

# STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber

Present:

Cllr P Batstone – arrived 7.55pm

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: K Squire (Town Clerk) and by Zoom - L Plumridge (Assistant Town Clerk)

Members of the Public:

Minute No.      Comments

22/23/217

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

No comments were made from the public.

22/23/218

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr P Batstone had advised she would be attending but may be late.  
Dorset Councillor C Jones had given her apologies.

22/23/219

**DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

No interests were declared and no written requests for dispensation had been received.

22/23/220

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**The minutes of the previous Town Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 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.**

22/23/221

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

- Planning & Environment Committee – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023

There were no recommendations to report.

22/23/222

**COMMUNITY AWARDS POLICY**

The Community Awards Policy, having previously been circulated, was reviewed.

**The Council resolved to readopt the Community Awards Policy.**

It was agreed a list should be compiled of previous award winners for the website.

22/23/223

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

Cllr Summers outlined her community engagement programme, with an aim to develop the methodology for engage with residents on a rolling 14-month programme. The Council supported the idea and thanks Cllr Summers for her presentation.

**The Council resolved to form a working group to investigate this and report back to Council. Members were agreed as follows:**

RESOLUTION  
The proposer is  
named first followed  
by the seconder

Cllr Donaldson  
Cllr Rose

Cllr Donaldson  
Cllr Mantock

Chair's initials

**Cllr Dobson, Cllr Lacey, Cllr Mantock, Cllr Summers and L Plumridge.  
Cllr Marks would be a backup member.**

Cllr Mantock  
Cllr Rose

22/23/224

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to consider.

22/23/225

**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Town Clerk reported as follows:

Neighbourhood Plan – The Town Clerk had made contact with Jo Witherden (Neighbourhood Plan Consultant) and will arrange a meeting to discuss review options then report back to Council.

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) – is now working out of the Chamber every Wednesday and some Thursdays. Appointments can be booked via The Vale Pantry.

Long Close Play Area – it had previously been agreed to turn this largely disused play area into an educational wildlife area. The Grounds Team have been busy with the renovations. There will be wildlife friendly planting, information and activity boards and bug houses.

22/23/226

**TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**

As the previous Town Council meeting had only been two weeks prior, the Mayor had no information or events to report.

22/23/227

**DORSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Dorset Councillor Jones had provided a comprehensive report to Council two weeks prior and was not able to attend the meeting.

22/23/228

**INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS**

*Cllr Marks* – there had been some tree planting meetings. He will report at the next Amenities Committee.

*Cllr Summers* – informed that the pathway by the Rec. was very broken up. The Town Clerk advised it had been badly affected by the ice and would be patched. A full replacement was scheduled to coincide with the other planned works in the area.

*Cllr Mantock* – enquired if the Council could be involved at the planning stage for input into the landscaping at the North Fields development. The Town Clerk would contact the developers and enquire.

Action:  
Grounds staff

Action:  
Town Clerk

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.59pm.

Approved on ..... Date .....

