

**STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
 held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber

Present:	
Cllr P Batstone	Cllr N Dobson
Cllr J Rose	Cllr P Marks – Chairman
Cllr A Donaldson	Cllr H Lacey
Cllr D Mantock	Cllr M Jones (arrived at 7.37pm)

In Attendance: K Squire (Town Clerk), A Dodson (Grounds Manager), J Drew (Finance Officer).

Members of the Public: Three.

Minute No.	Comments	RESOLUTION <i>The proposer is named first followed by the seconder</i>
23/24/054	<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b> The Chairman of the Sturminster Newton Allotment Association requested permission to replace the manure heap with a concrete base with fencing. The Committee Chairman and the Grounds Manager will look into this. A member of the public wished to report a metal pole protruding onto the footpath at the lairage field and that members of the public are unsure where the Council Office is. The deputy Chairman advised that a hanging sign is being investigated.	
23/24/055	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies were received from Cllr C Fraser.	Cllr Lacey Cllr Donaldson
23/24/056	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</b> No declarations of interests had been declared and no written dispensations received.	
23/24/057	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> <b>The minutes of the previous Amenities meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, having been circulated and publicised prior to the meeting, were taken as read and approved for signature by the Committee Chairman as a true and correct record.</b> The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the Walkabout leaflets have been ordered and should be delivered next week. Cllr Marks will arrange a meeting for the Open Spaces Group. Information regarding Coles Close – this will be actioned at the earliest convenience.	Cllr Donaldson Cllr Rose
23/24/058	<b>TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE REPLACEMENT PLAY EQUIPMENT PROJECT.</b> Two play areas require updating – Ricketts Lane and Rixon Recreation Grounds. Ricketts Lane is the priority, the Grounds Manager has obtained different ideas from three different suppliers. Along with the Town Clerk he visited William Barnes Primary School to gather pupils' views. Using this information, he is getting schemes drawn up, these will be taken back to the pupils for approval. An update will be provided to the Committee in due course.	

23/24/059	<p><b>TO CONSIDER THE MAINTENANCE ISSUES AT THE PUBLIC TOILETS AT RICKETTS LANE RECREATION GROUND AND AGREE ACTIONS.</b></p> <p>There have been issues with the public toilets at the Recreation Ground. Throughout the winter they have been vandalised and closed. Coming into the summer there is a need to open them. However, the automatic washstation will need replacing shortly at an approx. cost of £2000+. With the proposed building works which would affect the toilet, it was decided that it should be open for as long as possible but with minimal expense.</p>	
23/24/060	<p><b>TO CONSIDER REPLACEMENT NOTICEBOARD/S FOR BUTTS POND NATURE RESERVE AND FUNDING FOR THESE.</b></p> <p>The noticeboards in the Butts Pond Nature Reserve need replacing. The Town Clerk stated that Stur Benefit Society are holding a sum of £1058.25, remaining from the Open Spaces Group, and this could finance these replacements. It would be an ideal time to place a plaque in memory of Jeremy Read, and as a thank you to Vic Fox for all their work. The Clerk will work on designs with Cllr Jones as update the Committee in due course.</p>	
23/24/061	<p><b>TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE GROUNDS MANAGER AND APPROVE FURTHER ACTIONS.</b></p> <p>This report is attached to these minutes. Cllr Marks thanks the Grounds Manager on behalf of the Council for all the hard work the team do.</p>	
23/24/062	<p><b>TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS AND DISCUSS PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE BUSINESS.</b></p> <p><i>Cllr Batstone</i> – It is hoped that in future the closed Churchyard at St Mary's can be rewilded. <i>Cllr Jones</i> – Reported that the damaged stones which hold in the lights at the base of the Market Column have been removed, he hopes to get these repaired and replace the lights. The Town Council Office sign has been designed and awaits approval by The Exchange Trustees. <i>Cllr Mantock</i> – SNHT would like to give a presentation at the next meeting. She had also noted that rubbish bins are overflowing at weekends and enquired if there is a solution to this. <i>Cllr Dobson</i> – reported that there had been problems with increased traffic in Ricketts Lane resulting from the car boot sale. There appeared to be inadequate traffic management. The Clerk suggested this be considered at the next Town Council meeting. <i>Cllr Lacey</i> – presented a certificate of recognition and appreciation to Adam Dodson for 20 years service with Sturminster Newton Town Council.</p>	

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15

Approved on .....

Chairman's Signature


