

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
held on Thursday 4th April 2024 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber

Present:

Cllr P Batstone – arrived at 8.07pm	Cllr M Jones
Cllr L Cooper	Cllr H Lacey - Chair
Cllr N Dobson	Cllr D Mantock
Cllr A Donaldson – Vice Chair	Cllr P Marks
Cllr C Fraser	

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

Members of the public: 3

Minute No.	Comments
23/24/294 TC	PUBLIC SESSION No comments were made in the public session.
23/24/295 TC	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies had been received from Cllr J Rose. Cllr P Batstone had advised she would be arriving late. The apologies were accepted by the members present.
23/24/296 TC	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS No interests were declared and no written requests for dispensation had been received.
23/24/297 TC	MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING The minutes of the previous Town Council meeting held on 1 st February 2024 having been circulated and published prior to the meeting, were taken as read and approved for signature by the Chair as a true and correct record.
23/24/298 TC	RECOMMENDATION FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS Planning & Environment Committee – 15th February 2024 23/24/268 ALLOCATION OF FREE PARKING DAYS The Council can apply to Dorset Council for 6 free car parking days per year from March to February. The Committee recommended the following dates: Saturday 1st June Saturday 30th November Saturday 7th December Tuesday 24th December Thursday 1st January 2025 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 were 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bollard to be installed outside The Emporium• Glue Hill pinch point



Amenities Committee – 28th March 2024

23/24/299 MEMORIAL PLAQUES FOR THE NEW SCATTERING OF ASHES AREA

The Committee recommended 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.

The Council resolved to approve the recommendations from both meetings.

23/24/299 **STURMINSTER NEWTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE**

TC

Cllr Mantock advised that, whilst the working group had hoped the draft revised neighbourhood plan would be ready prior to a new Council being formed, this was not the case. The Locality grant had all been spent on the Consultant's fees.

Dorset Councillor Carole Jones suggested a need to look at revising the settlement boundary area and to amend policy 38 Rolls Mill to be a designated retail area.

The Council resolved for the Town Clerk to contact the consultant and provide an update at the next Planning and Environment Committee on 18th April 2024.

23/24/300 **WET WEATHER PROTOCOL FOR CAR BOOT SALES ON THE RECREATION GROUND**

TC

Due to the wet weather the Grounds Manager had cancelled the first car boot sale due to take place on Sunday 7th April at Ricketts Lane recreation ground. It was understood the event was now taking place in the medical centre car park. The Clerk stressed that the car park was owned privately and not the responsibility of the Town Council.

23/24/301 **CORRESPONDENCE**

TC

The Clerk had received two emails regarding the increase in precept, to which she and the Chair of the Finance & Personnel committee would be responding.

23/24/302 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

TC

The Town Clerk reported as follows:

Oak tree at Riverside Meadows – an oak tree at Riverside Meadows was leaning over the A357 and had been assessed by a tree surgeon as posing a possible threat to road users due to the recent high winds. It needed to be felled as an emergency, work would be taking place on Friday 5th April.

Dorset Police – the Clerk had met with Inspector Turner and Sargeant Bradley of the North Dorset Rural Police Team who are now regularly meeting up with all Town Clerks and want to liaise and work together as much as possible. The Clerk had asked about the rural police van and this will be arranged. The Police were also interested in actively engaging with the community and asked if the Council would participate in a joint engagement event.

23/24/303 **TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**

TC

The Mayor reported as follows:

- She will be attending Dorchester Civic Day on the 18th April.
- Preparations are in hand for a Civic Service to celebrate the D-Day anniversary on 6th June. Reverend Gubbins and T Legg of the British Legion will be meeting shortly.

23/24/304 **DORSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

TC

Dorset Councillor Carole Jones reported as follows:

- The Pantry – Cllr Jones is dealing with lots of problems relating to section 21 evictions. The Pantry now has a service level agreement with Dorset Council as a family hub. They are now looking at alternative premises at Butts Pond with more space for activities and counselling.
- The weather has caused many problems for Highways with road issues.
- Cllr Jones is liaising with Sovereign House with a variety of problems for tenants.
- Chapel Road, Bagber road work issues – now scheduled for May.
- Anti-social behaviour – Cllr Jones is aware of anti-social behaviour and where possible is working with the families to try and improve the situation.



- Holiday activities for children have been arranged during the summer at The Rec. Yoga sessions are also planned again.
- Cllr Jones requested an Agenda item be raised at the next Town Council to discuss provision of youth services.

23/24/305 **INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS**
TC

Cllr Donaldson – expressed concern that the Lloyds bank mobile service is being stopped, particularly as banking opportunities at the Post Office are limited. The town clock seems to have stopped working since the hours went forward.

Cllr Batstone – was hopeful that the works on Glue Hill may be finished at the end of April.


Cllr Mantock – reported that Dorset Health Care have a confidential advice line for young people.

Cllr Fraser – wondered if the former Barclays building be a suitable venue for a youth club. He also advised that Newton Hill is being re-surfaced during May/June.

Cllr Dobson – advised that nominations for the Business Awards need to be in by Friday 5th April.

Cllr Lacey – advised that the drainage problems at The Row have been reported to Dorset Council.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.27pm

Approved on  Chairman's Signature 