

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING 7pm
held at Tetbury Library, Close Gardens, Tetbury, GL8 8DU on the 25th
September 2023**

Present:

Town Councillors: Liz Farnham (Mayor), Zowie Baker (Deputy Mayor), Nikki Ind, Suzanne Sanderson, Patricia Burrell, Steve Scott, Judith Taylor, Ian Watson, Ann Pearce, Colin Pearce, Rodney Smith, Peter Leech and Kevin Painter.

Officers: T Niblett (CEO (Chief Executive Officer)) V Bolwell (EO (Executive Officer))

Public: 12 members of public.

Members received an update from Stonewood regarding the planning application for the land West of Worwell Farmhouse.

Stonewood have submitted a revised application which addresses the objections on the 8th of November. Community engagement for this project is still strong with 85% of the comments received in support of the project.

Stonewood addressed some of the objections.

The car park aspect has no restraints in planning, but they have taken this into account.

Bus stops are determined by Gloucestershire Highways and Stonewood have no influence on decisions related to bus routes and stops.

Pathways and lighting has also been addressed and the new plans highlight this.

Stonewood look forward to seeing a representative from Tetbury Town Council supporting the project at the Cotswold District Council Planning meeting In November.

TC01. 09/23/23 To receive and accept any apologies for absence:

Cllr P Coleman – received and accepted.

TC02. 09/23 To receive declarations of interest in connection with agenda items as shown and not already stated on Register of Interests:

None.

TC03. 09/23 Public Consultation:

A member of the public raised strong concerns for the future of the recreation ground which is managed by the Dolphins Hall Recreation Centre charity. The resident is concerned the recreation ground will be lost. This is not a reflection on clubs that use the ground. The resident suggested a public meeting should be called.

Mayor Liz Farnham explained that Tetbury Town Council have no authority to do so and cannot and will not suggest how the charity is run. The member requested that his item was minuted.

A resident wished to speak personally regarding agenda item 6.

The resident advised he had the pleasure of working with great people and that he had been bullied by a member of Tetbury Town Council and knows staff have also been bullied. Mayor Liz Farnham responded that TTC cannot investigate the behaviour of fellow Councillors and that breaches of the Code of Conduct are to be reported to the Monitoring Officer at Cotswold District Council

A member of the public who had previously logged Freedom of Information requests regarding historic payments made direct to a Councillor, alleged that Tetbury Town Council had lied by denying that a payment had been made. The Mayor responded that specialist advice had been taken regarding the response to her latest FOI request and reiterated that if she was not content with the outcome of the response, she may apply directly to the Commissioner for a decision. The issue was also being looked into by a Complaints Panel.

Member of the public has written to Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown regarding the lack of banking facilities in Tetbury. Recently Wotton Under Edge launched a Bank Hub. Would Tetbury Town Council be interested in supporting this idea? Correspondence to be raised at the next meeting of the Heritage and Regeneration Committee in October.

Mayor Liz Farham suspended standing orders and moved agenda item 7. Forward

TC07. 09/23 To approve Mayor of Tetbury Town Council writes a letter of support on behalf of Tetbury Town Council regarding the Stonewood application for Land West of Worwell Farmhouse: Cllr N Ind and Cllr I Watson would be abstaining from this item to enable them to speak at the CDC planning meeting where this matter will be discussed.

Cllr A Pearce asked if Tetbury Upton will be showing support. Cllr T Morris of Tetbury Upton Parish was in attendance and assured the committee that Tetbury Upton were supporting the proposal but did have concerns over the parking.

It was proposed by Councillor C Pearce seconded by Councillor Z Baker to approve the Mayor writing a letter of support on behalf of Tetbury Town Council regarding the Stonewood application for the land West of Worwell Farmhouse.

Voting record	For 10	Against 0	Abstain 3	Absent 1
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TC04. 09/23 To approve minutes of Full Council meeting of the council held on the 24th July 2023: It was proposed by Councillor S Scott seconded by Councillor J Taylor to approve the minutes of the meeting on Monday 24th July 2023.

Voting record	For 10	Against 0	Abstain 3	Absent 1
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TC05. 09/23 To note action points: Noted.
Burial Policy – Heritage and Regeneration

TC06. 09/23 To note Councillor Mark Bakers resignation from Tetbury Town Council and plan of action: Noted. The vacancy is currently advertised on TTC's notice boards, Facebook and in the October Advertiser. It will be determined by co-option in Octobers Full Council Meeting. Cllr A Pearce asked for this to be advertised in the Standard.

