

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2011 IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE

Present: Councillors C Brine (Chair of Town Council)
 S Lewis (Vice-Chair of Town Council)
 J Aldis Mrs S Latchford
 D Drew Mrs B Nelson
 R Govier Mrs Sheridan
 Mrs C Kambites Mrs P Swain
 Mrs T Watt

In Attendance: Mrs Sue Oppenheimer – GLOSVain
 Mr Carlos Ordonez – GLOSVain
 Miss Vanessa Rinaldi – Cotswold Care Hospice
 County Councillor Mrs L Williams
 Neighbourhood Warden – Morgana Simpson
 PCSO Ben Rollins
 Members of public - John West and Nathan Heaven
 R A Lacey – Town Clerk

Apologies: Councillors G Powell, J Callinan, A Howarth

TC/1103 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair reminded Members of their obligations within the requirements of the Adopted Model Code of Conduct, to declare personal or prejudicial interests where applicable.

Councillor Lewis (Vice Chair of Town Council) stated that due to employment he was declaring a possible interest in item H1/44 of the Finance & Strategy Committee meeting held on 31st October 2011.

TC/1104 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3RD OCTOBER 2011

Councillor Mrs Sheridan proposed that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 3rd October 2011 should be approved as a correct record. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Mrs Latchford and agreed by all Members present.

TC/1105 PRESENTATION TO COTSWOLD CARE HOSPICE

Councillor Brine (Chair of Town Council) introduced to the meeting Vanessa Rinaldi (Event and Community Fund Raiser) from Cotswold Care Hospice. He advised her that the cheque to be presented was as a result of the Mayor's Charity for the year 2010/11 and therefore he had pleasure in also introducing Mrs Mattie Ross who was Chair of Town Council/Mayor for Stonehouse during that period. Mrs Ross, on behalf of Stonehouse Town Council, presented cheques totalling £361.52 for funds raised during the financial year 2010/11.

In her response of thanks Miss Rinaldi advised those present that it cost £2.4 million per annum to run the Hospice services but they had now extended their operations to include night as well as day care. Miss Rinaldi advised that it would be impossible to continue to run the service without donations such as the one presented and thanked the Town Council for its continued interest and support. Miss Rinaldi also agreed to answer questions and received expressions of support from those present.

Miss Rinaldi then left the meeting.

TC/1106 PRESENTATION BY GLOSVAIN – MRS SUE OPPENHEIMER

In his introduction and welcome to Sue Oppenheimer, Councillor Brine (Chair of Town Council) advised Members present that she had been to speak to Committee before but the Members present at that time felt that this was such an important issue that full Town Council should be given the opportunity to hear the presentation. He was grateful to Sue Oppenheimer for her attendance at this meeting.

Sue Oppenheimer confirmed to Members the current situation in respect of the incinerator proposal, why GlosVAIN had been set-up and its continued actions. Points raised during her presentation were as follows:

- GlosVAIN is non party political alliance of Town and Parish Councils, individuals and organisations in the Severn Vale which works in partnership with other environmental organisations to oppose waste incineration and support more acceptable methods to minimise waste in Gloucestershire.
- There is little control as to what goes in and although there are air pollution system pipes to clear the air as much as possible it will still be discharged into the surrounding area of up to 14 miles via a high stack. The buildings will be 45 metres high and the stack 85 metres (Gloucester Cathedral tower is 69 metres high in comparison).
- The incinerator is only 25% efficient because the heat cannot be used as there is sparse development in the area.
- One waste transfer lorry is anticipated every 30 minutes, with more at peak times, with an up to 80 mile round trip.
- 180,000 tonnes of waste per annum-although the contract with Gloucestershire County Council is for 90,000 tonnes, the rest will be made up with commercial and industrial waste.
- Y-waste incinerators are the worst option. Evidence of health risks, the only technology to create toxic ash, to run 24 hours per day and compete with sustainable methods such as recycling, the only technology which has such huge impact on the landscape and it makes more CO₂ per tonne than gas powered stations. It is also the most expensive option, would involve loss of jobs where better technologies are on the way and Green Industries use recyclates. It is inflexible as it has a 25 + year commitment and it is not modular and finally the Government says we do not need it.
- Waste figures are showing that it is already reducing from 908,000 tonnes to landfill in 2006 to 419,000 tonnes in 2009, and falling since that time. However, Gloucestershire County Council predict that waste will rise!
There are concerns regarding the health evidence which shows that infant deaths are more down-wind of such a facility rather than up-wind.
- On a waste management hierarchy the best is prevention, minimisation, re-use, recycling and then energy recovery in forms of incineration is only preferable to disposal by landfill as the worst option.
- With regard to County Council action so far it was decided to bid for PFI funding, buy Javelin Park and use it for incineration in terms of a reference bid for funding without proper consultation. Gloucestershire County Council started the procurement process using EU rules but then in October 2010 PFI funding was withdrawn. In March 2011 Gloucestershire County Council decided to go ahead anyway and shortlisted two incinerator proposals with consultations in July and November. The Waste Core Strategy is being developed alongside the procurement process and examination in public will take place on 31st January 2012. In November 2011 the contract will be awarded to the successful bidder, shortly thereafter the bidder will apply for planning permission with construction starting in 2013 and the incinerator being operational in 2015.

