

**STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber**

Present:

Cllr P Batstone

Cllr L Cooper

Cllr N Dobson

Cllr A Donaldson – Vice Chairman

Cllr C Fraser

Cllr H Lacey - Chairman

Cllr D Mantock

Cllr P Marks

Cllr J Rose

In Attendance: K Squire (Town Clerk), A Dodson (Grounds Manager), Dorset Councillor C Jones, and L Plumridge (Assistant Town Clerk by Zoom)

Members of the public: 5

Minute No.	Comments	RESOLUTION <i>The proposer is named first followed by the seconder</i>
23/24/222	<p><b>PUBLIC SESSION</b></p> <p><u>Bath Road</u></p> <p>A resident expressed strong concerns about traffic on Bath Road. She felt issues of bad driver behaviour at the build-out section, and carers for residents of Fox Court parking cars on the road rather than in the car park, could cause a serious accident. The Chairman advised that this had been reported to Dorset Council and the Traffic Collision team were investigating.</p> <p><u>Market Fields Site</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A resident expressed concerns about planning application P/FUL/2023/06986. These included safe access to the site and number of vehicles generated. Permissive footpaths which would be built on. Badger setts and other wildlife on site. Increased use of the footpath by the fire station. That the height of the houses on plots 1-6 would affect existing houses at Pitts Orchard. The Chairman suggested these concerns should be raised by the resident as a comment to Dorset Council planning department.</li><li>• Another resident also expressed his concerns at the proposed development, specifically the threat to the local wildlife. He felt the felt/metal surveys carried out were not suitable. He had raised this as a comment on the Dorset Council planning portal.</li></ul>	
23/24/223	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr M Jones and Cllr H Reed. The apologies were accepted by the members present.</p>	Cllr Mantock Cllr Marks
23/24/224	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</b></p> <p>Cllr Donaldson declared an interest in Agenda item 23/24/227 – Planning application P/FUL/2023/06986. He advised he would leave the meeting when this was discussed.</p>	
23/24/225	<p><b>MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous Town Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 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.</p>	Cllr Fraser Cllr Rose



23/24/226

**RECOMMENDATION FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**Planning & Environment – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

No recommendations to consider.

**Finance & Personnel – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Cllr Dobson, Chairman of the Finance & Personnel committee outlined budget notes for the financial year 2024/2025, these provided information to enable Council to fully consider agenda item 23/24/228 – Sturminster Newton Town Council Budget for 2024/2025. The figures contained in the report were recommended to Council by the committee. It was agreed that this item should be moved up the agenda.

23/24/228

**TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET FOR 2024/2025**

**Having been previously circulated, the Council fully discussed the budget reports for the following financial year. The Council resolved to approve the budget report option 1 and request a precept of £ £418,686 for the financial year 2024/2025.**

Cllr Rose  
Cllr Fraser

23/24/227

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(Cllr Donaldson left the meeting at 7.37pm)

**Application No:** P/FUL/2023/06986

**Location:** Land East Of Bath Road Sturminster Newton

**Proposal:** Erection of 86no. dwellings, formation of access, green space & associated infrastructure.

**Observations:** No objections subject to recommendations contained in the Highways and Ecology reports, yet to be received. The Council note the traffic survey was done in 2021 and needs updating post pandemic.

The Council support any requested adoption of the roads by Dorset Council.

Cllr Fraser  
Cllr Rose

(Cllr Donaldson rejoined the meeting 7.43pm)

**Application No:** P/PACD/2023/07415

**Location:** Retsel House Bridge Street Sturminster Newton DT10 1AW

**Proposal:** Change of use from Commercial, Business and Service (Use Class E) to 2 no.Dwellinghouses (Use Class C3).

**Objections:** No objections.

Cllr Donaldson  
Cllr Mantock

**Application No:** P/NMA/2023/07242

**Location:** Yards End Newton Hill - From Junctions At Orchard Close And Mill Lane Newton Dorset DT10 2DQ

**Proposal:** Non material amendment- to amend the property address in Condition No. 3 on the decision to Yards End, Newton Hill, Newton, Sturminster Newton, DT10 2DQ; (Erect single storey link extension & raise the ridge of the garage roof to convert loft space to form living accommodation.

**Observations:** The Council noted the application but no comment was necessary as this had been sent for information purposes only.

Cllr Donaldson  
Cllr Cooper



**Application No:** P/LBC/2023/05860

**Location:** 1 Bridge Street Sturminster Newton DT10 1AP

**Proposal:** Repairs and recovering of the existing building roof.

**Observations:** Council asked the Clerk to query whether a planning application had been received along with the Listed Building Consent and did not feel able to comment without a report from the Conservation Officer which had not been received.

