

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

held on Thursday 3rd March at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber

Present:

Cllr N Dobson
Cllr C Fraser - Chairman
Cllr M Jones
Cllr H Lacey – Vice Chairman
Cllr M Roake (via Zoom)

In Attendance: Kate Squire (Town Clerk), Louise Plumridge (Assistant Town Clerk – via Zoom) and Adam Dodson (Grounds Manager – via Zoom).

Members of the Public: 11.

Minute No.	Comments	RESOLUTION <i>The proposer is named first followed by the seconder</i>
	Cllr Fraser led a minute's silence held in respect of the Ukrainian crisis. He expressed thanks to Dorset Cllr C Jones, The Exchange and all the volunteers who had been sorting, organizing and packing the large volume of donations.	
21/22/295	<p>PUBLIC SESSION</p> <p>10 members of the public were present to express their concerns over the removal of brambles at the entrance to the trailway. Photographs were circulated and members of the public made the following points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of privacy. Brambles have not been cut back in 20 years creating a screen to back gardens from Trailway.• Lack of security. Brambles deterred people from accessing the slope down to pathway. Previously when brambles were cleared people would use the pathway as a gathering place.• Concern that siting a picnic bench at the trailway entrance will cause unwanted gatherings and sound disturbance which would echo around Station Road car park causing a noise nuisance. They would prefer the picnic benches were sited further away. <p>These comments were noted by Councillors and the subject would be discussed at the next Amenities Committee.</p>	
21/22/296	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Cllrs A Donaldson, P Marks, H Reed and Dorset Councillor C Jones. These apologies were accepted by the members present.</p>	
21/22/297	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</p> <p>No interests were declared and no written requests for dispensation had been received.</p>	
21/22/298	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</p> <p>The confidential minute of the Town Council meeting held on 2nd 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.</p> <p>The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 27th January 2022, 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.</p>	<p>Cllr Rose Cllr Lacey</p> <p>Cllr Rose Cllr Lacey</p>



- 21/22/299 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
Amenities Committee held on 9th December 2021.
There were no recommendations to consider.
Planning & Environment held on 17th February 2022
REQUEST FROM ALPHA HOUSING TO ADOPT PARCEL OF LAND AT
OLD MARKET WALK.
A report had been circulated and discussed by the Committee.
The Committee recommended a site visit be arranged between Alpha
Housing, the Grounds Manager and a Councillor.
The Council resolved to accept the recommendation of the Committee. Cllr Rose
Cllr Jones
- 21/22/300 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**
Application No: P/VOC/2022/00869
Location: Barrow View Farm Common Lane to Gipsys Drove Broad Oak
Dorset DT10 2HG
Proposal: Erect agricultural bungalow (Removal of condition No. 1 against
planning application number 2/1980/0139 to remove the
agricultural occupancy).
Observations: No Objections to the removal of agricultural occupancy. Cllr Rose
Cllr Jones
- 21/22/301 **COMMUNITY AWARDS POLICY**
The Community Awards Policy, which had been previously circulated, was
discussed and it was agreed to present the community awards at the
Annual Town Public Meeting.
**The Council resolved there would be two categories for the
community awards: one for younger people under 21, and other for
adults over 21.** Cllr Fraser
Cllr Dobson
- 21/22/302 **THE MAYOR'S CIVIC EVENT – 31ST MARCH 2022**
The Town Clerk advised the Mayor's Civic Event is on 31st March 2022 and
is an afternoon tea to thank all the lockdown volunteers. The invitation is
also extended to all Councillors.
- 21/22/303 **DIGNITY AND RESPECT AT WORK/GRIEVANCE POLICY**
The Dignity and Respect at Work/Grievance Policy, which had been
previously circulated, was discussed.
**The Council resolved to accept the Dignity and Respect at
Work/Grievance Policy which is to do with the working environment
for staff.** Cllr Lacey
Cllr Rose
Councillors requested a further policy should be prepared for third parties to
illustrate the Council have zero tolerance towards members of the public
behaving unacceptably to staff and Councillors. The Town Clerk will
investigate. **Action:**
Town Clerk
- 21/22/304 **TOWN COUNCIL ASSETS INVENTORY**
The assets inventory had been previously circulated.
The Council resolved to approve the Assets Inventory. Cllr Dobson
Cllr Jones
- 21/22/305 **COMMUNICATION FOR THE COMMUNITY**
The Town Clerk outlined ideas to improve communications between
community groups and to fill the information gap left after the demise of
Unity magazine, details attached to these minutes.
The Council agreed no formal proposal necessary but were happy for the
Town Clerk to explore and implement the ideas suggested.
- 21/22/306 **DORSET DESERVES BETTER CAMPAIGN**
The Town Clerk had already circulated a document updating on the Dorset
Deserves Better Campaign for the Councillors to consider. Councillors
were unsure that plans to build a new town had relevance to Sturminster
Newton as the town is still waiting for approved developments to
commence. However Councillors were happy to invite Dorset CAN **Action:**
Town Clerk



