

**STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING held on Thursday 18 April 2024 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber**

Present:

Cllr P Batstone  
Cllr L Cooper  
Cllr N Dodson  
Cllr A Donaldson  
Cllr C Fraser - Chair

Cllr M Jones  
Cllr H Lacey  
Cllr D Mantock  
Cllr H Reed

In Attendance: K Squire (Town Clerk), J Drew (Finance Officer).

Members of the Public: One.

Minute No.	Comments
23/24/316	<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b> There was one member of the public present who spoke regarding a strip of Town Council owned land at Drovers.
23/24/317	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies were received from Cllr J Rose. The apologies were accepted by the members present.
23/24/318	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</b> No declarations of interests had been declared and no written dispensations received.
23/24/319	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> The minutes of the previous Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on 21 March 2024, 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.
23/24/320	<b>PLANNING MATTERS</b>  <b>PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b>  <b>P/VOC/2024/0072</b> <b>Land North East of Jessamine Cottage, Chapel Road, Bagber Common.</b> This is a Variation of Condition – no objections.  <b>P/CLP/2024/01542</b> <b>Edale, Rixon Hill, Rixon, Sturminster Newton.</b> This is a Certificate of Lawful Use application and is for information purposes only.  <b>PLANNING DECISIONS</b> A report was given on planning decisions made between 20 March 2024 and 15 April 2024. The Council noted the decisions made.



22/23/321

**UPDATE FROM STURMINSTER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING GROUP.**

Following a meeting with the planning consultant the Clerk updated the committee on progress and next steps. When these are completed, the working group will provide a further update to the committee.

22/23/322

**TO CONSIDER RESIDENT PURCHASING STRIP OF LAND AT DROVERS.**

The committee resolved that enquiries should be made into the price of the land and legal costs prior to further consideration regarding the sale of land. Cllr Marks will liaise with the Grounds Manager and the resident to look for other ways to stabilise the soil as an alternative solution. Cllr Marks will report back to the Committee in due course.

22/23/323

**TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS AND DISCUSS PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE BUSINESS.**

*Cllr Donaldson* – roadworks had now been completed at Ingrams and The Row, he commented that the work vehicle parking had been very inconsiderate. He continues to report potholes on the Dorset Council website and encouraged others to do the same.

*Cllr Batstone* – roadworkers are making good progress at Glue Hill and are on target for early completion.

*Cllr Cooper* – as the newly appointed Footpath Officer, Cllr Cooper met with the Rights of Way Group, made note of issues raised and would be walking footpaths and liaising with landowners.

*Cllr Marks* – reported that he had personally arranged for river water testing.

*Cllr Reed* – wished to thank all her fellow Councillors for their support as this will be her last meeting. The Councillors reciprocated the thanks and wished Cllr Reed well.

*Cllr Lacey* – Gigaclear had now finished work at The Row. She had attended Dorchester Civic Day.

*Cllr Jones* – still has concerns regarding speed of traffic in the town and surrounding area – does the Council need to investigate purchasing equipment to deter speeding?

*Cllr Mantock* – thanks to everyone for their work in the last 2 years and good luck in the forthcoming elections.

*Town Clerk* – Council Grounds staff are experiencing abusive behaviour from dog walkers using the Recreation Ground, who continue to ignore restrictions on the sports pitches and let dogs run off leads. The dog warden covers a large area and is not available to attend as often as needed, so there is an expectation that Town Council staff will speak to dog walkers. Events during the last few weeks have escalated with frequent verbal abuse and physical threats made to staff. The Clerk requested that the Council support her in instructing staff that their safety is paramount, and Dorset Council should not expect us to enforce their legislation without their back up. She suggested new clearer signs with simple wording and pictures to draw attention to regulations and that after the elections she would contact the Dorset Councillor to discuss more enforcement from the dog wardens. Councillors were happy to support the suggested actions of the Clerk.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.26pm

Approved on 23/5/24

Chairman's Signature 