Cllr N Ind - Can we also ensure we have a clear co-option process that is sent to potential councillors prior to the meeting.

TC08. 09/23 To approve date for public consultation in January 2024 for the Town Council budget: It was proposed by Councillor S Scott seconded by Councillor C Pearce to approve the 27th of January 2024 for public consultation on the town budget, venue to be confirmed.

Voting record	For 13	Against 0	Abstain 0	Absent 1
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TC09. 09/23 To approve purchase of banner to advertiser the budget public consultation:

It was proposed by Councillor N Ind seconded by Councillor A Pearce to purchase a banner to advertise the budget public consultation.

Voting record	For 13	Against 0	Abstain 0	Absent 1
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Can we note the attendance from this meeting? At the annual town meeting lack of advertising was raised.

TC10. 09/23 To investigate cost implications for the Town Council offices to be more accessible:

It was proposed by Councillor N Ind seconded by Councillor A Pearce to set up a working group to investigate the Feasibility, cost and overall value for money of making the Town Council Offices fully accessible.

Voting record	For 13	Against 0	Abstain 0	Absent 1
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Working Group Members: Cllr S Scott, Cllr C Pearce, Cllr P Leech and Cllr K Painter

TC11. 09/23 To discuss and approve Police Museum Curator's request to remove existing furniture (table and chairs) from Council Chamber for a trial of one year: Members would like to see the report from the Feasibility working group before making any decisions regarding the building.

The Old Court House building is primarily the Town Council Office, and the meeting rooms are regularly used. The Police Museum is only open two days a week.

It was requested this item be deferred until a report on the offices is received.

TC12. 09/23 To approve the Community Winter Plan and for the CEO to enter into negotiations with Gloucestershire County Council Highways to sign the Community Action Plan:

The Mayor stressed the need for this agreement if the grounds staff were to be able to continue to provide this service. She reported that the Council's lawyers had confirmed that there is no law preventing Town and Parish Councils from clearing snow and ice from public spaces, provided that the area had been cleared carefully.

The Finance and Scrutiny Committee were asked to review the risk assessment. The Council noted that manual handling training was required.

It was proposed by Councillor S Scott seconded by Councillor J Taylor to approve the Community Winter Plan and for the CEO to enter into negotiations with Gloucestershire County Council Highways to sign the Community Action Plan.

Voting record	For 13	Against 0	Abstain 0	Absent 1
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TC13. 09/23 To approve way forward for using Councillors I-Pads for backing papers and to reduce the use of paper for those Councillors who have opted to go paperless:

It was proposed by Councillor Z Baker seconded by Councillor N Ind to approve the move to I-Pads for backing papers for those councillors that have opted to go paperless.

Voting record	For 13	Against 0	Abstain	Absent 1
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Cllr S Scott has offered to provide members with a crib sheet for SharePoint.

Members currently wishing to move forward paperless: Cllr Z Baker, Cllr S Scott, Cllr N Ind, Cllr I Watson, Cllr S Sanderson and Cllr L Farnham .

Cllr N Ind asked if we can also be ensured that venues such as the library have secure networks for council devices to work on.

TC14. 09/23 To discuss and approve the request to our District Councillors to utilize part of the Steepleton S106 funds for community transport: It was proposed by Councillor S Scott seconded by Councillor K Painter for our District Councillors to utilize part of the Steepleton S106 funds for the administration of community transport.

Voting record	For 11	Against 0	Abstain 2	Absent 1
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Cllr N Ind and Cllr I Watson informed members that the process will be supported and signed off by ward councillors, this results in their abstentions.

TC15. 09/23 To approve the siting of the Men in Sheds pod behind the Goods Shed: It was proposed by Councillor C Pearce seconded by Councillor S Scott, subject to SLA agreement highlighting the respective **responsibilities and liabilities of all three parties** (including financial responsibilities), to approve in principal subject to the details, the sitting of the Men in Sheds Pod behind the Goods Shed.

Voting record	For 13	Against 0	Abstain 0	Absent 1
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Cllr Colin Pearce volunteered to lead on the development of the SLA on behalf of TTC. Members requested a Service Level Agreement (SLA) be presented to F&S in October.

TC16. 09/23 To note Mayors and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) report:

Noted.

TC17. 09/23 To note Police Report

Noted.

