



Minutes of a meeting of the Town Environment Committee held on Monday 13th July, 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, John Parker, Simon Macgregor

Also present:

Jacqui Sanders (Deputy Clerk),
Councillor Dean Bottrill

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

E/1071 To receive apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Marcus Dixon and Keren Capeling.

E/1072 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Parker declared an interest in item E/1077 as he is a member of Standish Parish Council.

E/1073 To approve the minutes of the Town Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 8th June.

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

E/1074 To receive the latest updated Environment Budget.

Committee NOTED the updated report showing a total 'Actual Net' Income of £120.00; 'Actual Net' Expenditure of £13,779.77 and Reserve Expenditure of £0.

E/1075 To approve the pollarding of three willows at Stagholt Brook, at a cost of £540 plus VAT.

Committee APPROVED the pollarding of three willows at Stagholt Brook, at a cost of £540 plus VAT.

E/1076 To consider a response to Stroud District Council's Public Spaces Protection Orders.

Stonehouse Town Council recognises the importance of sufficient powers being in place to tackle anti-social behaviour that is impacting negatively on people's quality of life in a public space and supports Stroud District

Council's proposal to extend its six Public Space Protection Orders for a further three years from October 18, 2026. The Council also notes the lack of signage and recognises the importance of appropriate signage in reinforcing Public Space Protection Orders.

E/1077 To consider a response to Standish Parish Council's draft Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Stonehouse Town Council welcomes the preparation of the Standish Neighbourhood Development Plan and supports its commitment to protecting landscape character, biodiversity, heritage and sustainable transport. The Plan rightly recognises the close relationship between Standish and Stonehouse, particularly in relation to strategic growth at Great Oldbury and the importance of maintaining a clear green gap between settlements.

From Stonehouse's perspective, it is essential that policies are implemented in a way that balances the protection of Standish's rural character with the needs of neighbouring communities. Stonehouse already accommodates significant housing and employment growth, and future development in Standish will inevitably influence transport, education, healthcare and recreational infrastructure serving both parishes. Continued collaboration on infrastructure planning will therefore be vital.

We particularly support the emphasis on active travel links between Gloucester, Standish and Stonehouse, as improved walking and cycling connections would benefit residents of both parishes, reduce car dependency and strengthen ecological corridors. Similarly, protecting the setting of the Cotswold National Landscape and the open countryside between settlements will help preserve the distinct identities of both communities.

The council also notes the huge volume of traffic already on the B4008, which was never intended to be the major road it has become. Council therefore suggest a speed limit of 40mph would be appropriate.

E/1078 To retrospectively recommend approval to Full Council, the extension to the council's Grounds Maintenance Contract to 31st March 2028.

Committee AGREED to recommend to Full Council that the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract be extended to 31st March 2028. The Committee requested that, in future, similar matters be presented for consideration at the appropriate time rather than retrospectively.

The Committee also requested that, when the contract is due for renewal in 2028, the Council undertakes a review of available options to ensure value for money and to consider alternative options.

E/1079 To note the historical significance and importance of the Beatrice Webb Oak at Greenwalk and consider writing a letter of support to Standish Parish Council.

The Committee discussed the historical significance of the tree and noted that planning permission had been granted for the development of an under-5s play area adjacent to it. Councillors further noted that the tree is now protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and that an alternative location for the play area is being explored.

Cllr Parker will write a letter of support on behalf of Stonehouse Town Council to Standish Parish Council.

E/1080 To receive the following recommendation from the Events Working Group:

- To retrospectively approve a payment to Market Street Markets-Nailsworth of £1000 for the hire of the stalls for Goodwill.

Committee retrospectively APPROVED a payment to Market Street Markets-Nailsworth of £1000 for the hire of the stalls for Goodwill.

- To retrospectively approve a payment of £1,950 to Little Party Heaven for entertainment for Goodwill.

Committee retrospectively APPROVED a payment of £1,950 to Little Party Heaven for entertainment for Goodwill.

The Committee noted that bookings should be made in advance and requested that the Events Working Group avoid seeking retrospective approval in future.

E/1081 To receive the following recommendation from the Community Arboretum and Open Spaces Working Group:

- To provisionally approve a Community Activity Day be held in Doverow Wood to fix the paths, subject to costings being provided and approved at the next meeting.

The Committee provisionally approved the holding of a Community Activity Day in Doverow Wood, subject to Cllr Parker providing detailed costings for consideration and approval at the next meeting.

E/1082 To comment on recent Planning Applications

S.26/0811/OUT Land at 7 Woodcock Lane, Stonehouse

Outline application for the erection of one detached single-storey dwelling (bungalow) with all matters reserved except for access, layout and scale.

Comment: No objections but note the loss of trees and encourage the planting of new ones in accordance with the Stonehouse Community Arboretum Plan.

S.26/1069/FUL Maidenhill School, Kings Road, Stonehouse

Installation of a synthetic turf pitch, including fencing, floodlighting, access path and ancillary.

Comment: No objections, subject to appropriate measures being implemented to minimise light pollution and mitigate any impact on neighbouring properties and the natural environment.

The Council is also concerned that adequate parking provision is made for users of the facility to ensure that overspill parking does not have a detrimental impact on surrounding residential properties.

S.26/1097/TCA 3 Valley View, Lower Mills, Bridgend, Stonehouse

T1 Willow, T2 Willow, T3 Willow - pollard to 1 - 2m stems.

Comment: Council feels that the specification should be that each tree needs to be re-pollarded back to its original pollard points.

S.26/0976/FUL Land at 19 Kings Road

Demolition of 4 single storey garages and erection of a 2 storey, 3 bed detached dwelling.

Comment: Stonehouse Town Council strongly objects to this application.

It is unclear which property the application relates to, as the address stated on the application form differs from that shown on the planning application and supporting documentation. The Council considers that this discrepancy creates uncertainty regarding the proposal and should be clarified before the application is determined.

The Council also notes the objections already submitted by a local resident - the apparent owner of the property in question.

Furthermore, the property is situated on a road that is already heavily congested and forms part of a bus route. The Council is concerned that the proposal provides only a single parking space, which is unlikely to be sufficient.

The Council also considers the proposal to represent an overdevelopment of a small site.

S.26/0986/HHOLD 19 High Street, Stonehouse

Installation of an electric vehicle charging unit.

Comment: No objections.

S.26/1060/HHOLD 111 Ryelands Road, Stonehouse

Erection of two single storey extensions and a boundary wall.

Comment: No objections as long as none from neighbours.

E/1083 To receive a report on planning decisions received from Stroud District Council.

S.26/0691/HHOLD 24 Oldends Lane, Stonehouse

Erection of a garage.

APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

S.26/0531/FUL Hopelands Preparatory School, Stonehouse

Alterations to playground including upgraded access path, relocation of wall and fencing to enlarge play surface and replacement fencing and erection of a retaining wall.

PERMITTED

APP/C1625/C/25/3369713 Land off Ebley Road, Stonehouse

Appeal against an alleged breach of planning control for the material change of use of land from agriculture to a mixed use of agriculture and car park, storage of vehicles, and the laying of hardcore without the benefit of planning permission.

APPEAL DISMISSED

E/1084 To receive Working Groups updates.

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

E/1085 Date of next Environment Committee meeting: Monday 14th September 2026.

Committee NOTED the date of the next meeting.