



**Minutes (subject to agreement at the next Committee Meeting) of a meeting of the Town Environment Committee held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm at Stonehouse Library, High Street, Stonehouse GL10 2NG**

**Present:**

Councillors: Keren Capeling, Deborah Curtis (Committee Chair), Marcus Dixon, David Drew, Simon Macgregor, John Parker

**Also present:**

Jacqui Sanders (Deputy Clerk)

County Councillor Dean Botterill

2 members of the public

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

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**Public Questions**

The Chair opened the meeting by offering members of the public the opportunity to raise questions or make comment.

Councillor Botterill asked to raise these questions:

Regarding the planning application S.22/0206/OUT (Item 1021). He asked why he was not informed by Stroud District Council, as he is Gloucestershire County Councillor, of this application and that he was concerned about the amount of traffic that would occur on match days.

Committee responded that this was an amended application that was first submitted in 2022 and that he could respond to the application citing his views as a member of the public or as a County Councillor.

Why was the Council wasting money on the restoration and relocation of the Kingfisher statue, as the Kingfisher trail is no longer and the Kingfisher is in too bad of a state?

Committee responded that Stonehouse in Bloom are offering to restore the Kingfisher at potentially little to no cost to the council.

The Ship Inn Site aims to create a Community Hub through fundraising - not a lot of fundraising can be seen. Where is the fundraising?

Cllr Dixon explained that Spice has only been running for one year. They have completed Phase 1 of raising funds for the boardwalk. There is now a plan of monthly fundraising events.

- Is the Ship Inn Site going to cost the Council more money each year?  
Cllr Dixon responded that a five-year business plan was in place, with a shortfall in the next three years, after which, the site will be self-funded.
- Will the Ship Inn Site begin to look better from the roadside?  
Committee responded that this is in the plan for the future, however, a huge amount of work has already been undertaken on the site.
- Has the Ship Inn Site looked into alternate builders/contractors for the work required?  
The work at the Ship Inn Site is undertaken by volunteers.

One member of the public queried the land at Verney Fields, saying that the community could all pay £1 each to purchase the land, or Stonehouse Town Council could purchase it. Committee stated that the Council had attempted to purchase the land in 2022 and had put in an offer, which was initially accepted. Two weeks later the offer was rejected for a higher one. At this point, Council withdrew from negotiations.

Committee also stated that the current owner has said he would not sell to Stonehouse Town Council in the future, under any circumstances.

The two members of the public left as the meeting began promptly at 7.15pm.

**E/1009 To receive apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Creighton (Committee Vice-Chair) and Cllr Hunter.

**E/1010 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Drew declared an interest in Item E/1021, planning application S.22/0206/OUT.

Cllrs Dixon and Curtis declared an interest in Items E/1014 and E/1015.

Cllr Dixon raised the question as to whether it was necessary for councillors to declare an interest in the Ship Inn Site and would appreciate a response.

Update: There is no need for councillors to declare an interest in the Ship Inn Site.

**E/1011 To approve the minutes of the Town Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January.**

Committee APPROVED the Minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**E/1012 To receive the latest updated Environment Budget.**

Committee NOTED the updated report showing a total 'Actual Net' Income of £3,936.31; 'Actual Net' Expenditure of £63,557.23 and Reserve Expenditure of £7,936.70.

**E/1013 To consider and recommend to Full Council, changes to the Council's Earmarked Reserves.**

Committee recommended to Full Council the removal of the following reserve headings:

- Replacement Vehicle
- Mowers & Equipment
- Underwrite Rev Budget

Officers requested this reserve heading remain for future use; however, committee thought it unnecessary

- Laburnum Recreation Field Tress and Wildflower seeds Memorial Fund
- GCC Build Back Better Fund
- Welcome Back Funding
- Major Projects Support
- Canal Spring Festival - move remaining reserve to General Fund
- Kings Coronation

Committee RESOLVED not to approve a reserve fund of £5000 to the Ship Inn Site as it was felt there was insufficient information to make the decision.

**E/1014 To recommend for Full Council to approve the reserve allocation to allocate £20,000 to the Ship Inn Community Space project to cover the anticipated funding shortfall anticipated over the next three years: Year 1 - £5000, Year 2 - £7,500, Year 3 - £7,500.**

Cllr Dixon explained that the reserve allocation begins in April 2026 for year 1. A decision will be made by Stroud District Council's Strategy and Resources Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> April, as to whether to transfer the Ship Inn Site to Stonehouse Town Council on a long-term lease. If the decision is made to not transfer the land to Stonehouse Town Council, then no funds will be needed. Committee proposed the item, with an amendment, to read: Committee to RECOMMEND to Full Council the proposed phased allocation of reserves only on condition that the Certificate of Lawfulness is issued by Stroud District Council and that the land is transferred to Stonehouse Town Council.

**E/1015 To recommend to Full Council that an application is made to Stroud District Council for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the building design/site plans, proposed for the Ship Inn Community Space.**

Committee AGREED to recommend to Full Council an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the Ship Inn Community Space.

**E/1016 To agree in principle the restoration and potential relocation of the Kingfisher Sculpture.**

Stonehouse in Bloom propose doing the restoration work for nothing or minimal cost.