Cllr Donaldson  
Cllr Lacey

**Action: Town Clerk**

**Application No:** P/HOU/2023/07498

**Location:** Brookside Cottage A357 - Calf Close Lane To Fiddleford Bridge Fiddleford Dorset DT10 2BX

**Proposal:** Erect first floor extension.

**Observations:** No objections.

Cllr Mantock  
Cllr Donaldson

23/24/229

**D-DAY 80 YEAR CELEBRATIONS – 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024**

**The Council resolved to set up a working group to work with other organisations in town to organise D Day 80 Year celebrations in June.**

**The working group will comprise of:**

**Cllrs Batstone, Lacey, Mantock, Rose and Marks, the Town Clerk, the Grounds Manager. Other organisations to include: The Exchange, Literary Festival, British Legion and Rotary.**

Cllr Mantock  
Cllr Batstone

23/24/230

**COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION ON WILLIAM BARNES BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

A request had been received from William Barnes School for Councillor representation on the Board of Governors. Dorset Councillor Carole Jones volunteered to take on the position.

**The Council resolved to nominate Dorset Council Carole Jones for the role of Governor on the Board of William Barnes Primary School.**

Cllr Mantock  
Cllr Batstone

23/24/231

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Traffic Issues – the Clerk read out an email response from Andrew Bradley the Project Manager for the river bank stabilisation works. This addressed the recent traffic problems caused by malfunction of traffic lights due to bad weather and timing issues caused by bad driver behaviour.

New Police Officer - The new officer will be PC Ed Lewis. His first day will be the 17<sup>th</sup> January. The new PCSO is Laura Whalley. Laura has just returned from maternity leave and will need some mandatory training before she starts.

The Clerk noted that she had requested monthly meetings and suggested the Police put a regular piece in What's Happening in Stur newsletter. She would encourage PC Lewis to attend a Council meeting to introduce himself when he has settled in. She also advised that training on accessing the CCTV system had been offered.

23/24/232

**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Town Clerk reported as follows:

Office IT system – server migration to the Cloud is now complete and the staff are very pleased with the efficiency and speed of the new system in the office and when working off site.

Sturminster Newton United Football Club – she had met with members of the Football Club committee to provide information about the Section 106



developer contributions available and she believes they will be applying for funding to help with the refurbishment of their clubhouse.

Toolkit for Elections – The Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils have provided a comprehensive document giving information about the Town Council elections on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May. She had sent this to all Councillors, and will add this to the Town Council website and as part of the next newsletter column. She encouraged all to have a look at the instructions on completing the nomination forms and at the timeline of key dates.

CCTV cameras – the Clerk advised that the original CCTV cameras at Ricketts Lane recreation ground need replacing. These can be reused as part of the workshop extension project.

23/24/233

#### **TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor did not provide a report due to the Christmas break, most Civic events having happened during November.

She expressed concern regarding the current library restructuring. She had also attended their Reminiscing Hour, which takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm which others may find interesting.

23/24/234

#### **DORSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Carole Jones reported as follows:

- Local Transport Plan: Cllr Jones encouraged Cllrs to attend an online webinar on the being held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January.
- Dorset Council are considering devolution to open up funding possibilities.
- Sturminster Newton High School: An Executive Head is now in place and seems very enthusiastic.
- Dorset Council Budget: The increase to precept payers will be 2.9% + 2% for adult services. There will be no cuts to services.
- The Vale Pantry: There have been some delays but plans to relocate to Butts Pond Industrial Estate are progressing. There is an increase in Section 21 evictions causing a lot of stress for families. A section 21 eviction notice is a notice that a landlord gives to a tenant to end an assured shorthold tenancy without providing a reason.
- Aldi: plans are still progressing for a store to open at Rolls Mill.
- No news on the development of Clarkes Yard.
- Mental Health: Cllr Jones is working to compile a mental health services directory to make it easier to find and access services

23/24/235

#### **INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS**

*Cllr Donaldson* – had officially opened the Santa Stride in December, noting it was an awful day for the participants. He had previously reported problems with the road resurfacing in Brinsley Close, this has not been rectified. The faulty streetlight also reported had now been fixed. He had also reported various potholes to Dorset Council Highways including those on Old Market Hill.

*Cllr Marks* – will be meeting the Chairman of the Allotment Association soon to discuss their application for Section 106 monies.

*Cllr Batstone* – had arranged a meeting with David Sidwick, the Crime Commissioner for her Dorset Council Ward and invited members to attend. Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 6.30pm in the Bow Room of The Exchange. She was also concerned about the disruption of the road closure planned for Glue Hill to replace the gas pipe. She had been in touch with Dorset Council but the total road closure was unavoidable.



*Cllr Mantock* – advised that the Heritage Trust have completed the works needed to get the mill up and running again, they are keen to start milling again. The Clerk advised that following some checks she would contact Hinton St Mary Estate and request permission. She advised their AGM will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> February with a talk on the railway.

*Cllr Cooper* – advised he had received complaints about bin collections at Montebourg House. Cllr Carole Jones advised the problems had been sorted out.

*Cllr Fraser* – advised that the gate at Colber Bridge had disappeared, the Grounds Manager advised he would check the area.

*Cllr Lacey* – Stressed the need to chase the traffic issues at Bridge Street and Bath Road with the Traffic Collision team. Cllr Jones agreed to investigate what was being done.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.41pm

Approved on 1 Feb 2024 Chairman's Signature 



