

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

held on Thursday 6th July 2023 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber

Present:

Cllr N Dobson

Cllr A Donaldson – Vice Chair

Cllr C Fraser

Cllr M Jones

Cllr D Mantock

Cllr P Marks

Cllr J Rose

In Attendance: K Squire (Town Clerk), J Drew (Finance Officer), Dorset Councillor Carole Jones.

Members of the Public: 6

Minute No.	Comments	RESOLUTION <i>The proposer is named first followed by the seconder</i>
23/24/63	PUBLIC SESSION Residents of Barnes Close reported concerns regarding the recent siting of picnic tables at the trailway entrance. Since being placed there last week, there have been several incidents of anti-social behaviour, the residents asked the Council to reconsider the location of the benches. Cllr Donaldson informed them that this would be referred to the next Amenities committee meeting.	
23/24/64	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Received from Cllr Lacey and Cllr Reed and accepted.	Cllr Marks Cllr Rose
23/24/65	DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS Cllr Rose declared an interest in item 23/24/73, as he is Chairman of the Youth Club. Cllr Dobson also declared an interest in item 23/24/73 as Treasurer for the Youth Club	
23/24/66	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING The minutes of the previous Planning & Environment meeting held on 1 June 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.	Cllr Rose Cllr Mantock
23/24/67	TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATION P/ADV/2023/03553 The Cooperative, Market Square House, Station Road, Sturminster Newton DT10 1FG Observations: No objections.	Cllr Marks Cllr Dobson
23/24/68	TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM CLLR M JONES This item is to be deferred.	
23/24/69	TO CONSIDER APPLYING FOR 20MPH SPEED RESTRICTIONS FROM THE BRIDGE TO TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT OLD MARKET HILL AND HONEYMEAD LANE. This application was requested by Dorset Cllr Jones. An enquiry application had been submitted without obligation to proceed to obtain costings from Dorset Council.,	



- 23/24/70 **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW WORKING GROUP AND AGREE FURTHER ACTIONS.**
Contact has been made with Neighbourhood Planning Consultant Jo Witherden who can assist with the update, an initial 9 hours work, is £945. The group hope to access grant funding from the Locality Fund when applications open, which would help with any additional expense.
Council agreed to proceed with the initial review work at a cost of £945.
- Cllr Fraser
Cllr Mantock
- 23/24/71 **TO CONSIDER A REVIEW OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF HIRE FOR THE RICKETTS LANE RECREATION GROUND AND APPROVE CHANGES.**
After a block booking for a weekly Car Boot Sale in the Recreation Ground created issues with traffic in Ricketts Lane, there is a need to set down some formal terms & conditions. The Clerk will work with the Grounds Manager and Cllr's Lacey, Mantock and Rose on these and bring a document to Council for consideration in due course.
- ACTION:
Town Clerk
- 23/24/72 **TO AGREE LAND TRANSFER AROUND MONTEBOURG HOUSE TO ALPHA HOUSING**
Communication between Solicitors is slow, and promised documentation has not been received. This item was deferred.
- 23/24/73 **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE YOUTH HUB PROJECT**
The Town Clerk has been working with Farnfields Solicitors on the new lease and surrender documents.
Quotes for the planned works are double the current funding available, the working group are looking at alternatives to bring the project within budget. To access additional funding a youth club needs to be operational. The Clerk requested a meeting with the youth club committee to discuss this.
- 23/24/74 **TO APPROVE PAYMENTS OVER £2000**
Council resolved to approve the initial Isuzu truck lease payment of £2806.35
- Cllr Rose
Cllr Dobson
- 23/24/75 **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK**
The eight Walkabout leaflets have been printed and delivered.
A quotation for the electricity in the Railway Gardens has been requested.
- 23/24/76 **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN MAYOR**
There will be a Coffee Morning tomorrow (7.7.23), in the Exchange. This is a networking event and information gained will be used for the Youth Hub.
- 23/24/77 **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR CAROLE JONES**
Cllr Jones reported on current issues that she is dealing with:
- There have been problems with contractor parking at the Northfields development. Also concerns with the height of houses being built.
 - Speed signs at Broadoak will be changed to make it safer for pedestrians.
 - She is trying to get bus times from Blandford to Sturminster Newton to connect with the departing Yeovil bus.
 - The SNHS Headteacher is on long term sick leave.
 - The Sturfit lease has been renewed.
 - Yoga on the Recreation ground is going well. It is hoped to get funding for next year to run this again.



- The Vale Pantry continues to be busy.
- There is a need for an Outreach Worker to work in the area during the school holidays.
- Okeford Fitzpaine Parish Council have a great booklet which is given to new residents to the village, something similar would be useful in Sturminster Newton.

23/24/78

To receive information from members and discuss proposals for future business.

Cllr Donaldson – Advised:

- virtual attendance at Council meetings is being considered by Government. This could encourage people to become Councillors.
- He had attended the Council office for the pre-arranged monthly meeting with the Police on Wednesday 5 July, however PC Sugrue did not attend, a message being sent after the due start time. This is not acceptable.

Cllr Mantock – Could we arrange a meeting with the Police Commissioner – David Sidwick, as he should know what is happening. The Town Clerk will invite him to attend a future meeting.

Cllr Jones – There seems to be a staff shortage throughout the country which could be having a knock on effect with the Police.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.14pm.

Approved on 17/8/2023

Chairman's Signature



