



Minutes of a meeting of the Town Environment Committee held on Monday 8th June, 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),
One member of the public

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

The Chair welcomed a member of the public and invited them to address the meeting.

The speaker expressed disappointment at the lack of a fully accessible play area in Stonehouse for her disabled grandchild, with particular reference to the facility at Oldends Lane.

She also raised concerns regarding road safety on Oldends Lane, suggesting that it should be designated as a 20mph zone and noting the absence of traffic lights or a pedestrian crossing.

Cllr Macgregor advised that Stonehouse Town Council has previously written to Gloucestershire County Council and continues to campaign for the introduction of a 20mph zone throughout Stonehouse. However, he noted that the town has not been included in the first wave of identified areas, although efforts to pursue this will continue.

E/1057 To vote in the Environment Committee Chair

Cllr John Parker proposed Deborah Curtis continue as Chair; the proposal was seconded by Cllr Simon Macgregor. All voted in favour.
Cllr Deborah Curtis was elected as Committee Chair

E/1058 To vote in the Environment Committee Vice Chair

Cllr Keren Capeling proposed Cllr Keith Creighton continue as Vice-Chair; the proposal was seconded by Cllr Marcus Dixon. All voted in favour. Cllr Keith Crieghton was elected as Committee Vice-Chair.

E/1059 To receive apologies.

No apologies were received.

E/1060 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Capeling declared an interest in item E/1066.

E/1061 To approve the minutes of the Town Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 11th May.

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

E/1062 To receive the latest updated Environment Budget.

Committee NOTED the updated report showing a total 'Actual Net' Income of £55.00; 'Actual Net' Expenditure of £6,005.48 and Reserve Expenditure of £0.

E/1063 To agree a response regarding the potential development of Harper's Field.

Committee AGREED the following response to the owner of Harper's Field, regarding the potential development of the site:

Thank you for taking the time to visit Stonehouse Town Council on 20 January to share your initial ideas for Harper's Field. Councillors and officers appreciated the opportunity to meet with you.

The Council awaits submission of a planning application and looks forward to reviewing and discussing your proposals in more detail as they develop.

E/1064 To note the recent ROSPA Play Inspection report.

Committee noted the officer's update and look forward to seeing the report in due course.

E/1065 To receive the following recommendation from the Recreation Working Group:

To recommend for Full Council approval that Oldends Lane is the preferred site for play area improvement.

The Committee discussed this recommendation at length.

It was noted that in 2016 Stonehouse Town Council planned to introduce accessible play equipment in all play areas. Since that time, improvements have been made at Laburnum and Oldends Lane. Meadow Park, which currently has no accessible play equipment, had previously been identified as the next site for development.

Members discussed the rationale for prioritising particular locations. It was argued that prioritising a site solely based on proximity to parking is not appropriate, as accessibility also relates to the proximity of facilities to residential areas. Requiring users to travel by car to access appropriate equipment was considered unfair, particularly where local parks could be

upgraded to meet need. It was noted that the Town Council is responsible for five play areas in Stonehouse. It was therefore suggested that a more balanced approach would be to provide accessible equipment across all play areas.

Whilst one councillor expressed a preference for focusing investment at Oldends Lane, it was also noted that this site has benefited from significant previous investment. Another councillor emphasised that future development should take into account both need and the distribution of past expenditure, with Meadow Park identified as a priority on this basis.

The Committee also highlighted the importance of considering wider accessibility, including pathways and associated facilities such as basketball courts, rather than focusing solely on individual items of play equipment. Concern was expressed that decisions may be being progressed without sufficient engagement with the community. One suggestion was that the Recreation Group should adopt a more comprehensive approach, reviewing all play areas and identifying opportunities to increase overall usage. Finally, Members stressed that funding sources should be identified and confirmed before any firm decisions are taken.

Committee ADVISED that the Recreation Working Group and the Community Arboretum and Open Spaces Working Group meet to discuss a strategy for future improvements to the play areas.

E/1066 To receive the following recommendation from the Transport & Highways Working Group:

That Jenny Jones be invited to join the Transport & Highways Working Group, as a member of the public.

Committee APPROVED that Jenny Jones be invited to join the Transport & Highways Working Group, as a member of the public.

E/1067 To comment on recent Planning Applications

S.26/0852 Stroudwater Canal. Ryeford, Stonehouse
Installation of a fish pass.
Comment: No objections.

Cllr Curtis and Dixon declared an interest in the following planning application:

S.26/0855/TCA Site of Former Ship Inn, Bristol Road, Stonehouse
Willow tree - fell
Comment: No objections. Cllrs Curtis and Dixon did not vote.

S.26/0875/LBC 19 High Street, Stonehouse
Installation of an electric vehicle charging unit.
Comment: No objections.

S.26/0974/TCA Kellaway Building Supplies, Ryeford Industrial Estate, Ryeford
Removal of ash tree.

Comment: No objections.

E/1068 To receive a report on planning decisions received from Stroud District Council.

S.26/0630/HHOLD 48 Cotswold Green, Stonehouse
Erection of a single storey front extension.
PERMITTED

S.26/0597/TPO The Grove, Browns Lane, Stonehouse
T23 Oak tree- Crown reduce by up to 4m in height and 2m laterally.
REFUSED

S.26/0730/CM The Elms, Elm Road, Stonehouse
Consultations on planning application 26/0017/STR3MJ - proposed 3 storey care home comprising of 80no bedrooms & café area with associated car parking & landscaped gardens.
NO OBJECTIONS

E/1069 To receive Working Groups updates.

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

**E/1070 Date of next Environment Committee meeting: Monday 13th July 2026.
Committee NOTED the date of the next meeting.**