Mrs Oppenheimer agreed to answer questions and when asked what the Town Council as individuals do she advised that this matter has not been agreed as yet, it could be stopped

at the planning stages as with other Councils the Waste Core Strategy has already raised issues to support the GlosVAIN case. The County will now try and go to Stroud District Council to get their support and individuals, or Councils, could encourage the District Council to oppose.

Mrs Oppenheimer, in answer to a further point, suggested lobbying members of the Planning Committee and the media. It was now too late to object to the Waste Core Strategy but the planning process was still ongoing.

Councillor Brine (Chair of Town Council) thanked Mrs Oppenheimer for her continued work on the communities behalf and in particular for taking the time to speak to the meeting on this occasion.

Mrs Oppenheimer then left the meeting with Mr Ordonez.

TC/1107 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Councillor Brine (Chair of Town Council) welcomed members of the public to the meeting and asked if they would like to speak. This invitation was declined and Councillor Brine then welcomed to the meeting Morgana Simpson, the new Neighbourhood Warden for Stonehouse, and wished her well with her appointment. He also welcomed the Police Community Support Officer Ben Rollins.

The opportunity was welcomed by Members present to question the Neighbourhood Warden and PCSO Rollins and one Member asked whether any monitoring had been carried out on the traffic on the B4008 and in particular within the town centre. PCSO Rollins advised that there was monitoring currently being carried out on the B4008 at Standish but this equipment was portable and could be used anywhere. It would register speeds and flow of traffic but would not record speeds. It was felt by Members that this would be an interesting exercise in the High Street following the completion of works.

There being no further questions Councillor Brine (Chair of Town Council) thanked both Officers for attending the meeting. Members noted that Police Sergeant Adrian Smith, the Community Sergeant for Stonehouse, had offered a written report and sent his apologies for not being able to attend. The written report was welcomed by the meeting.

TC/1108 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Brine (Chair of Town Council) spoke of his pride in the community attendance on Remembrance Sunday and his father, who usually attends in Bristol, had commended the town on the scale and organisation of the event. Also attending for the first time was the Chair of Stroud District Council who had just returned from the Stroud event and said that Stonehouse was much larger.

Councillor Brine remarked how gratifying it was to see so many young people attending.

TC/1109 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

A list of account requiring authorisation for payment had been circulated to all Members.

Members present considered the list and following this Councillor Mrs Nelson proposed the accounts be authorised for payment. Councillor Mrs Watt seconded this proposal and it was agreed by all Members present.

TC/1110 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17TH OCTOBER 2011

Councillor Mrs Latchford (Convenor of Committee) presented the Minutes of the Regeneration & Environment Committee meeting held on 17th October 2011 and invited Members present to comment. The following matters were raised:

H2/44 Planning Results

11/1355/VAR Land north of Ebley Road

One Member enquired if the Stop Notice was still in force on this development as there continues to be work carried out, although not at the same level as before. It was confirmed that this continued to be the case.

H2/46 Update of Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(g) Solar Energy – Town Hall Premises

One Member asked if, in light, of the Government's announcement reducing the feed-in tariff, the Town Council was still proceeding to obtain quotations for solar energy on the roof the Town Hall. It was confirmed that this was the case..

