

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Thursday 2nd September at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber

Present:
Cllr N Dobson
Cllr A Donaldson
Cllr C Fraser - Chairman
Cllr M Jones
Cllr H Lacey – Vice Chairman
Cllr M Roake

In Attendance: Kate Squire (Town Clerk), Lynn Close (Finance Assistant)

Minute No. Comments

RESOLUTION
For each item, the
proposer is named first
followed by the seconder

21/125 **PUBLIC SESSION**

No members of the public were present.

21/126 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr J Janes, Cllr H Reed, Cllr J Rose and Cllr R Taylor. The apologies were accepted by the members present.

21/127 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

No interests were declared and no written requests for dispensation had been received.

21/128 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Town Council meeting 1st July 2021

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 1st July 2021, having been circulated, and publicised prior to the meeting, were taken as read and approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

Cllr Donaldson
Cllr Lacey

Extraordinary Town Council meeting 15th July 2021

The minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting held on 15th July 2021, having been circulated, and publicised prior to the meeting, were taken as read and approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and correct record

Cllr Jones
Cllr Donaldson

21/129 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Planning & Environment Meeting 15th July 2021

There were no committee recommendations to make.

Planning & Environment Meeting 17th August 2021

There were no committee recommendations to make.



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21/129 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETINGS – continued**

Finance & Personnel Meeting 22nd July 2021

The Committee recommended the approval of the Statement of Accounts as at 30th June 2021, the approval of the Budget Comparison as at 30th June 2021 and the approval of earmarked reserves for 2021/2022.

Cllr Donaldson
Cllr Jones

The Committee recommended the approval of committing an annual grant of £500 towards the Town Christmas tree for the term of the current 3-year contract. They recommended this amount should be reviewed annually with a view to a possible increase if funds allow.

Cllr Dobson
Cllr Jones

21/130 **PAYMENTS IN EXCESS OF £2000**

Councillors approved payments in excess of £2000, these being:
£2389.98 ACK Enterprises - Benches for Trailway-grant funded
£6332.29 WPS Hallam - Town Council-annual insurance premium
£5454.00 Survey Dimensions - mill survey grant funded

Cllr Lacey
Cllr Donaldson

21/131 **PLANNING MATTERS**

Planning applications

1.

P/FUL/2021/01792

19/08/2021

Phoenix

Hewletts Drove

Rivers Corner

DT10 2AE

Proposal:

Erect 1 no. dwelling with integral garage (demolish existing dwelling and outbuildings).

Observations:

No objections – Comment: The previous biodiversity report is now out of date. If a new biodiversity report is required, we would have no objections to this application pending the findings within the new report."

Cllr Donaldson
Cllr Jones

2.

P/FUL/2021/01926

24/08/2021

Agricultural Building A357

Newton Hill to Calf Close Lane

Sturminster Newton

DT10 2HR

Proposal:

Erection of agricultural building.

Observations:

No objections – It was agreed by all Councilors that they are fully in support of agricultural buildings in an agricultural setting.

Cllr Jones
Cllr Donaldson



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21/132 **COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Council discussed the current terms of reference for each committee. The Council resolved to re-adopt these terms of reference, subject to the following changes:

Amenities:

To replace reference to 'land and/or buildings' with the word 'assets'.

Action:
Town Clerk

Finance and Personnel:

The committee will consider forming a sub-committee to separate the personnel aspect of the stated terms at the next meeting. The Chairman advised that the Clerk would shortly be conducting a market test to ascertain best value regarding HR services

Planning & Environment:

Council decided to add terms relating to climate change when considering future planning applications; encouraging developers to make provision for reducing the environmental impact on the planet.

Actions:

Town Clerk to investigate relevant terms adopted by the Planning Department at Dorchester Council.

Town Clerk to write to Dorchester Council questioning why details of environmental impact are not a compulsory part of an application and provided to consultees for consideration and comment.

Town Clerk will add terms to extend the provision agreed by Council as part of the Covid-19 pandemic: to enable Council to share comments on planning applications by email for the Chairman of the committee and the Clerk to collate and submit where deadlines fall between meetings.

Action:
Town Clerk

21/133 **CONSIDERATION OF RESTARTING THE TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES**

Council discussed the restarting of Councillor Surgeries and agreed it was important to be visible in the community. Cllr Lacey suggested Saturday 25th September to align with the Police surgery taking place in the Exchange café. Cllr Fraser volunteered to cover the first session. Council discussed the need to increase public awareness of the Town Council and the services it provides. Town Clerk to investigate ways of promoting the Town Council to increase our visibility in the community.

