

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF a MEETING OF THE FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
held on Thursday 29th April on Zoom.US at 7.15pm

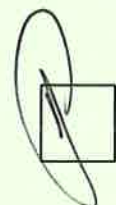
Present:

Councillor G Rose (Chair)	Councillor M Jones
Councillor N Dobson (Vice Chair)	Councillor H Lacey (ex officio)
Councillor A Donaldson	Councillor P Marks
Councillor C Fraser (ex officio)	Councillor M Roake
Councillor J Janes	Councillor R Taylor

In Attendance: K Squire (Finance Officer), A Dodson (Grounds Manager) and L Plumridge (Assistant Town Clerk)

Apologies: M Derricott

MINUTE NUMBER	COMMENTS	RESOLUTION <i>For each item, the proposer is named first followed by the seconder</i>
21/65	PUBLIC SESSION No comments were made or questions asked.	
20/66	DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS No declarations were declared and no written dispensations had been received.	
20/67	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING The minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on 28.01.21 having been circulated and publicised prior to the meeting were taken as read and approved for signature by the committee chairman as a true and correct record.	Cllr Rose Cllr Donaldson
20/68	STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS The Town Clerk presented the Balance Sheet as at 31 st March 2021. The Committee RECOMMENDED APPROVAL of the Balance Sheet as at 31.03.21.	Cllr Rose Cllr Donaldson
20/69	BUDGET COMPARISON The Town Clerk presented the Budget Comparison as at 31 st March 2021. The Committee RECOMMENDED APPROVAL of the Budget Comparison as at 31.03.21.	Cllr Rose Cllr Lacey
20/70	APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS FOR INVOICES IN EXCESS OF £2000 The Finance Officer reported that no payments in excess of £2000 were due.	



20/71 REPORT ON PAYMENTS MADE UNDER DELEGATION BETWEEN 1.01.2021 AND 31.03.21

The payments made under delegation were noted. Samples of payments made between these dates had been checked: January and February by Cllrs Donaldson and Rose March: by Cllrs Lacey and Janes.

20/72 REVIEW OF SHILLINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

The Council fully discussed the contents of a report previously circulated by the Finance Officer, regarding the need to review the service level agreement with Shillingstone Parish Council and Dorset Council. It was noted that the current agreements do not cover the costs and need to be increased.

Shillingstone Parish Council

Mindful that Shillingstone Parish Council will have already set their precept and will not have budgeted for an increase in charges:

The Committee RECOMMENDED presenting Shillingstone Parish Council with the following options:

- 1. Provide Shillingstone Parish Council with an up to date quotation for the agreed works with an increased cost.**
- 2. Negotiate an amount of work that Shillingstone Parish Council can afford.**

If agreement cannot be reached

- 3. Give notice to terminate the service level agreement with Shillingstone Parish Council.**

Dorset Council

This historic agreement to cut the verges in Shillingstone has been in place since 2013 but changes to the County and District Council structure have led to the current agreement, which does not cover costs.

The Committee RECOMMENDED requesting an increased rate for the works at Shillingstone; if Dorset Council was not able to cover our costs then notice should be given to terminate the service level agreement for Shillingstone verges with Dorset Council.

Cllr Rose
Cllr Roake

ACTION:
Finance Officer &
Grounds Manager

Cllr Rose
Cllr Donaldson

20/73 TOWN CENTRE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS GRANT

A request had been received from Sturbiz for a grant towards the Town Christmas tree lights. The Council had awarded an annual grant of £500 for the length of the previous contract which had now expired. It was agreed to provisionally reserve £500 pending a formal application from Sturbiz for consideration at the next Finance & Personnel Committee meeting in July.

ACTION:
Finance Officer

20/74 INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Marks:

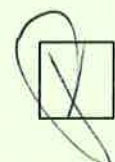
- advised he and Cllr Jones had been looking at the plans for the Trailway entrance.
- Cllr Marks and Cllr Jones have also expressed an interest in looking at the plans for the Scout Hut.

Cllr Jones:

- advised that, he had been exploring the feasibility of installing permanent electricity at the Recreation Ground with Cllr Lacey and the Grounds Manager, Adam Dodson. A request had been made by the Cheese Festival, who would also part fund the project if approved.

Cllr Roake:

- Prodigy IT Contract – enquired regarding the cost of the IT contract. Cllrs Roake and Dodson volunteered to work with the Town Clerk on a review of the service.



- Trough and Pump – Cllr Roake asked for an update. The Assistant Town Clerk advised that the repairs were extensive and it had been necessary to apply for listed building consent.

Cllr Dobson:

- noted in the payment listing that a speed indicator device had been purchased but was not installed. The Finance Officer advised it had been delivered in advance of Dorset Council erecting the posts which she had been advised would be done shortly.

Cllr Fraser:

- Cllr Rose will be stepping down as Chairman of Finance and Personnel in the new committee year. Cllr Fraser expressed many thanks to Cllr Rose for his long service.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.02 pm

Approved on 12/5/21 Chairman's signature: 

