

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

held on Thursday 1st June 2023 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber

Present:

Cllr P Batstone – arrived 7.40pm
Cllr N Dobson
Cllr A Donaldson
Cllr C Fraser
Cllr H Lacey

Cllr D Mantock
Cllr P Marks
Cllr J Rose

In Attendance: K Squire (Town Clerk) and L Plumridge (Assistant Town Clerk)

Members of the Public: 0

Minute No.	Comments
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23/24/28	PUBLIC SESSION No members of the public were in attendance
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23/24/29	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr M Jones, Cllr H Reed and Dorset Cllr C Jones. The apologies were accepted by the members present.
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23/24/30	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS No interests were declared and no written requests for dispensation had been received.
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23/24/31	MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING The minutes of the previous Town Council meeting held on 4 th May 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.
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23/24/32	RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS Planning & Environment 18 th May 2023 – there were no recommendations to consider.
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23/23/33	PLANNING APPLICATIONS Application No: P/VOC/2023/02679 Location: Part of Plots 3 & 4 North Dorset Business Park Rolls Mill Way Sturminster Newton Proposal: Erection of industrial building (with variation of condition 4 of planning permission P/FUL/2022/06746 to amend the working hours to include Saturday. Observations: No Objections
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RESOLUTION
The proposer is
named first followed
by the seconder

Cllr Donaldson
Cllr Fraser

Cllr Donaldson
Cllr Fraser



Application No: P/CLP/2023/02917

Location: The Retreat Newton Hill - From Junctions at Orchard Close and Mill Lane Newton Dorset DT10 2DQ

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness to erect timber pre-fabricated single storey granny annexe.

Observations:

Whilst this application was for information purposes only the Council requested the Clerk to ask Dorset Council Planning what does the certificate of lawfulness mean as the pre-fabricated granny annexe is not in situ yet.

Action:

Town Clerk

- 23/24/34 **INSURANCE POLICY FOR 2023/2024**
The Council resolved to accept the insurance policy for 2023/2024. Cllr Donaldson
Cllr Rose
- 23/24/35 **ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR 2022/2023**
The Council received and noted the Annual Internal Audit Report of 2022/2023
Thanks were extended to the Finance Team and Internal Auditor. Cllr Rose
Cllr Dobson
- 23/24/36 **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR 2022/2023**
The Council resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statements for 2022/2023. Cllr Mantock
Cllr Dobson
- 23/24/37 **ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS FOR 2022/2023**
The Council resolved to approve the Accounting Statements for 2022/2023. Cllr Dobson
Cllr Donaldson
- 23/24/38 **EARMARKED RESERVES**
The Council resolved to approve the previously circulated earmarked reserves. Cllr Dobson
Cllr Mantock
- 23/24/39 **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS OVER £2000**
There were 2 invoices:
Mortimer Designs Ltd £4855.20 Youth Hub project management fees
Mortimer Designs Ltd £4274.95 Workshop design and application fees.
The Council resolved to approve the invoices for payment. Cllr Fraser
Cllr Dobson
- 23/24/40 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**
The Town Clerk reported as follows:
Grounds staff – interviews for a part time grounds operative took place last week and the post had been filled.
Gardening Club – a letter of thanks was received from the Gardening Club Annual Plant sale in May. It was a successful event raising £400.
Works at the Bridge - Andrew Bradley (Project Manager Economic Growth and Infrastructure), Dorset Council will be attending the Planning & Environment Committee on 15th June to update on works at the bridge.
What's on in Stur newsletter circulation – the office has the capacity to distribute newsletters at the present volumes. However this might be a problem in the future, particularly if the office has other priorities and there is an expectation for the office to act immediately the newsletters arrive from the printers. The Clerk will monitor.
- 23/24/41 **TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**
The Mayor attended the Coronation Civic Service event on 7th May which was well attended and a very successful event.



23/24/42

DORSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Dorset Cllr Carole Jones was unable to attend the meeting but had prepared a report, copy attached to these minutes.

23/24/43

INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Batstone: reminded Council of the various events happening in June: Car meet, plant sale, yoga sessions and car boot sales in the Rec. and the Big Lunch in the Railway Gardens.

Cllr Donaldson:

Flag Competition - in his capacity as Deputy Mayor attended the various events organised for the winners of the local schools Coronation Flag competition. He noted that William Barnes Primary School now has a roll count of 178 and received a good Ofsted.

Brinsley Close – several complaints had been received from residents by the interruptions experienced while fibre broadband is being installed.

Police – he had attended a recent catch-up meeting with the Police and Clerk.

Cllr Mantock –

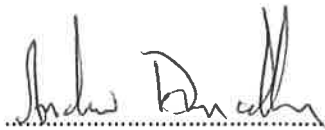
Colber Bridge - expressed concern for the structural integrity of Colber Bridge and additionally how important it is to stress to young people the dangers of jumping into the river. The problems with the bridge have already been reported to Hinton St Mary Estate managers.

Fiddleford Bridge – Several of the railing have been removed from the bridge causing a hazard. This has been reported to the Countryside Rangers.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

Approved on 6/1/23

Chairman's Signature



Town Council Report 1st June 2023

Carole Jones

The Yoga event was a cracking success on Saturday – we had over 70 booked to come, and the surveys carried all sorts of good reports in that a couple of people had just moved to the area and wanted to meet other people, most asked for the event to be regular – it scored 10 out of 10 on every level. This Saturday we have Qi Gong (pronounced Chi Gong) – a set of movements that work to energize the body – it's very gentle and I'd welcome all Town councillors to come and take a look, or better still join in! With the Classic Car show on Saturday – the Rec should be full!

The bank at the bridge – we are now getting there! The full project team is in place which includes DC engineers and contractors, WSP as principal designer, Hanson's as the Council's service partner, and an external specialist contractor. The design is based on soil nailing (you can google this), it is basically steel mats held in place with long pins or nails. This will require the removal of the willow trees which are also damaging the lower slope where gabion baskets have been pushed into the river by a falling tree. The slopes will be wildflower seeded on completion and need to be kept clear of trees in the future.

To offset the loss of the trees, DC is offering a similar number of trees to the Town Council to plant elsewhere. Construction is still pencilled in for September to start after the Cheese Festival.

There have been some problems in terms of parking in Hosey Road leaving no access for emergency vehicles and bin lorries have been unable to get through – I have arranged and all houses have been leaflet dropped and the fire service took their engine there and also leafleted.

There is an issue on the Northfields site I am looking into in relation to the height of the garage and fence recently erected behind the property of 18 North Fields.

This half term has been dreadfully difficult for so many families with children and this has brought a real pressure to the Pantry – we are working as best as we can – but it's becoming incredibly challenging with the rising food costs. The number of people who simply can't afford the £7 we ask for is a real worry.

Finally, you will recall that I asked for the road between the bridge and the traffic lights to go on a future P&E Meeting for a 20 mph zone, - I would like to request that we also include Honeymead Lane for discussion.

I would also like to request that we look at what can be done to slow down vehicles up Newton Hill and would like to ask that if we were able to get assistance in a monetary form from the NRA that a second SID be considered to be switched from one side of the road to the other every 6 weeks.