Action:
Town Clerk



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21/134 **PROPOSED NEW UNCONTROLLED CROSSING POINT
ALONG BATH ROAD**

Council considered correspondence from Dorset Council Highways regarding Dorset Councils request to go to public consultation on the above proposal. While Council were in favour of providing a safe way to cross Bath Road, they were concerned that the plans submitted would impact users of the Stour Connect site parking on Bath Road. Council queried if the car park on the site was able to accommodate the extra users and if the plans would in fact discourage visitors to the site therefor affecting its viability.

Town Clerk to respond to Dorset Council, expressing concerns regarding the impact that the proposed plans would have on the Stour Connect. Town Clerk to ask for confirmation that Dorset Council understand the importance of an adequate on-site car parking provision on and request that Dorset Council consult with Stour Connect as an integral part of their public consultation. The results of the consultation should be brought back to Council for further consideration.

Action:
Town Clerk

21/135 **FREE PARKING DAY FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY CAR RALLY**

Council agreed to allow a free parking day for the New Years day car event.

Cllr Fraser
Cllr Donaldson

21/136 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Dorset Cllr Carole Jones had written to inform Council that following a competition, the Bulls head in the Railway Gardens had been named Geoffrey and to ask if a plaque could be displayed with appropriate wording. The Clerk also asked if she could organise a plaque for the Horse Head sculpture to update the incorrect information currently displayed. Council had no objections to these requests.

Action:
Town Clerk

Two grant applications had been received. The applicants would be advised that grant applications are considered at the November Finance & Personnel committee meeting as stated in the grant policy.

21/137 **REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK**

The Town Clerk reported that a resident of Stourcastle had contacted her with concerns regarding unsupervised young children playing on the roads of the estate, causing danger to themselves and drivers. The resident had requested play equipment to be installed on the nearest green space. The Clerk had consulted the Grounds Manager who advised that due to the water tanks under the grass verge it would not be possible to install play equipment in that area. The Town Clerk advised she would be speaking with the local police representative and emailing the local primary school, to ask that road safety be considered as a topic for the new school term. She would also contact the Housing Association. Cllr Helen Lacy asked if the Clerk could email Dorset Council Highways for advice regarding warning signs in the area.

Action
Town Clerk



21/138 **REPORT FROM THE TOWN MAYOR**
Nothing to report, no issues raised.

21/139 **REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR CAROLE JONES**
A report from Dorset Councillor Carole Jones was summarised for Council and attached to these minutes.

21/140 **INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS**

Cllr Lacey – Advised the Council that she had completed the “Your voice matters” survey.

Cllr Donaldson – Advised that he had attended a meeting regarding funding to move the Roman Mosaic from storage at the British Museum to Dorchester Museum. Due to the allocated funds being reassigned to other projects the move had been postponed to a future date.

Cllr Dobson – asked to arrange a meeting with the Town Clerk to discuss the possibility of SNEDS funding future Council projects.

Action:
Town Clerk

Cllr Jones – provided the Council with an update on the Butts Pond Industrial Estate Notice Board Project. The funding is being organised by the businesses and the Town Council have applied for planning permission. The Trailway project is also progressing well, with an estimated completion in early 2022.

Cllr Fraser – Advised that he has been discussing the flooding issues on the pathway between the War Memorial Recreation Ground and Colber Bridge with Grounds Manager, Adam Dodson, Adam will contact the Dorset Council Rangers who manage the area.

Action:
Adam Dodson

21/141 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**
In exercise of the power conferred by the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Section 1(2) members of the public and press will be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that the business to be transacted being of a confidential nature it is likely that personal and/or exempt information would otherwise be improperly disclosed, and members would feel unable to discuss the matter freely.

Cllr Donaldson
Cllr Roake

21/142 **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – YOUTH PROJECT**
Confidential minute.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.46pm

Approved on Chairman’s Signature



Report, Town Council 2nd September

It has been a relatively quiet month in terms of Dorset Council, meetings are still held remotely and this will be reviewed mid-September.

Planning is still under huge pressure in land searches and on planning applications. Building Control though is working pretty normally and are fully staffed.

Applications last month throughout every region in England saw an increase of 25%, generally it is thought that working from home often needs an extension, or people have been moving home and further out.

Planning has now been granted on the Bull Ground Lane, / Elm Close site, - 98 dwellings, to be built by Wyatts – should be starting any time now.

Planning has also been granted and section 106 finally finalized for 17 dwellings at The Bull, - although this was Outline – so this has to still go in for reserved matters.

St. Mary's Shaftesbury (as was known) is opening in January with around 60 Dorset young people who are currently travelling out of country to receive their education. This number will increase over time.

I was hoping that a joint venture with a government backed grant and Dorset Council could be steered to acquire Clarke's Yard, but as it stands the site is under offer (at a vastly reduced price!) and is a way down the tracks. If this falls through, I will jump on this and try and pull a plan together.

I am hoping to start a support group locally for parents with young autistic children, or children with high needs. This is a major issue I have found through The Pantry. I have acquired some lottery funding and am close to launching this.

Carole Jones

2 September.