There being no further matters raised the Minutes were duly noted. A copy is appended in the Minute Book that is held in the Town Hall for public information.

TC/1111 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES RECREATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24TH OCTOBER 2011

Councillor Aldis (Convenor of Committee) presented the Minutes of the Amenities Recreation & Tourism Committee held on 24th October 2011. The following matters were raised:

H3/29 Update of Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(c) Youth Strategy

In answer to a question Councillor Aldis advised that Young Gloucestershire, with its volunteers Dom Smith and Lou Fell, started in the town on 11th November 2011 and are in Maidenhill School this week. They are in partnership with Psalms, APT and are setting up a Youth Forum which will hold its first meeting on 15th November 2011. Councillor Aldis and Councillor Mrs Swain are in contact with Cainscross Parish Council and hoping to work together in setting up a Youth Partnership. They are disappointed with Gloucestershire County Council Youth Service support – they do not reply or give details and in fact one of their Officers failed to turn up at a meeting arranged to discuss a possible skate park project.

One Member suggested that it would be beneficial investigating Chipping Campden Parish Council to see what work they are doing with youth at present.

H3/49 Work in Progress - Adopt A Station

Members were advised that a temporary Support Clerk has now been appointed at Stonehouse Station and the question was asked regarding the formalisation and implementation of the Adopt A Station project. The Town Clerk advised that unfortunately the current Area Manager at Gloucester was leaving for another appointment and therefore he is awaiting the replacement details.

H3/29 Update of Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(e) Stonehouse Dog Training Club – Annual Championship Show

It was noted with great regret that the Annual Championship Show was to be discontinued. Members expressed their gratitude to Mike and Celia Vines for their excellent organisation over the years to make the Show a National event and a letter had been sent accordingly.

H3/32 H.M. Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012

Members noted that the Committee were Recommending the formation of a Working Group to consider a Beacon in the town for this great event. After consideration it was agreed that Councillors Brine (Chair of Town Council), Mrs Latchford and R Govier would form the Group and report back to Committee.

There being no further matters raised the Minutes were duly noted. A copy of the Minutes is appended in the Minute Book that is held in the Town Hall for public information.

TC/1112 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 31ST OCTOBER 2011

Councillor Mrs Watt (Convenor of Committee) presented the Minutes of the Finance & Strategy Committee meeting held on 31st October 2011. The following matters were raised:

**H1/34 Town Council-Capital Facilities
(b) Former Police Station Building**

Councillor Brine (Chair of Town Council) appraised Members of the current intention of the Police Authority to sell the former Police Station building. Members present discussed briefly the desirability and practicalities of placing a bid for this building and it was agreed that the Building and Facilities Working Group would meet very quickly to discuss this matter and bring a report back to the Committee for consideration.

H1/38 Town Council Website

Councillor Brine (Chair of Town Council) advised Members present that he had just received news the Jim Dickson had resigned from the Editorial Group of the Stonehouse News and as such the latest issue was the last he would be working on. In view of this Members present discussed the viability of combining the Editorial Group with the Town Council website Working Group to avoid creating too many such bodies. The Editorial Group now comprises Councillor Mrs Watt, Mrs Mattie Ross, Mrs Vicky Walker and the Town Clerk. After discussion it was agreed to delay naming the Group until further consideration is held at the next Committee meeting.

Members present wished a letter to be sent to Jim Dickson to thank him for his outstanding commitment to the town and the Newsletter in particular.

H1/40 Trading Standards

Members discussed the increasing trend for vehicles to be left on roadside verges whilst for sale and the possibility that these may be dealers trading. One Member advised that if there are two or more vehicles parked within a certain distance which could be designated as dealing then this would be contrary to Section III of the Clean Neighbourhood & Environment Act 2005. Members were encouraged to note and/or take photographs of such occurrences and send them in to the Town Hall for Police consideration. It was also agreed that at Committee the possibility of a local Bye-Law being adopted in this respect should be considered.

H1/44 Post Office

Whilst noting the comments made at Committee, one Member suggested that the Town Council should, as a matter of policy, meet with all Town Council tenants on an annual basis. After consideration that this would be referred back to the Committee for discussion.

