

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXTRAORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL
held on Thursday 3^{1ST} March at 7.15pm in The Stour Hall, The Exchange

Present:

Cllr N Dobson
Cllr A Donaldson
Cllr M Jones

Cllr H Reed
Cllr J Rose

Cllr H Lacey – Vice Chairman

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

Members of the Public: 12

Minute No.	Comments
21/22/325	<p>PUBLIC SESSION</p> <p>A member of the public expressed concern regarding an incident of vandalism at Ricketts Lane. Cllr Rose advised that the matter had been dealt with.</p>
21/22/326	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Cllrs C Fraser and P Marks. These apologies were accepted by the members present.</p>
21/22/327	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</p> <p>No interests were declared and no written requests for dispensation had been received.</p>
21/22/328	<p>APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE AMENITIES AND FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEES</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that the Amenities Committee on 24th March had been cancelled because the meeting would not have been quorate due to illness and absence.</p> <p>To avoid this situation in the future she explained that under Standing Order 4.d.v 'The Council may appoint standing committees or other committees as may be necessary and may, subject to standing orders 4(b) and (c), appoint and determine the terms of office of the substitute members to a committee whose role is to replace the ordinary members at a meeting of a committee if the ordinary members of the committee confirm to the Proper Officer five days before the meeting that they are unable to attend'</p> <p>The Town Clerk recommended the Council approve the appointment of substitute members.</p> <p>The Council resolved to approve the appointment of substitute members for the Amenities and Finance and Personnel Committees, members of one Committee could be a substitute for the other Committee.</p>
21/22/329	<p>OPEN SPACES GROUP AND CONSIDERATION FOR COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION ON THE GROUP</p> <p>The Chairman of the Open Spaces Group, Vic Fox, had previously provided a report which had been circulated, and is attached to these minutes. He also expressed there was good liaison between the Open Spaces and Tree Groups but there was a need for a structure to be put in place so that all groups could work closely together with the Town Council. The Town Clerk suggested a Town Councillor could become a representative on the Open Spaces committee which would improve liaison and take the pressure off Vic Fox and Jeremy Read. Some ideas for representatives were</p>

Cllr Jones
Cllr Dobson



discussed but it was agreed to defer this item to the next Town Council meeting.

21/22/330

TRAILWAY ENTRANCE PROJECT

Cllr Jones reported progress was being made, with the gates, fencing and signal posts all being in place, they were now concentrating on noticeboards, a good designer had been found and he hoped the noticeboards would be installed in the next couple of months for the beginning of the summer. He thanked the Grounds staff for erecting the picket fence to the sides of the entrance and the dead hedging which has been put up to act as a screen for residents of Barnes Close.

Some residents of Barnes Close had enquired about taking over the maintenance of the bank. A Licence to Cultivate could be a possibility and whilst there is a cost to having a licence, it might be the most sensible way forward. The Clerk will talk to Adam Steele of Dorset Highways.

Action:
Town
Clerk

21/22/331

TREES WORKING GROUP

The Town Council's Trees Working Group had met and agreed a plan for planting trees on Town Council land in the future. The Grounds Manager noted that the Group would need to work closely with the Countryside Rangers who manage many areas on the Town Council's behalf. He added a Cornus Kousa had been planted in the Railway Gardens for the QGC project and there are also some donated trees that need planting.

21/22/332

STURMINSTER NEWTON HERITAGE TRUST – THE MILL UPDATE

A press release was circulated giving details of £14000 funding from Association of Independent Museums for a project on Swanskin, working with the residents of a place in Newfoundland where some of the Mill workers from Sturminster Newton had resettled.

21/22/333

BBQ PLINTHS AT THE MILL

The Town Clerk had been gathering information on the possibility of having BBQ plinths at the Mill;

The Sturminster Newton Heritage Trust had reservations due to the close proximity of the Mill building.

The Tree Officer didn't think plinths would pose any particular issues with trees.

The Town Council insurers would insure but this came with many conditions, making additional work for the Grounds Staff.

The Pitt Rivers Estate did not have particular worries.

The Town Council's Health and Safety advisors, felt BBQ plinths would be a cause for concern and would attract more use and possible trouble, they confirmed that displaying No BBQs signs would cover the Council from a health and safety point of view.

Council discussed the options and decided not to pursue the idea.

Cllr Reed asked the Town Clerk to investigate instating a by-law restricting BBQ's within the Mill site.

21/22/334

ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

The Chairman Barry Cuff reported that the tenancy agreements for both sites - Filbridge Rise and Chinnocks - had been updated as had the Association's Rule Book and he hoped this would help to make things run more smoothly. The documents are easier to understand and have 'closed' some loopholes on what is/isn't acceptable on allotment plots. He requested that a Town Councillor could be present when inspections were carried out.

He also enquired whether it would be possible to install CCTV at the Filbridge Rise allotments as there had been quite a number of incidents but no evidence of the perpetrators. The Town Clerk suggested it may be

possible to link this into the next Agenda item on increasing security of the Town's amenity spaces.

21/22/335

INCREASING SECURITY ON TOWN COUNCIL AMENITY SPACES

There has been increasing concern over vandalism in Sturminster Newton. The Town Clerk had been discussing with the Grounds Manager about extra CCTV footage. Dorset Council are working with a consultancy company and had passed on the contact details – the Town Clerk suggested the Council could ask the consultant to give an overview of the town's problems and prepare a quote. She added there may be some funding available through the Safer Streets Fund.

The Council agreed the problem seriously needed looking into.

The Council resolved to instruct the Clerk investigate further if funding opportunities are available through her Dorset Council contact.

Cllr Reed
Cllr Dobson

21/22/336

GROUNDS MANAGER'S REPORT

The Ground Manager's report had been previously circulated and is attached to these minutes.

21/22/337

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence had been received.

21/22/338

INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Reed – reported knowledge of several car break-ins, one being in Shortedge.

Cllr Donaldson –

Planning Application – advised that Dorset Councillor Carole Jones had requested the Hammond Building Contractor planning application in Penny Street to be heard by the Northern Committee.

Lighting of the Market Column – he had noticed the lighting of the market column wasn't working. Cllr Jones explained the stones at the base were causing a problem and needed to be replaced. He and the Grounds Manager were working to resolve this.

Cllr Jones – referring to the proposed fencing at Monteburg House. He wondered if it was possible to use traditional metal fencing. The Grounds Manager confirmed that black metal railings were going to be used.

Cllr Lacey – had attended the Civic Afternoon Tea earlier that day and commented it had been a lovely event. She also reported Stour Connect had won a charity excellence award and commended Andy Watson for his hard work.

Cllr Reed – advised that the Lunch Club has started again.

Information from the Town Clerk:

- There is a Northern Area Planning Committee meeting on 12th April in The Exchange to discuss the North Honeymead Field application. If anyone wants to speak they need to register by 8th April. Chair of Planning Cllr Donaldson advised he would attend but not speak.
- Bath Road is closed for a few evenings due to road repairs. There will be access for residents. Any HGVs will be directed down Old Market Hill.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm

Approved on 9th June 22

Chairman's Signature 

