

# STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber

### Present:

Cllr P Batstone  
Cllr N Dobson  
Cllr A Donaldson  
Cllr C Fraser  
Cllr M Jones

Cllr H Lacey  
Cllr P Marks  
Cllr H Reed - Mayor  
Cllr J Rose – Deputy Mayor

In Attendance: K Squire (Town Clerk), L Plumridge (Assistant Town Clerk)  
and Dorset Councillor Carole Jones

Members of the Public: 3

Minute No.	Comments	RESOLUTION <i>The proposer is named first followed by the seconder</i>
22/23/095	<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b> One of the Christmas Team organisers asked for Town Council support for a Skate Rink in Church Street she outlined in detail how the event would run and answered questions from Councillors on the logistics, financial implications and health and safety. Support from the Town Council would help with their application to Dorset Council to close the car park on the 25 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> November 22. This item will be discussed under Agenda item 22/23/104.	
22/23/096	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies had been received from Cllr Mantock. The apologies were accepted by the members present.	
22/23/097	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</b> Cllr P Batstone and Cllr N Dobson declared nonpecuniary interests in Agenda item 22/23/104 – Skating Rink at Church Street. Cllr C Fraser declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 22/23/106 – Road Safety Mirror at Newton.	
22/23/098	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> The minutes of the previous Extraordinary Town Council meeting held on 18 <sup>th</sup> August 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	Cllr Rose Cllr Donaldson
22/23/099	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS</b> There were no recommendations to consider.	
22/23/100	<b>REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT MODEL</b> The previously circulated revised code of conduct model was discussed. Two statements appeared ambiguous, see below. <b>The Council resolved to accept the code without the following two statements:</b> <b>Under Application of the Code of Conduct</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• you are claiming to act as a councillor and/or as a representative of you council</li><li>• you are giving the impression that you are acting as a councillor and/or as a representative of your council</li></ul>	Cllr Donaldson Cllr Rose

**and to take further further advice from the National Association of Local Councils.**

- 22/23/101 **EXTERNAL AUDIT 2021/2022**  
The external audit for 2021/2022 had been previously circulated with no queries. The result of the external audit report for 2021/2022 were noted.  
Cllr Batstone  
Cllr Donaldson
- 22/23/102 **LOAN FOR GROUNDS WORKSHOP UPGRADE**  
The Finance & Personnel Committee agreed to approve the loan for the Grounds Workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022.  
**The Council resolved to approve the loan to upgrade the Grounds Workshop.**  
It was noted that the loan would have to be applied for through the Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils.  
Cllr Fraser  
Cllr Donaldson
- 22/23/103 **PRINTING OF COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**  
It was noted that the new A5 printed editions of What's Happening in Sturminster have been well received and much improved from the original photocopied sheets prepared in the office. The Town Clerk advised the printing cost for 400 copies was £230.  
**The Council resolved to approve outsourcing the printing of the community newsletter.**  
Cllr Dobson  
Cllr Lacey
- 22/23/104 **SKATE RINK IN CHURCH STREET CAR PARK**  
Having discussed the idea with the organisers earlier in the meeting, the Council agreed the skate rink was a very good idea and admired the Christmas Team for their enthusiasm and aim to try something different.  
**The Council resolved to support the proposal for a Skate Rink in Church Street Friday 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022, the support being defined as the Town Council allowing the Christmas Team to use their allocated free parking day on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 22.**  
The Town Council had some concerns over safety measures and stressed the group should organise perimeter fencing.  
The Town Clerk had previously spoken to Parking Services at Dorset Council who had stressed that the car park closure needed to be well advertised. This is the responsibility of the event organisers and not Dorset Council or Sturminster Newton Town Council.  
The Community Benefit Society have agreed to cover any financial losses.  
Cllr Fraser  
Cllr Rose
- 22/23/105 **CEMETERY MEMORIALS**  
Some queries had arisen on memorial applications and a request made to the Council from the office to define Sturminster Newton Cemetery rules and regulations more clearly, particularly with the increase in imagery on headstones/memorial stones. The Council requested this matter be referred to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) as the cemetery is consecrated ground and the Council should follow the rules of the PCC. This matter will be raised again at the next Amenities Committee.
- 22/23/106 **ROAD SAFETY MIRROR AT NEWTON.**  
Residents from the unnamed close in Newton had requested to install a road safety mirror as it is a very dangerous junction to come out of.  
**The Council resolved to approve the installation of a road safety mirror and to approach Hinton Estates as soon as possible to get their approval.**  
Cllr Fraser  
Cllr Jones
- 22/23/107 **COUNCILLOR SURGERIES**

It was reported that Councillor Surgeries on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month in The Exchange were poorly attended. This has been an informal arrangement and therefore not a matter to vote on, but it was agreed to disband this present arrangement.

22/23/108

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Town Clerk reported a card had been received from two residents of Ricketts Lane thanking the Grounds Team for their work around the town.

22/23/109

#### **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Town Clerk reported as follows:

CCTV- the CCTV equipment will be installed in the next couple of weeks.

Police – the Police are attending a meeting with the Town Clerk on the 13<sup>th</sup> October – Councillors were invited to attend.

Councillor Profiles – Councillors were reminded to complete their profile sheets.

Register of Interests – all register of interest forms have now been completed. Cllr Rose raised a query that the most up to date versions were not on the Dorset Council website. The Town Clerk will investigate.

22/23/110

#### **TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor advised all Civic Days had been cancelled in the period of mourning for the Queen.

She advised her own Civic Day is being held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November at Stour Connect. This is an event to showcase community and charitable groups in Sturminster Newton. All Councillors are invited.

22/23/111

#### **DORSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Carole Jones reported:

- She has been attending safety meetings with the Police – the CCTV will make a real difference.
- Rivers Mead – there have been some social problems, please pass any information to Cllr Jones.
- Dorset Council will be adopting Drivers and The Gavel.
- Dorset Council will be devising a new 20mph policy.
- Two fast charging electric charge points are to be installed in Station Road car park.
- Cost of Living help – there is a lot of information on the Dorset Council website.
- Adult Social Care Consultation – a consultation will be held at The Exchange on Wed 19<sup>th</sup> October 1.30pm – 5pm.

22/23/112

#### **INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS**

*Cllr Donaldson* – pleased to see the increased police presence in town.

*Cllr Rose* – was pleased to present a Community Award to Graham Airey for his notable contribution to the Scouts.

*Cllr Marks* – is working on a town tree map to log tree planting.

*Cllr Batstone* – reminded Councillors that Chris Spackman was holding a business mentoring event on the 10<sup>th</sup> October in the offices above The Emporium.

*Cllr Fraser* – saddened to report that Ivor Faulconer had passed away.

*Cllr Jones* – the Trailway information boards are nearly ready. The updated Town Map will be used to update the other noticeboards in town.

Cllr Dobson – 1855 will be opening on 19<sup>th</sup> November with 28 small businesses.

22/23/113

#### **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.

Cllr Lacey  
Cllr Rose

- 22/23/114      **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – Leisure Services**  
Confidential minute.
- 22/23/115      **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - Land Transfer**  
Confidential minute.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm

Approved on ..... HL Reed ..... Date      3rd Nov 22 .....