

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
held on Thursday 28th March 2024 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber

Present:

Cllr Pauline Batstone

Cllr Lee Cooper

Cllr C Fraser

Cllr M Jones – Vice Chair

Cllr H Lacey

Cllr P Marks - Chairman

Cllr J Rose

In Attendance: K Squire (Town Clerk), A Dodson (Grounds Manager)

Members of the Public: 3

Minute No.	Comments	Actions
23/24/294	<p>PUBLIC SESSION</p> <p>The Chairman of the Sturminster Newton Allotment Association updated the Council on news from their committee and recent meetings with Cllr Marks, he also requested additional guidance on the developer contribution monies available from Corallian Heights.</p>	
23/24/295	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Cllr Donaldson. These apologies were accepted by the Council.</p>	
23/24/296	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</p> <p>No declarations of interest had been declared and no written dispensations received.</p>	
23/24/297	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>The minutes of the previous Amenities meeting held on 23rd November 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.</p>	
23/24/298	<p>TEMPORARY AGREEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ALLOTMENT SITES BY STURMINSTER NEWTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION</p> <p>After a positive discussion regarding the temporary management of the allotment sites by Sturminster Newton Allotment Association. The Committee resolved to recommend that this arrangement be extended to a 5-year period with a review after 12 months.</p> <p>The Clerk had drafted a devolved management document and would meet with Cllr Marks and the Chair of the Sturminster Newton Allotments Association to discuss the proposed terms. This document would then be brought back to the committee for approval at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Action: Town Clerk Cllr Marks</p>
23/24/299	<p>MEMORIAL PLAQUES FOR THE NEW SCATTERING OF ASHES AREA</p> <p>The committee resolved to recommend that a standard stake and memorial plaque be used in the scattering of ashes area. An information board should be installed in the car park to direct people wanting to scatter ashes to the Town Council office for details of the criteria to use the new facility.</p>	<p>Action: Town Clerk</p>

23/24/300

BOUNDARY WALL AT CHINNOCKS ALLOTMENTS

The Grounds Manager presented a report which is attached to these minutes.
The Committee resolved to recommend that confirmation of costing be obtained before being able to fully consider this item.

Action:
Grounds
Manager

23/24/301

GROUND'S MANAGER'S REPORT

The Grounds Managers report is attached to these minutes.

23/24/302

INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Lacey – Advised that she would be reporting the flooding at The Row to Dorset Council highways as the issue remains, despite being advised that it had be resolved.

Cllr Fraser – Enquired regarding the trailway usage counter that the Dorset Council Rangers had asked for a contribution towards. The Clerk updated that the Rangers were looking at an alternative portable model which could be used in other places with contributions from other Towns and Parishes to spread the cost.

Cllr Batstone – Reminded members that lots of Easter activities were taking place over the weekend. She reported that the Newton Residents Association had recently had their AGM. Finally she updated members that the highway works at Glue Hill seemed to be progressing well.

Town Clerk – Briefly updated members that she and the Grounds Manager had met with a local builder to obtain a quote to extend the workshop as instructed by Council. She was waiting for the quote and would report back as soon as possible for further instruction from the Council.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.19pm

Approved on 20th June 24

Chairman's Signature 



23/24/300 Chinnocks Allotment Site Boundary Wall

The Town Council was contacted by a resident from Caddle House, regarding a boundary wall at the eastern end of the allotments. The wall is approx. 80 years old and is made of concrete block.

The wall has started to lean towards the allotments and is in a precarious state. (see photos).

The resident was concerned that the ivy growing from the allotment side had damaged and weakened the wall. He accepts that the ownership of the wall is his but asked if the Town Council would contribute towards its replacement, due to the damage caused by the ivy.

A brief history of this site.

Chinnocks allotments used to be a small green space/ orchard with several apple and plum trees growing. The Town Council were contracted to mow this site through an agreement with North Dorset District Council approximately 10 years before North Dorset District Council donated the land to the Town Council in 2011. This site was then turned into allotments in 2012 and the Sturminster Newton Allotment Association maintain and run it to this day.

The main path runs adjacent to the wall with 3 plots in close proximity. As you will see from the photos, allotment holders have compost bins and storage next to the wall.

The resident was concerned about the safety of the wall and as he had contractors present carrying out other works, decided to remove the wall completely. He made contact to advise that this was happening and I attended the site while this work was carried out on Thursday 21st March 2024.

As a gesture of good will, I removed a substantial amount of ivy that was attached and disposed of it.

At this time, I have not been given an estimation of cost for the replacement wall. It is approx. 9.5m long and 6ft high.

The resident asked if I would approach the Council to see if there was a willingness to help.

Adam Dodson

Grounds Manager

28 March 2024









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23/24/301 Grounds Report

Amenities Meeting

Thursday 28th March 2024

Jubilee Footpath – Residents are asking for paving slabs to be installed in the grass to link straight to the footpath rather than going around as intended.

Cemetery – Spoil heaps. Quotations have been sought to remove the spoil as instructed at the previous meeting. The first quote was much higher than hoped so other companies are being contacted.

Recreation Ground Ricketts Lane – A quotation has been received to install a replacement pathway. This will be considered as an agenda item at the next committee meeting.

Play equipment – I have met with several companies to discuss the replacement equipment for Ricketts Lane and Rixon Recreation Grounds. Quotations are expected shortly.

I shall consult with the Primary School students to gather opinions before finalising the kit required.

Riverside Meadows – An oak tree has severe root upheaval adjacent to the A357 and is dangerous. Emergency works are required and a tree surgeon has been instructed to carry out the works. As this tree is overhanging the main road, traffic lights are required.

The Great Tommy Sleep Out – I will be taking part in the sleep out to raise money for homeless veterans. We shall be sleeping under the stars with no tent this Saturday (30/03/24).



Grounds Equipment – Shaftesbury Town Council had decided to sell off all their equipment due to a change in operations. We made contact and managed to purchase a selection of machines to assist our grounds maintenance.

Shaftesbury Town Council – Has enquired about how we inspect play facilities and carryout health and safety checks. They are interested in the app I have designed and asked if I could pop over for a demonstration in April.

Adam Dodson

Grounds Manager

28 March 2024

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