

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING held on Thursday 20th June 2024 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber

Present:

Cllr C Fraser

Cllr M Jones – Vice Chair

Cllr P Marks - Chair

Cllr J Matthews

Cllr J Rose

In Attendance: K Squire (Town Clerk), A Dodson (Grounds Manager), G Stanley (Senior Ranger, Dorset Council Rangers), J Drew (Admin Officer)

Members of the Public: 2

Minute No. Comments

RESOLUTION
The proposer is
named first followed
by the seconder

24/25/056 **PUBLIC SESSION**
A member of the Literary Festival thanked Sturminster Newton Town Council for the Grant they had received. The Literary Festival was a great success.

24/25/057 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were received from Cllr P Batstone and Cllr H Lacey.

24/25/058 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**
No written dispensations had been received. Cllr Rose declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Heritage Trust.

24/25/059 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
The minutes of the previous Amenities Committee meeting held on 28th 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.

24/25/060 **TO CONSIDER MANAGEMENT OF BUTTS POND NATURE RESERVE**
The Committee resolved to recommend the following actions:

- Increase communications with the Rangers and to members of the public regarding management of the meadows.
- In the Autumn the Rangers will over sow the meadow with wildflowers to increase biodiversity.
- Partial rather than total cutting of the meadowsweet in future.
- An updated management plan to be written.
- The Open Spaces group will meet with the Rangers.

24/25/061 **TO CONSIDER REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL RANGERS REGARDING TRAILWAY RESURFACING**
The Committee resolved to recommend Council support of Trailway resurfacing carried out and funded by Hansons Contractors if this becomes available.



24/25/062 **TO CONSIDER PAPERWORK SUBMITTED FURTHER TO DISCUSSIONS AT THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING REGARDING CHINNOCKS ALLOTMENT BOUNDARY WALL**
Members considered the quote provided by the owner of the wall. The Committee resolved to recommend a goodwill gesture of £450. This would cover the Councils cost of securing the area should the wall not be there. It does not indicate any acceptance of responsibility for the residents wall.

24/25/063 **TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM STURMINSTER NEWTON HERITAGE TRUST TO TAKE PROFESSIONAL ADVICE ON REPLACEMENT OF THE BACK DOOR**
The Committee resolved to recommend that the Sturminster Newton Heritage Trust proceed in seeking professional advice regarding either the repair or replacement of the back door at the Mill.

24/25/064 **TO CONSIDER UPDATE ON ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT FOLLOWING HEALTH & SAFETY AUDIT**
The Clerk updated the Committee on the findings of the H&S audit. A simple land lease for the Allotment Association has been recommended by the auditor to clearly define the responsibilities and management of the sites. The Clerk is awaiting information from the Solicitors on costs and processes.

24/25/065 **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE FOOTPATHS OFFICER**
The Footpaths Officer has reinstated the previous Rights of Way Group and arranged a meeting for July 2024. The Committee asked that thanks be passed on to Lee Cooper for agreeing to continue in this role.

24/25/066 **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE GROUNDS MANAGER AND AGREE FURTHER ACTIONS**
See attached report.

24/25/067 **TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS AND DISCUSS PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE BUSINESS**
Cllr Jones – made enquiries regarding the Council column in the newsletter. The Clerk advised that she writes the column to update residents on current news from the Town Council.
Cllr Matthews – enquired on the current situation regarding the Youth Hub. The Clerk advised she is waiting for responses further to Councils instructions and would arrange a meeting of the Youth Hub working group to discuss her findings, then update Council.

The Town Clerk informed the Members about the imminent commencement of Building at Elm Close/Bull Ground Lane, and possible disruption for the first few weeks as materials are delivered to site. She had made contact with the site manager.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.13pm

Approved on Chairman’s Signature



24/25/066 Grounds Report

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Jubilee Footpath – A resident has asked for the Silver Birch trees to be reduced as they are blocking the light from the buildings. It was being planned for works this winter, but the resident wants the work done now. We will attend when we have completed other planned works but it is likely to need to be done by a professional in the winter.

Cemetery – The weather and prolonged wet period prevented the grounds staff from cutting the large areas of the cemetery. We have been up and managed to get the grass to an acceptable standard. The older section of the cemetery has been left wild in places (as we always do). This is to encourage the wildlife.

Recreation Ground Ricketts Lane – A consultation was held with William Barnes Primary School displaying all the designs for the new play area. A unanimous decision was made.

The company has been informed and an order placed.

Shaftesbury Town Council – I was invited to Shaftesbury Town Council to give a demonstration of our IAuditor app which we built to carry out Health and Safety checks for all aspects of Council works. They were very impressed and have decided to use the same system. We have given them 2 templates to get them going.

The Mill – We have been down to the Mill this morning with the boat and removed several trees and other foliage growing out of the walls.

The Great Tommy Sleep Out Thank you to all that sponsored me for this great cause. On the 30th March I slept under the stars and rain in my hammock. I was joined by 2 owls, deer and other creatures. I managed to raise £225. Over 1.2 million has been raised so far.

