

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 15 Station Road, Stone on **TUESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER, 2011.**

PRESENT: Councillor P. Jones (Chairman) and
Councillors Mrs J Price, Mrs M Goodall, Mrs C Hearing, T Jackson, Mrs J Piggott, G Collier, Mrs C Collier, Ms A Tomlinson, Mrs S Shaw, M Shaw, Mrs J Farnham, M Williamson, R Kenney, Mrs J Hood, Ms J Nelson and H Brunt.

GP0575 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received from Councillors.

GP0576 RESOLVED:
Pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting whilst the next item of business is discussed on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the debate.

GP0577 APPOINTMENT, TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF TOWN CLERK

A confidential report is filed with the Minutes.

The Press and Public were invited back to the meeting. Councillor P Jones stated that an agreement had been made by the Council for Mr Ian Curran to be Town Clerk on a shared appointment with Stafford Borough Council.

GP0578 MINUTES

RESOLVED

- a) that the minutes of the Estates Sub-Committee held on the 2nd August, 2011, copies having been circulated to the members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

With reference to Minute No EST0232 Land Adjacent to Toilets, Councillor G Collier updated Members with regard to the ownership of the land. Stafford Borough Council had confirmed that the land belonged to them and requested a letter be written from Stone Town Council to Alistair Welch and copied to Ian Thompson requesting permission to take on the land as a project. Councillor H Brunt stated that the land (or

part of it) belonged to the Birmingham Diocese.

With reference to Minute No EST0230 Kitchener Institute, Councillor Mrs J Price confirmed that the building has been sold. However, the building was built out of public subscription, so should some money be given back to the people of Stone. It was agreed that this should be discussed further at an Estates Meeting.

With reference to Minute No. EST0231 Toilets, Councillor R Kenney commented that there was no mention in the meeting of the Crown Street toilets. Councillor T Jackson reported that both public toilets had been offered to Stone Town Council with a caveat that defray costs. Negotiations are still taking place regarding the costs.

- b) that the minutes of the Tourism and Town Promotion Sub-Committee held on the 9th August, 2011, copies having been circulated to the members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

GP0579 **APPLICATION FOR GRANT**

A letter has been received asking the Council to support a Festival of Complimentary Healing at Sandon Hall by helping with publicity and banners to promote the event.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Cheryl Ball advising of who to contact for banners and that permission needs to be sought to put a banner up. Councillor M Williamson suggested offering an A-Board at the next Farmers Market.

GP0580 **CLASSIC RALLY ASSOCIATION – INTERNATIONAL WINTER CHALLENGE**

Members were given a copy of a letter from the Classic Rally Association asking the Town Mayor for permission for classic cars to come to Stone as part of their International Winter Challenge. They have already negotiated use of the Crown Hotel.

It was agreed that a Road Closure be sought for the High Street on Sunday 20th November.

GP0581

MEMBER'S ITEMS

Councillor Mrs J Farnham – Condition of Stone Station

Councillor Mrs J Farnham reported that a computerised visual display is in use at the Station. The problem has therefore been solved.

Councillor Mrs J Farnham – Parking at the Top of Trinity Drive and Station Road

Councillor Mrs J Farnham had been approached by a member of the Public complaining about the poor parking at the top of Trinity Drive and Station Road which is causing impaired vision. Councillor M Williamson stated that as a Member of the Parking Committee at Stafford Borough Council he will take this matter to that committee.

Councillor H Brunt – Adoption of Little Abbey Street

Councillor H Brunt reported that cars are being booked for parking on double yellow lines on Little Abbey Street which has previously been classed as an “unadopted” road. Councillor H Brunt has asked Staffordshire County Council if this is a legal process and is currently awaiting a reply. Councillor M Williamson will also take this matter to the Parking Committee at Stafford Borough Council.

Councillor H Brunt – Review of Stone’ Parish Plan

Councillor H Brunt reported that the Parish Plan needs reviewing on a regular basis. It was agreed that the Town Clerk be asked for guidance with this.

Councillor H Brunt – To Consider Applying for Quality Council Status

It was agreed that the information supplied by Councillor H Brunt regarding Quality Council Status be put to the Town Clerk for consideration.

GP0582

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND – DELIVERY OF PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS

A letter was received from the Boundary Commission for England to inform Members that the proposals documents will be delivered to the office on 12th September but will not be available for the public to view until Tuesday 13th September. It was agreed that this will be on display for the public in an empty room inside of the secure door within the Council offices.

GP0583

THOMAS FATTORINI QUOTATION

A quotation has been received from Thomas Fattorini in relation to the refurbishment of the Mayoral Chain. It was agreed that the repair work needs to be carried out. Two figures were quoted for different amount of work. It was agreed that the larger cost of £1252.21 be paid along with the replacement of the Staffordshire Knot (£162.99) and to replace and fit a hook to the chain (£320.14). All costs are net.

GP0584

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Councillor Kenney stated that he has received an email regarding the Local Development Framework. Councillor P Jones reported that the Council would form a collective response and a Special Planning Committee Meeting would need to be called. The Neighbourhood Plan is contained within the Localism Bill and will also be discussed. If plans conflict, the Neighbourhood Plan takes precedence. The Plan will not be cheap to prepare but guidance will be sought from the Town Clerk.

GP0585

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor P Jones reported that a petition has been received from Trinity Skills for Life requesting a pedestrian crossing on Newcastle Road. The petition has been acknowledged and added to the programme. The main concern is where to locate the crossing. It was agreed that this needs to be a priority item.

A letter has been received from the Lord Lieutenant asking for nominations for the Queens Award for Voluntary Services. This is the equivalent of an MBE. It was reported that on three occasions the Stroke Club and Alzheimers Drop In Club have been nominated but have not been successful. It was agreed that these would be put forward again and that Councillors should inform Councillor Jones of any further nominations.

TOWN MAYOR