

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

held on Thursday 5th October 2023 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber

Present:

Cllr L Cooper

Cllr N Dobson

Cllr A Donaldson Vice Chairman

Cllr C Fraser

Cllr M Jones

Cllr D Mantock

Cllr P Marks

Cllr H Reed

Cllr J Rose

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

Members of the public: 1

Minute No.	Comments	RESOLUTION <i>The proposer is named first followed by the seconder</i>
23/24/146	PUBLIC SESSION A resident raised concerns about the proposed plans for the Lairage Field, specifically to protect the asset of Butts Pond Nature Reserve particularly the gold crested newt population with regard to drainage on the site.	
23/24/147	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr P Batstone and Cllr H Lacey. The apologies were accepted by the members present.	Cllr Jones Cllr Dobson
23/24/148	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS No interests were declared and no written requests for dispensation had been received.	
23/24/149	MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING The minutes of the previous Town Council meeting held on 7 th September 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.	Cllr Rose Cllr Dobson
23/24/150	REVIEW OF CO-OPTION AND RECORDS RETENTION POLICY This Agenda item was deferred.	
23/24/151	ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN STURMINSTER NEWTON Members discussed anti-social behavior in Sturminster Newton following several incidents reported from residents feeling uncomfortable/intimidated in various areas of the town. It was generally agreed this was a problem in the summer which reduced significantly in the winter. The Clerk advised at present the Police are unable to view footage from the Council's CCTV directly due to issues with their IT software. There were several actions the Council discussed to put in place; The Council resolved: <ul style="list-style-type: none">To purchase a tablet for the Police to be able to view the Council's CCTV footage.The Clerk will investigate the legalities of using CCTV footage publicly.The Clerk will work out the costings to employ a youth worker	Cllr Fraser Cllr Rose



- **The Clerk will work with Shaftesbury and Gillingham Town Councils to stress to the Police the need to replace previous PCSO positions in all North Dorset towns.**
- **The Clerk will work out the costings of using a security firm, possibly in conjunction with Shaftesbury and Gillingham Town Councils**

Action:
Town Clerk

23/24/152

ALPHA HOUSING LAND TRANSFER

The transfer plan and title plan for land at Montebourg House had been circulated previously.

The Council resolved to sign the transfer paperwork.

Deputy Chairman Cllr Donaldson duly signed the transfer.

Cllr Rose
Cllr Mantock

23/24/153

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS OVER £2000

There were no payments over £2000 to approve.

23/24/154

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence had been received from a member of the public regarding comments made by Cllr Dobson recorded in the Town Council 17th August meeting minutes. The Clerk had taken advice from the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils and confirmed that the minutes should be a true and correct record of the meeting, which they were. Cllr Dobson had reached out to the person concerned to discuss the subject, but this had been declined. The Clerk advised that she would update the Council on any further correspondence.

23/24/155

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk advised the Council had received a clear External Audit for the year ending 31st March 2023. The Council expressed thanks to the Town Clerk for this.

23/24/156

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

In the absence of Cllr Lacey, Deputy Chairman Cllr Donaldson reported as follows:

8th September – he had attended Blandford Civic Day.

22nd September – Cllr Lacey had attended a Police Open Day in Winfrith.

2nd October – he attended a 'Bread and Salt' reception in Semley organised by Shaftesbury Refugee Group to welcome Kyiv City Ballet.

5th October – he spent some time at the Big Stur Welcome in The Exchange which appeared to have been a very good networking event.

23/24/157

DORSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Carole Jones had sent her apologies and will report at the next Town Council meeting.

23/24/158

INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Dobson – The Community Benefit Society have created volunteer positions of Sturminster Newton Ambassadors who will be around and about in town giving out local information and signposting people during events.

Cllr Reed – The Lions would like to plant a cherry tree. The Clerk will liaise with the Grounds Manager to discuss and agree details.

Cllr Cooper – had received complaints about the noise lorries make over the road hump outside Mountebourg House. Cllr Donaldson noted it had always been a problem, but the office could have a word with Highways to see if anything could be done.

Cllr Mantock – The Section 106 Working Group met last week. Wherever developer contributions are assigned this is held by Dorset Council and

Action:
Office

there is specific eligibility criteria for organisations wishing to apply. Dorset Council decide on allocation of funds. Support of the Town Council, while not compulsory, adds weight to applications. Applications to be sent to the Town Council for support will be considered by the working group to check the criteria, then considered by Town Council. She suspected there may be some misconception that organisations are automatically entitled to these funding allocations but the fact is they will have to apply and possibly compete with other organisations for funds. The Town Council will also need to apply for some of the funds available for maintenance of amenity areas.

Cllr Donaldson reported:

Business Breakfast – he had attended this earlier in the week and felt it is a useful opportunity to network.

Police – he had attended the monthly meeting with the Clerk and PC Sugrue who was under pressure without a replacement police community support officer. He welcomed the idea to emphasise the need for a support officer in Sturminster Newton and the other North Dorset towns.

Tree Matters – he noted a planning application to fell a spruce at Old Forge Castle, to which he had no objections but welcomed any comments from other members

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm

Approved on 2/11/2023 ... Chairman's Signature