There being no further matters raised the Minutes were duly noted. A copy of the Minutes is appended in the Minute Book that is held in the Town Hall for public information.

TC/1113 TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS FROM THE FINANCE & STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 31ST OCTOBER 2011

H1/32 – Update of Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(b) – Town Council Accounts – Grant Aid Policy

Resolution:

That the draft Grant Aid Policy document be adopted.

Councillor Mrs Latchford proposed that the Resolution be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Mrs Swain and carried unanimously by Members present.

H1/33 – Town Council Accounts

(d) Ethical Banking

Resolution:

That £70,000 be diverted to the Co-operative Banking Group Investment Deposit from Lloyds TSB Bank.

Councillor Drew proposed that the Resolution be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Mrs Sheridan and carried unanimously by Members present.

TC/1114 GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

County Councillor Mrs Williams expressed the concern to Members present about the lack of contact with Gloucestershire County Council regarding youth work. Councillor Aldis confirmed that he would provide relevant details.

With regard to the usage of the library in Stonehouse the numbers were down in October compared to 2010 to the extent of -39% based on the working hours. Councillor Mrs Williams asked if the Town Council would consider how opening hours can be extended in future.

TC/1115 STROUD DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

In the absence of any written reports and apologies of Councillor Powell, Councillor Brine (Chair of Town Council) and Ward Councillor for Stroud District Council, advised those present that the latest news relates to what is about to happen. The Core Planning Strategy is to be discussed as is a Motion for the incinerator at Javelin Park. A Scrutiny report on member participation yielded an 85% return. The Sheltered Housing reviews are ongoing.

A Member suggested that in the light of the Core Planning Strategy that a meeting could be held with neighbouring Councillors (Standish, Eastington and Whitminster) to discuss the possibility that widescale development could take place in the Stonehouse area.

Another Member felt that the Town and District Council need to be pushing for the reinstatement of the Bristol line station at Stonehouse.

TC/1116 STONEHOUSE PARTNERSHIP REPORT

Councillor Brine (Chair of Town Council) advised Members present that they were fortunate to have the Chair of Stonehouse Partnership, Mrs Mattie Ross, present and invited her to make a report.

TC/1116 Stonehouse Partnership (continued)

Mrs Ross reiterated the Town Council's good wishes to Jim Dickson for all his work. The Partnership was also engaged on the Paths Project and consultation on dog fouling changes. The Sustainable Stonehouse group was working with local Schools at Park, Maidenhill and the Shrubberies on 21st and 22nd November 2011 to plant edible hedging in the Laburnum Walk Playing Field. An invitation was also extended to anyone else interested in participating to attend on Saturday 19th November 2011.

Councillor Brine (Chair of Town Council) thanked Mrs Ross for her report.

TC/1117 SUNDRY CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

- Stroud District Council – Neighbourhood Warden Monthly Report – October 2011
- Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association – “The Playing Field” Newsletter

TC/1118 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Development Control Panel	28 th November 2011	7pm
Regeneration & Environment Committee	28 th November 2011	7pm
Amenities Recreation & Tourism Committee	5 th December 2011	7pm
Finance & Strategy Committee	12 th December 2011	7pm
Full Town Council	9 th January 2012	7pm

TC/1119 TO NOTE MATTERS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT COMMITTEE AGENDAS

Finance & Strategy Committee –

- **Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service – Integrated Risk Management Plan for next 3 years**
- **“Away Day” – reschedule new date for 16th January 2012**
- **All Committees to set objectives for Stonehouse Town Council employees to include within Appraisal Strategy.**

Regeneration & Environment Committee –

- **High Street Working Group – consider applying for monitoring equipment for the High Street.**
- **GlosVAIN Action against incinerator at Javelin Park – consider ringfencing funds to help fight planning applications.**
- **Core Planning Strategy – to consider meeting with Standish, Eastington and Whitminster Parish Councils for discussion on Stroud District Council proposals.**
- **Incinerator proposal at Javelin Park – to consider holding a public meeting to discuss the implications of such a development.**

There being no further business the Councillor Brine (Chair of Town Council) closed the meeting at 9.10pm.
