

# STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber

Present:

Cllr P Batstone

Cllr L Cooper

Cllr N Dobson

Cllr A Donaldson

Cllr C Fraser (Chairman)

Cllr H Lacey

Cllr D Mantock

Cllr H Reed – arrived 7.33pm

Cllr J Rose (Vice Chairman)

In Attendance: K Squire (Town Clerk) and L Plumridge (Assistant Town Clerk) by Zoom.  
Members of the public: None.

Minute No.	Comments	Action
23/24/262	<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b> There were no members of the public present.	
23/24/263	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies were received from Cllr Jones and Cllr Marks. The apologies were accepted by the members present.	
23/24/264	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</b> No interests had been declared and no written dispensations received.	
23/24/265	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> The minutes of the previous Extraordinary Planning & Environment meeting held on 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2023, having been circulated and published prior to the meeting, were taken as read and approved for signature by the Committee Chairman as a true and correct record.	
23/24/266	<b>PLANNING MATTERS</b> <b><u>Planning Applications</u></b> – there were no applications to consider.  <b><u>Dorset Council Planning Decisions</u></b> – the planning decisions, which had previously been circulated, were noted.  <b><u>Any Other Planning Matters</u></b> There were no other planning matters to discuss.	
23/24/267	<b>WATER TESTING OF THE RIVER STOUR</b> Cllr Fraser requested the Council consider the idea of testing the water in the Stour for pollutants and look at linking with other towns along the river to monitor water quality. Cllr Batstone suggested that she and Dorset Cllr Jones do some research first to find out what Dorset Council are already doing. Cllr Batstone will report back at the next meeting.	Cllr Batstone

23/24/268

**ALLOCATION OF FREE PARKING DAYS**

The Council can apply to Dorset Council for 6 free car parking days per year from the 1<sup>st</sup> March to the end February.

**The Committee recommended the following dates:**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November – Town Christmas Event/Small Business Saturday**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 – New Year’s Car Rally Event**

**There was 1 day left to allocate which the Committee would leave to the Town Clerk to decide later in the year.**

23/24/269

**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN THE TOWN**

There are various traffic problems in and around the town.

**The Council recommended Dorset Councillor Jones be asked to provide an update at the next meeting on:**

- **Bollard to be installed outside The Emporium**
- **Glue Hill pinch point**

Town Clerk

**INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS**

*Cllr Reed* – reported blocked drains in Broad Oak and mud is slipping from the banks just past the cemetery. She requested Highways be contacted on both matters. It was added that The Row and Stalbridge Lane also have problems with blocked drains and mud slippage that needed to be reported.

Town Clerk

*Cllr Mantock* – reported that a retaining wall at the Recreation Ground and another at the Doctors Steps are very unstable and property owners need to be contacted. Also, Cllr Mantock requested to know the sewage capacity at the sewage works.

Town Clerk

*Cllr Cooper*: – asked about sufficient disabled parking in town. The Clerk will check if Dorset Council are providing sufficient disabled parking bays. He also enquired if dogs should be on leads in the Butts Pond Nature Reserve. The Clerk will check with the Rangers.

Town Clerk

*Cllr Lacey* – requested a letter of thanks be sent to Dorset Council for the admirable works at the bridge.

Town Clerk

Cllr Batstone requested that Dorset Council be contacted to tidy up the new matting at the bridge. She also asked if the Cool Play brown sign at the bridge could come down as this no longer exists.

Town Clerk

*Cllr Fraser* – Stressed that if a bollard is installed outside The Emporium there must be sufficient space for electric buggies to get through.

The chairman closed the meeting at 8.14pm

Approved on ..... *21<sup>st</sup> March 2024* .....

Chairman’s Signature .....