(Climate Action Network) to a meeting to discuss ideas for a green agenda.

21/22/307

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence had been received.

21/22/308

TOWN CLERKS REPORT

The Town Clerk advised there were no other matters to report.

21/22/309

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported that he had attended a Queen's Green Canopy Project meeting wherein they discussed a proposed tree planting scheme for the Council. This will be raised at the next Amenities Committee.

He also advised a tree planting ceremony had been arranged on the 11th March in the Railway Gardens at 10.30am as part of the National Civic Tree Planting Day (being the 70th day of the year). A Cornus Kousa Venus will be planted.

21/22/310

REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR C JONES

Due to extremely busy workload Cllr C Jones had not provided a report.

21/22/311

INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

Cllr H Lacey – advised she is monitoring flooding problems at The Row as, although Dorset Council have closed the enquiry, she doesn't feel the problems have been solved.

Cllr M Jones – advised the windows at The Mill have been reinstated. Also had noticed quite a few Sturminster Newton signs on footpaths had been vandalized and expressed concerns.

Cllr Roake – queried the safety of the disabled fishing platform at Riverside Meadows and the bank along the A357 where the area is quite unstable. The Grounds Manager advised that Dorset Council were already investigating the bank, some of the area had not been cleared so that Highways could see the extent of the problem. The disabled fishing platform had already been closed and taped up, alternative ideas were being discussed with the fishing club..

21/22/312

TO EXCLUDE 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.

21/22/313

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – Youth Project

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm

Approved on *7th April 2022*

Chairman's Signature 



STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

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Mayor: Councillor Charles Fraser
Town Clerk: Kate Squire



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21/22/305 – Improving communications for the community

Feedback from talking to various key members of the community is that there is a need to improve communications between community groups and to fill the information gap left after the demise of the Unity magazine. There is also a need to improve communications from the Town Council to the community and raise the Town Councils profile within the Town. Using Louise's experience in working with community groups we have come up with some ideas which could help achieve these aims.

Community Group Networking Events

There is a lot of interest in the idea of having regular 6 monthly gatherings of community group representatives, to provide a space to network, share ideas and get to know what others are doing and plan to do in the Town. The networking event we held previously for those working with older people was very successful, but it was obvious that there needed to be an instigator and ongoing organisational support. We believe a positive impact could be achieved by inviting our community groups together, possibly in the Council chamber at regular intervals.

Community Mail Shot

Having a way to reach all the community groups with news by email could be a good way to get messages out and make it easier to establish connections between the Town Council and the groups. Such as when applications for grants are open, publicising events and to let people know what we are doing.

Town Council newsletter

Many Town Councils publish a newsletter. We would like to explore the possibility and cost of producing a document that shares news from the Town Council with residents and celebrates our work and achievements properly. There are templates within Microsoft publisher than would be perfectly adequate for this. We would like to include within the newsletter brief details of events or meeting times for community groups in the town. Covid has left a lot of people unsure of which community groups are still running, it has affected the mental health of many people and the numbers attending community groups. We could use our newsletter to help these people and groups to reconnect as well as increasing awareness of the Town Council. The voice of the Churches publishers have also identified this need and have been discussing a relaunch to include something similar so perhaps a collaboration could be possible to pool resources and expertise?