TC18. 09/23 To note minutes from Committees and Working Groups:

Cllr Ann Pearce asked why the September Health, Wellbeing and Youth meeting had been moved. It was explained that the venue had to be changed at short notice because there had been issues obtaining the key; this matter has now been resolved. Apologies were made to those planning to attend the meeting. A resident contacted Cllr A Pearce as they intended to attend the meeting but due to access to the Court house building was unable to.

Members suggested contacting the current working group members Cllr K Painter, Cllr R Smith and

Cllr P Leech for updates.

The Mayor asked, do we have information regarding how much the Carnival Raised?

Cllr S Scott reminded members that committees needed to begin work on their budget proposals, if they had not already done so.

Cllr C Pearce – Highways Working Group – Cllr C Pearce is meeting with representative from Gloucestershire Highways to discuss the outstanding VAS sign and TROs on the 29th of September.

TC19. 09/23 To consider correspondence received to date:

Affordable Housing – Cllr S Scott to investigate this item.

Banking Hub – This will be raised as correspondence at Heritage and Regeneration

Business Owner Church Street – Christmas involvement, Church Street businesses feel left out of the loop because of a lack of Christmas lighting which impacts on footfall. Cllr S Sanderson and EO will be meeting all businesses to discuss proposals for Christmas.

TC20. 09/23 To receive County Councillor Reports:

None received.

TC21. 09/23 To receive District Councillors Reports:

Members noted and thanked Cllr N Ind and Cllr I Watson for their reports.

Cllr N Ind hoped members can attend the Mr Motivator event held in Cirencester over the weekend.

Unfortunately, due to the content of Cllr C Twells report the CEO was unable to publish it at this time.

TC22. 09/23 To receive Members Reports:

Cllr P Burrell stated– As Councillors we have a duty to act responsibly and with respect to all fellow councillors and all staff, in fact to everyone.

The people of Tetbury have the right to expect that elected councillors adhere to the council's Code of Conduct in representing them. If any councillor cannot follow the Code of Conduct and shows disrespect to fellow councillors or staff even once but especially on a regular basis, then I feel they should consider their position as a councillor and perhaps being one is not for them. None of us has the right to behave in a manner that is considered by the receiver as bullying, harassment or threatening just to put their point across, no matter how justified it might be, so please respect, respect, respect.

I also feel that there should be some consequence from this intolerable behaviour and the CDC Monitoring Officer must play their part.

Cllr K Painter – Tetbury Comic Con is coming up and hopes members can attend. It was a great success last year. Cllr Painter asked which committee could support the event. Cllr K Painter was advised a grant from The 451 Initiative or Tetbury Rail Lands Regeneration Trust to Health, Wellbeing and Youth Committee in October.

Cllr I Watson – Cllr Watson has been working on a project involving Sir William Romneys (Athelston Trust) and The Football Association. The project to install a "4 seasons" sports pitch with associated floodlighting has been announced by Will Ruscoe the headmaster at SWR during the school open day on Thursday the 21st of September 2023. Secured funding will come from the Football

Foundation and the Athelstan Trust. The project is currently in pre-planning at CDC and contractors are due in the next days to start the bidding process. The pitch will be available to sports clubs and private groups after school hours and at weekends. Completion of the project is expected late 2024 or early 2025.

Cllr C Pearce noted that although great news for SWR, please can we insist that they are mindful of the residents that live in the area. It is already a problem on Rugby/Football match days. The car park is not sufficient on these days causing residents parking problems.

TC23. 09/23 Items for inclusion on the September Agenda:

Initial Budget Proposals

Outcome of the Neighbourhood Plan Training session

Graveyard inspection Report

Business Plan

S106 Action plan

Co- option of a New Councillor

TC24. 09/23 To note the dates and time of the next Full Council meeting Monday 23rd October

2023: Noted.

TC25. 07/23 Exclusion of the Public and Press to allow discussion of confidential business: It was proposed by Cllr S Scott seconded Cllr N Ind that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the Public and Press be excluded from the Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds they involved the likely disclosure of confidential information (as defined in paragraphs (1) and (2) of Part I of Schedule 12A to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 [Information relating to an individual and Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person]), and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information concerned.

TC26. 09/23 To discuss and approve the recommendations arising from the Complaints Panel Investigation: TTC noted each complaint and voted on recommendations from the Complaints Panel. This item is now closed.

Meeting ended 20.55

Chair Dated