

# STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 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 D Mantock  
Cllr P Marks  
Cllr H Reed - Chairman  
Cllr J Rose – Vice Chairman  
Cllr N Summers

In Attendance: By Zoom: K Squire (Town Clerk) and L Plumridge (Assistant Town Clerk)  
Dorset Councillor C Jones.

Members of the Public: 1

Minute No.      Comments

RESOLUTION  
The proposer is  
named first followed  
by the seconder

22/23/190      **PUBLIC SESSION:**  
No comments were made from the public.

22/23/191      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
All members were present.

22/23/192      **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**  
No interests were declared and no written requests for dispensation had been received.

22/23/193      **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**  
**The minutes of the previous Town Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 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 Donaldson  
Cllr Lacey

22/23/194      **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

- Finance & Personnel Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022
- Finance & Personnel Committee – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Cllr Dobson, Chairman of the Finance & Personnel Committee presented the recommendations of the Committee regarding the budget 2023/24 and the grant awards.

Cllr Dobson  
Cllr Jones

**The Council agreed to approve the recommendations of the committee.**

22/23/195      **TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2023/2024**  
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 £385,030.00 for the financial year 2023/2024.**

Cllr Rose  
Cllr Jones

Cllr Rose requested all unused earmark reserves be retained.  
Cllr Dobson, confirmed the Finance & Personnel Committee would be considering the ear marked reserves as part of the year end process as recommended by the Internal Auditor.

Cllr Reed requested a review of the need for all the lighting columns at Broad Oak and the times these are on.

22/23/196

**FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT & INTERNAL CONTROLS 2022/2023**

The Financial Risk Assessment document had been circulated prior to the meeting for review and approval. No changes had been made from the previous year.

**The Council resolved to approve the Financial Risk Assessment & Internal Controls 2022/2023.**

Cllr Donaldson  
Cllr Dobson

22/23/197

**ASSET REGISTER**

The Asset Register had been circulated prior to the meeting for review and approval.

**The Council resolved to approve the Asset Register.**

Cllr Rose  
Cllr Lacey

22/23/198

**INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

Following a visit from the Internal Auditor, the Clerk had circulated the report received

The Council noted the contents of the report. The Council also noted the positive comments and passed compliments and thanks to the staff.

22/23/199

**CORONATION WORKING GROUP**

Following directive released from Buckingham Palace, Cllr Batstone suggested a Coronation Working Group be formed to coordinate the town's events which would include civic and community elements.

The Clerk suggested she contact local community groups to gauge interest and gather ideas.

Action:  
The Town Clerk

22/23/200

**STURMINSTER NEWTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION  
NEW TEMPORARY AGREEMENT**

A report had been circulated previously. Council discussed the suggestion that the Sturminster Newton Allotment Association take over management of the Allotments on behalf of the Town Council.

**The Council resolved to approve the management of the Town Council Allotments by the Sturminster Newton Allotment Association, should they wish to do so, for a trial period of 1 year with a review after 6 months and a view to extending this if agreed by the Amenities Committee at the end of the trial period.**

Cllr Fraser  
Cllr Batstone

22/23/201

**BURGER VAN REQUEST TO OPERATE ON TOWN COUNCIL LAND**

A request had been received from the Dorset Food Company to bring their burger van to the town on alternate Thursday evenings to fit around current arrangements with the Pizza Box. After discussing the request, Councillors agreed to a trial period on condition that there was no increase in litter or negative reports from residents.

**The Council resolved to allow a trial for 6 months with the Town Clerk overseeing the trial.**

It was noted that Cllr Donaldson voted against the resolution.

Cllr Reed  
Cllr Marks

22/23/202

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to consider.

22/23/203

**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Town Clerk had been unwell and there was no report to receive.

22/23/204 **TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**  
The Mayor reported that Cllr Rose had attended a Civic event in Weymouth on her behalf and she had attended the Hall & Woodhouse grants presentation evening.

22/23/205 **DORSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**  
Dorset Councillor Carole Jones provided a report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

22/23/206 **INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS**  
*Cllr Mantock:* –

- requested reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan to be an Agenda item for the next relevant meeting.
- She also urged that the problem with the roof above the office should be dealt with as a matter of urgency. The Clerk advised she had made numerous attempts to contact the relevant company but had not been successful. She would continue to attempt to get the problem resolved.

*Cllr Donaldson* – had attended the opening of a nurture space at Yewstock School which he thought would be a massive benefit to the school and he praised the happy, contented environment of the school.

*Cllr Batstone* – advised there would be wedding festival in February in The Exchange and at the Church.

*Cllr Lacey* – reminded everyone that potholes can be reported online to Dorset Council.

*Cllr Summers:* –

- following on from comments made under Agenda item 22/23/195 Cllr Summers offered to conduct an information gathering exercise from the residents of Broad Oak to evidence the need/or not for lighting columns in Broad Oak.
- She asked for an update on the Youth Hub project. The Town Clerk advised the planning application had been submitted and was awaiting outcome before next steps were taken.

*Cllr Reed* – requested the Youth Hub project be raised as an agenda item at the next Amenities Committee meeting

*Cllr Fraser* – requested an Agenda item to discuss a 20mph speed limit for Newton be raised at the next Planning & Environment Committee meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Approved on .....  .....

Date 2nd February 23

