltd, Unit 2, Pear Tree Way, Stonehouse

Erection of 2m high black paladin fence and manual access gates. (Revised drawings received 16.2.24)

**Response: The town council continues to OBJECT on the basis that the facility needs to be bunded by trees as per the original application**

**S.24/0312/HHOLD** 6 Meadow Road, Stonehouse

Erection of a two storey side extension

**Response: No objection from the town council if none from neighbours**

### E/755 To receive Working Groups updates. Members may wish to note

any reports from the following:

**Comms** - There are no updates.

**Stroudwater (Bristol Road) Station** - there was a really good article in the papers recently.

**Canal Rejuvenation** - this is progressing on a number of fronts albeit, there have been quite a number of hurdles to be overcome.

**Transport and Highways** - There have been no highway meetings lately - mention was made of commitments made by Highways that have not been progressed - the Clerk has been asked to pursue these





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**Public Rights of Way** - There have been no further movements on the Town Green application - it was felt that this may be for GDPR reasons - the clerk to pursue  
**Recreation** - There have a small number of issues raised by the planning department in relation to the planning application for Stagholt. In order to progress matters quickly with the extension to the allotments, a separate planning application for the allotments will be pursued at this time; this will include an ecology report and flood risk assessment

**E/756** To receive a report on planning decisions received from Stroud District Council.

Committee NOTED the latest planning decisions

**E/757** To approve communications in support of the meeting's decisions.

Mention to be made of the Market Town's Vitality Fund and ideas for the town.

**E/758** Date of next Environment Committee meeting: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Committee NOTED the date of the next meeting

*W. P. [Signature]*



# Financial Budget Comparison

## for Town Environment Committee

Comparison between 01/04/23 and 19/02/24 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.  
Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/23

	2023/2024	Reserve	Actual Net	Balance	Bal %age
<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>Town Environment Committee</b>					
200 Stonehouse in Bloom	£1,500.00	£0.00	£0.00	-£1,500.00	-100.00%
205 Event Income/Donations					
205/1 Events	£1,200.00	£0.00	£1,110.00	-£90.00	-7.50%
205/2 Donations	£0.00	£0.00	£259.64	£259.64	100.00%
205 Total	£1,200.00	£0.00	£1,369.64	£169.64	14.14%
210 Planting Sponsorship	£1,500.00	£0.00	£650.00	-£850.00	-56.67%
215 Grants	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
<b>Total Town Environment Committee</b>	<b>£4,200.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£2,019.64</b>	<b>-£2,180.36</b>	<b>-51.91%</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Town Environment Committee</b>					
1190 Amenity Areas					
1190/1 Grounds Maintenance (contract)	£25,000.00	£0.00	£22,112.98	£2,887.02	-11.55%
1190/2 Grounds Maintenance (in-house)	£2,000.00	£0.00	£978.09	£1,021.91	-51.10%
1190/3 Play Equipment maint/repairs/insp	£2,500.00	£0.00	£2,418.74	£81.26	-3.25%
1190/4 Public Space Improvements	£5,300.00	£1,582.80	£5,217.49	£1,665.31	-31.42%
1190/5 Tree & Hedge/boundary maintenance	£6,500.00	£0.00	£2,942.00	£3,558.00	-54.74%
1190/6 Waste Collection	£5,000.00	£0.00	£4,784.00	£216.00	-4.32%
1190 Total	£46,300.00	£1,582.80	£38,453.30	£9,429.50	-20.37%
2000 Christmas Lights	£5,000.00	£0.00	£571.00	£4,429.00	-88.58%
2005 Climate Change	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	-100.00%



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2010 In Bloom					
2010/1 Contract Planting	£0.00	£2,677.98	£0.00	£2,677.98	100.00%
2010/2 Non-Contract Planting	£3,000.00	£0.00	£2,209.06	£790.94	-26.36%
2010/3 Watering Services	£3,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,000.00	-100.00%
2010/4 Other	£1,000.00	£0.00	£3,971.33	£-2,971.33	297.13%
2010 Total	£7,000.00	£2,677.98	£6,180.39	£3,497.59	-49.97%
2050 Cultural Events & Studies					
2050/1 Goodwill	£5,000.00	£0.00	£4,765.10	£234.90	-4.70%
2050/2 Civic Awards	£300.00	£0.00	£111.34	£188.66	-62.89%
2050/3 Other	£3,000.00	£930.92	£1,224.54	£2,706.38	-90.21%
2050/4 Communications	£1,000.00	£0.00	£300.00	£700.00	-70.00%
2050 Total	£9,300.00	£930.92	£6,400.98	£3,829.94	-41.18%
2080 Neighbourhood Plan Review	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2090 Planning Specialist Advice					
2090/1	£0.00	£0.00	£234.00	£-234.00	100.00%
2090/2	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2090 Total	£0.00	£0.00	£234.00	£-234.00	100.00%
<b>Total Town Environment Committee</b>	<b>£69,600.00</b>	<b>£5,191.70</b>	<b>£51,839.67</b>	<b>£22,952.03</b>	<b>-32.98%</b>