Committee AGREED in principle for Stonehouse in Bloom to undertake the restoration work and relocate the Kingfisher to the Ship Inn Site, subject to any costings being approved.

**E/1017 To consider and approve, the application for the siting of a memorial Bench in Stonehouse.**

Committee discussed the application at length. They felt more consideration should be given to the type and location of bench.

Cllrs Parker and Curtis will arrange to follow this matter up with the Applicant directly, and will defer the matter to the next Environment Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March. Officers explained that the application has followed correct procedures in line with the current Memorials Policy.

Committee RECOMMENDED that the Memorial Policy is reviewed by Policies Working Group for future applications.

**E/1018 To seek retrospective approval for a tree survey to be undertaken by Glendale for a total of £813.78, plus VAT.**

Committee APPROVED the retrospective payment of £813.78, plus VAT, for a tree survey.

**E/1019 To receive an update concerning Harpers Field and consider a response.**

Cllr Curtis gave an update on the meeting regarding Harpers Field, in which all Cllrs were invited to attend.

Committee received the update, but felt that the matter needed further discussion before a response was made.

**E/1020 To receive and approve the following recommendations from the Community**

**Arboretum and Open Spaces working group:**

- That the cedar outside the Globe be removed and replanted in a more suitable location, and that a swamp cypress be purchased and planted in its place.

Committee AGREED in principle to the cedar tree outside the Globe being removed and replaced by a swamp cypress, subject to a fully costed proposal being approved.

- That Neil Gibbs be invited to join the CAOS Group, as a member of the public.

Committee APPROVED that Neil Gibbs be invited to join the CAOS Working Group, as he had been a very engaged member previously whilst in the group as a councillor, and that he would benefit the group.

**E/1021 To comment on recent Planning Applications**

**S.22/0206/OUT** Land at M5 Junction 13 west of Stonehouse

Proposed Eco-Park development comprising a 5,000 capacity football stadium, indoor and outdoor playing pitches, an Academy building, up to 37,700 sq.metres of Class E offices and 18,000 sq. metres of B2/B8 employment floorspace with up to 2,750 sq.metres of ancillary Class E food/retail/creche, a hotel with up to 100 beds, a Care Village including a 70 bed Care Home, as well as associated access, parking, landscaping and other ancillary works.

**Comment:** Stonehouse Town Council has concerns regarding the amount of extra traffic on match days and the impact this would have on nearby areas. This council would also like to enquire whether a survey has been carried out, or any thought has been given to visitors to the Stadium arriving by train at Stonehouse Station and the impact this would have on Stonehouse, on match days.

This Council would like to note and support the comments made by Stroud District Council's Head of Housing Solutions.

Lastly, has the provision of office space been reviewed post covid?

**S.25/2438/PIP** Site of Former Reliance Works, Downton Road, Bridgend, Stonehouse

Erection of up to 9 dwellings (Use Class C3)

**Comment:** Stonehouse Town Council fully support housing on a brownfield site. The Council feels this is an ideal site, next to existing housing. The only concern is that this site is currently being used as a car park, so would like consideration as to where all these cars will move to.

**S.26/0102/HHOLD** 1 Canal Side, Ebley Road, Stonehouse

Erection of a single storey front extension.

**Comment:** No objections.

**S.26/0110/HHOLD** 17 Kings Road, Stonehouse

Erection of a rear dormer extension and loft conversion.

**Comment:** No objections.

**S.25/2455/HHOLD** 30 Willow Road, Stonehouse

Rendering of the external elevations.

**Comment:** No objections.

**S.26/0056/HHOLD** 8A Gloucester Road, Stonehouse

Erection of outbuilding.

**Comment:** No objections.

**S.26/0003/FUL** Far Westrip, Stroud

Erection of roofs over the collecting yard, where cows wait to be milked, joining on to existing milking parlour and silage barn.

**Comment:** No objections.

**S.26/0073/HHOLD** 1 Laburnum Walk, Stonehouse

Installation of a dropped kerb.

**Comment:** No objections but would like to note the piecemeal loss of greenspace and biodiversity, with ad hoc addition of parking spaces.

**E/1022** To receive a report on planning decisions received from Stroud District Council.

**S.25/2008/TPO** 20 Bramble Lane, Stonehouse

Oak tree - fell.

**REFUSED**

**S.25/2060/HHOLD** Brierfield, Pearcroft Road, Stonehouse

Erection of a single storey side and rear extension.

**PERMITTED**

**S.25/2307/TCA** Ryeford Lodge, Ryeford Road North, Ryeford, Stonehouse.

Pollard T1, T2 and T3 down to 2-3m monoliths.

**CONSENT GIVEN**

**E/1023** To receive Working Groups updates.

- **Communications**  
Minutes were attached to supporting papers.
- **Stroudwater (Bristol Road) Station**  
Not met.
- **Transport and Highways**  
Minutes were attached to supporting papers.
- **Public Rights of Way**  
Not met.
- **Recreation.**  
Not met.
- **Canal Rejuvenation**  
Not met.
- **Court View**  
Not met.
- **Community Arboretum and Open Spaces.**  
Minutes to be included in next Environment meeting.
- **Events**  
Minutes were attached to supporting papers.

**E/1024 Date of next Environment Committee meeting: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026.**  
Committee NOTED the date of the next meeting.