Sturminster Newton Town Council

5th November 2020

Town Clerk's Report

1. Work Programme

The Town Council team have continued to pursue the normal work programme including:

- Review of Utilities providers
- Repairs to the Station Road public toilets
- Repairs to play equipment at Rickets Lane and Rixon recreation grounds
- Assets and play equipment review.
- Preparation of the 2021-22 budget
- General maintenance of open spaces
- Preparatory work for the submission of a bid to the Covid-19 Emergency Heritage At Risk Response Fund for the Sturminster Newton Mill.

2. Service Issues

Vandalism and littering remains an issue in the town

3. DAPTC

- **DAPTC AGM 14th November 2020**
  The agenda and supporting documents for the 2020 DAPTC AGM are now available on the DAPTC website. This year the meeting will be held online via Zoom. The Town Council has two places reserved, DAPTC need confirmation of attendees before 12th November.
- Councillors are reminded that DAPTC are offering a number of new training courses including planning and local government finance. For more information please contact the Clerk.
- Councillors are reminded that they can find out more about the work of DAPTC by attending one of the twice monthly hour sessions being run by the DAPTC team.

4. NALC

The Rural Coalition, which brings together key national organisations including NALC to seek to ensure rural challenges are addressed by government, met this week. NALC have reviewed how to make best use of its recent report *Rebuilding Rural: Growing Back Better* – and encourage Councils in rural areas to read it and use some of its arguments in meetings with MPs and other opinion formers. The meeting also heard from the new director of environment strategy at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, who is leading on its 25-year environment plan and sees place and community and engaging with community leaders as a key part of meeting current challenges. He also recognised the importance of rural areas not being overlooked as a result of the pandemic.

5. Correspondence

A letter received from Lord Price has been circulated to Councillors with the agenda papers.

Emma Lindsay

Town Clerk