



Minutes of a meeting of the Town Environment Committee held on Monday 9th February, 7pm at Stonehouse Library, High Street, Stonehouse GL10 2NG

Present:

Councillors: Keren Capeling, Keith Creighton, Deborah Curtis (Committee Chair), Marcus Dixon, David Drew, Stephen Hunter, Simon Macgregor,

Also present:

Jacqui Sanders (Deputy Clerk)

One member of the public

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

The Chair invited the member of the public to speak. He introduced himself as the owner of the 14 Gloucester Road site, Item E/1032. He expressed that following 12 months on the market, there had been no interest in the site being retained for commercial use and that he is proceeding with an application for outline planning for housing. The original idea was to build 14 houses, but that has been reduced that to 11 houses - a mix of 3- and 4-bedroom homes, with parking. Councillors looked at the plan for the site but preferred to defer the discussion of the planning application to the relevant item on the agenda. The Chair thanked the owner for attending and speaking. The member of the public left the meeting at 7.08pm

E/1025 To receive apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr John Parker.

E/1026 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Capeling declared an interest in Item E/1032, planning application S.26/0180/FUL.

E/1027 To approve the minutes of the Town Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 9th February.

Subject to an amendment to agenda item E/1014, Committee APPROVED the Minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting:

'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'.

E/1028 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 £67,480.17 and Reserve Expenditure of £16,560.69.

E/1029 To recommend to Full Council the redesign and relocation of the Kingfisher to the Ship Inn Community Space, with the work to be undertaken by Stonehouse in Bloom volunteers at a cost of no more than £120.

Committee **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council, the redesign and relocation of the Kingfisher to the Ship Inn Community Space, with the work to be undertaken by Stonehouse in Bloom volunteers at a cost of no more than £120.

E/1030 To recommend to Full Council that a Task and Finish Working Group be set up to identify locations for signage to link the station, canal, Cotswold Way, and the Town Centre, and establish a suitable design and source costings.

Committee agreed that new signage is needed and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that a Task and Finish Working Group be set up to identify locations for signage to link the station, canal, Cotswold Way, and the Town Centre, and establish a suitable design and source costings.

E/1031 To receive and approve the following recommendation from the Recreation working group:

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

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

- Kay Lillington (Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association) to attend in an advisory capacity.

Committee **APPROVED** that Kay Lillington attends the group in an advisory capacity as they felt her knowledge and expertise would benefit the group.

E/1032 To comment on recent Planning Applications

S.26/0307/HHOLD 12 Boakes Drive, Stonehouse

Erection of conservatory, insertion of window to first floor side elevation, new heat pump, new gate in boundary wall.

Comment: No objection as long as none from neighbours.

S.26/0175/OUT 14 Gloucester Road, Stonehouse

Outline planning application for the demolition of the existing buildings & the construction of 11 new dwellings - access and layout to be determined - all other matters reserved.

Comment: In principle, Stonehouse Town Council has no objection to housing on this site. However, it raises these points for consideration:

- The parking spaces do not appear adequate for the size of the houses; there is nowhere in close proximity for overspill parking or visitor parking. It also notes the response from the business adjacent who has concerns about the limited space outside his premises for customers, and the concern that this may be used as additional parking for the houses.
- The Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan (H1) identified the need for a lack of bungalows and smaller dwelling units for first time buyers, and the need for additional housing suitable for an increasing population of retirement

age people. This site gives flat access to nearby shops, so would seem an ideal position for the elderly community, or starter homes. Stroud District Council's Needs Analysis for Stonehouse has also identified the need for more smaller, two-bedroom, affordable housing in Stonehouse.

- The Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan (H3) identifies that 'development proposals for 10 or more dwellings should demonstrate how they meet the requirements for play space set out in the Local Plan policy ES15.' Although the planning application is for just over that amount at 11 houses, due to the large family homes that are being proposed, we ask that this is considered.

S.26/0180/FUL Stonehouse Community Centre, Stonehouse
Erection of an InPost Locker.

Comment: A discussion was had regarding the InPost locker. Cllr Capeling provided clarity that the InPost locker would be freestanding and on a 5 year contract.

Committee AGREED to RECOMMEND that this application be discussed and determined at Full Council.

E/1033 To receive a report on planning decisions received from Stroud District Council.

S.25/2431/HHOLD 11 Melbourne Drive, Stonehouse
Erection of single storey front extension and porch.
PERMITTED

S.26/0056/HHOLD 8A Gloucester Road, Stonehouse
Erection of outbuilding.
PERMITTED

E/1034 To receive Working Groups updates.

- **Communications**
Met 9th March. Minutes to be included in next Environment meeting.
- **Stroudwater (Bristol Road) Station**
Not met.
- **Transport and Highways**
Not met.
- **Public Rights of Way**
Not met.
- **Recreation.**
Minutes were attached to supporting papers.
- **Canal Rejuvenation**
Not met.

- **Court View**
Not met.
- **Community Arboretum and Open Spaces.**
Minutes were attached to supporting papers.
- **Events**
Met. Minutes to be included in next Environment meeting.

E/1035 Date of next Environment Committee meeting: Monday 13th April 2026.
Committee NOTED the date of the next meeting.

DRAFT