

# STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

held on Thursday 27th January at 7.15pm in The Bow Room, The Exchange

Present:

Cllr N Dobson

Cllr A Donaldson

Cllr C Fraser - Chairman

Cllr M Jones

Cllr H Lacey – Vice Chairman

Cllr P Marks

Cllr H Reed – arrived at 7.44pm

Cllr J Rose

In Attendance: Dorset Councillor Carole Jones, Kate Squire (Town Clerk),  
Louise Plumridge (Assistant Town Clerk )

Members of the Public: None.

Minute No.	Comments	RESOLUTION <i>The proposer is named first followed by the seconder</i>
21/22/265	<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b> No questions were asked, or comments made.	
21/22/266	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies had been received from Cllr Roake.	
21/22/267	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</b> Cllr Donaldson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 21/22/274 as a member of the Sturminster Newton Literary Festival.	
21/22/268	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</b> <b>The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 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.</b>	Cllr Donaldson Cllr Rose
21/22/269	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Amenities Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> December.</li></ul> <p>The Chairman of the Amenities Committee Cllr Jones reported there were no committee recommendations to consider.</p>	
21/22/270	<b>FINANCIAL MATTERS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>i. Payments for invoices more than £2000.</b> There were no invoices exceeding £2000 to consider.</li><li><b>ii. Income and Expenditure as at 26.01.22.</b> <b>The income and expenditure report as at 26.01.22 was reviewed and approved by the Council.</b></li><li><b>iii. Balance Sheet as at 26.01.22</b> <b>The balance sheet as at 26.01.22 was reviewed and approved by the Council.</b></li></ul>	Cllr Jones Cllr Lacey  Cllr Rose Cllr Lacey
21/22/271	<b>REPORT ON PAYMENTS MADE UNDER DELEGATION BETWEEN</b>	



**1.10.21 AND 31.12.21**

A list of the payments made under delegation had been previously circulated and a sample of payments made between these dates had been checked by Cllrs Fraser and Lacey.

Cllr Fraser  
Cllr Lacey

21/22/272

**INTERNAL AUDIT VISIT REPORT**

The Clerk advised there had been a remote visit by the internal auditor, and his report, having previously been circulated, is now attached to these minutes. The recommendations in the report had been or were in the process of being actioned.

**ADOPTION OF INTERNAL CONTROLS**

**The Council resolved to accept the adoption of internal controls previously circulated.**

Cllr Rose  
Cllr Lacey

21/22/273

**APPROVAL OF THE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET FOR 2022/2023**

Having been previously circulated, the Council fully discussed the budget report for the following financial year.

**The Council resolved to approve the budget report and request a precept of £354,307.00 for the financial year 2022/2023.**

Cllr Fraser  
Cllr Rose

21/22/274

**APPROVAL OF GRANTS FOR 2021/2022**

Two grant applications had been received:

**Sturminster Newton Literary Festival**

**The Council resolved to grant £500.**

Cllr Jones  
Cllr Dobson

**The Vale Pantry**

The Clerk advised that consideration of the application had been deferred, for The Vale Pantry coordinator to make a presentation to Council prior to the Planning & Environment Committee meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

21/22/275

**CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence had been received.

21/22/276

**TOWN CLERKS REPORT**

- The Clerk advised that complaints had been made to several Councillors by members of the public regarding smoke issues. She had sought advice from Environment Health on the appropriate way to deal with such matters, she reported that an officer for Environmental Health had requested that complaints should be made directly by the residents themselves rather than through the Town Council, direct reporting increases the powers and duties available to Environment Health Officers to investigate.
- The Historic Drinking Trough – Newton Forge are progressing with the main body of the trough but are waiting for a response from the Conservation Officer at Dorset Council regarding the bricks to be used for the base.

21/22/277

**TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Town Mayor reported he had officially flagged the car rally off on New Year's Day.

21/22/278

**REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR C JONES**

Dorset Councillor Jones gave a verbal report:

- Dorset Council have approved their budget for 2022/23 with an increase of 2.99%.
- A request has been made to Michael Gove MP as a trial exercise for the Local Plan to be re-written as there has been much opposition.



- There is a big push to encourage fostering – at present in Dorset there are 440 children in care and only 43% have foster parents.
- Butts Pond drainage – Highways has completed a full camera survey and Cllr Jones will be meeting Wessex Water in February to take actions so that flooding in this area is prevented from happening again.
- Drug taking is on the rise in Sturminster Newton, Cllr Jones has alerted the local Police Officer to the problem at Butts Pond. The Clerk advised that she had also spoken to the Police Officers regarding this.
- Dorset Council is trying to improve the blue badge car parking scheme – by paying the lowest tariff blue badge holders will have an extra 1 hour free. They are also trying to make parking less restrictive for blue badge holders so that they can park anywhere and are not limited to disabled spaces.

21/22/279

**INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS**

*Cllr Marks* – advised that he would attend a meeting about tree planting for the Queen’s Green Canopy Project with Cllr Jones.

He had visited the grounds buildings with Cllrs Fraser and Jones and now had a much better of what was needed for improvements.

*Cllr Donaldson* – reiterated his concern about begging in the town.

*Cllr Lacey* – will continue to monitor the flooding situation at The Row as she is not convinced the problem has been permanently dealt with as had been stated by Dorset Council online.

*Cllr Jones* – expressed his concerns about speeding in the Town.

*Cllr Fraser* – Colber Bridge – it appears that the broken pipe is a water pipe and is privately owned, the Herras fencing has been removed at the request of the management of the Hinton St Mary Estate.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.19pm

Approved on ..... *Ak March 2022* .....

Chairman’s Signature .....




