

**STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**  
 held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber

Present:

Cllr P Batstone – Vice Chair

Cllr N Dobson

Cllr A Donaldson

Cllr C Fraser

Cllr H Lacey - Chair

Cllr D Mantock

Cllr P Marks

Cllr J Matthews

Cllr J Rose

In Attendance: K Squire (Town Clerk), Dorset Councillor C Jones, and J Drew (Admin Officer).

Members of the public: 0

Minute

Comments

No.

**PUBLIC SESSION** 24/25/076

There were no members of the public present.

**Dorset Councillor Carole Jones Report**

- Numerous calls regarding overgrown brambles/hedges. Would like to meet and map who is responsible for which areas in the town.
- Issues with groups of youths congregating at Colber Bridge.
- Outlined several grants available – Children in Need referral program, Cost of Living Help and Age UK.
- The Pantry is now working with SNG (formerly Sovereign Housing Association) who provide good additional support services.
- Issues with white stones along a grass verge on Bath Road. There was an accident last week resulting in an official complaint to Highways.
- Residents continue to complain about speeding and parked cars on Bath Road.
- The Pantry have a 4-week program for the Summer Holidays at William Barnes School. The lease for the Butts Pond premises has now been signed and work will commence shortly.

24/25/077

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Cllr M Jones.

The apologies were accepted by the members present.

24/25/078

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

No interests were declared and no written requests for dispensation had been received.

24/25/079

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

The minutes of the previous Town Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 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.

24/25/080

**RECOMMENDATION FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Amenities Committee 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024:

**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 meadows 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.
- The Council resolved to approve the above recommendations from the Amenities Committee.
- Planning & Environment Committee 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
24/25/073 UPDATE ON 'SLOW DOWN' INITIATIVE AND SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE GUIDELINES AND AGREE FURTHER ACTIONS  
Cllr Batstone reported that the Town Council were not eligible for the 'Slow Down initiative. However, we could purchase a further SID at £2595 + VAT and move the two SID between nominated sites in the town, with three more proposed sites suggested. Speed surveys would need to be commissioned for these three sites as the first stage for this.  
The Committee recommended the commission of Speed Surveys in three areas to assess the necessity of buying another SID.
- 24/25/074 AGREE TO THE INSTALLATION OF AN ACCESS STRIP OF MATTING ON THE GRASSED AREA AT THE END OF THE FOOTPATH AT DROVERS ONTO THE JUBILEE PATH  
The Grounds Manager has located some matting that could be laid on the grassed area to assist crossing this area.  
The Committee recommended that this should be completed. To be considered at the next Town Council meeting.
- The Council resolved to approve the recommendations from the Planning & Environment Committee.
- 24/25/081 SUPPORT FOR STURMINSTER NEWTON UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB APPLYING FOR SECTION 106 (DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTION) GRANT FUNDING  
The Clerk outlined a project to improve facilities at the football club.  
The Council resolved to support the project and the application for Section 106 grant funding to achieve this.
- 24/25/082 TOWN COUNCIL PRIORITIES ACTION PLAN  
See attached document.  
The Council agreed to their priorities for 24/25.
- 24/25/083 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS OVER £2000  
There were no payments made over £2000.
- 24/25/084 CORRESPONDENCE  
No correspondence had been received.



Chair's signature

**24/25/087 INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS**

*Cllr Donaldson* – Concerned about dangerous driving through the town centre – to be discussed at next P&E meeting.  
*Cllr Batstone* – Arts Week is happening with events throughout the town.  
*Cllr Matthews* – concerned about young people gathering at the back of the sorting office on Butts Pond Trading Estate and possible drug taking.  
*Cllr Lacey* – Changes have been made to the County Libraries; she is concerned that the changes in management structure could lead to staff leaving.

**24/25/086 TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Receiving a lot of invitations for future Civic events.
- Looking ahead to the new school year, William Williams are encouraging applications for Education Grants.

**24/25/085 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

- Had emailed PC Lewis to arrange a meeting to discuss issues around the town.
- CCTV will be installed to cover Old Market Hill and the Medical Centre car park.
- The Grounds Manager had asked to do some refurbishment work on the toilet at the Recreation Ground, it had been hoped that the Youth Hub and Workshop Projects would be in progress but as this has been stopped, he felt the toilets should be reopened. The wash station needs replacing but is expensive so a wash basin and hand dryer will be installed.
- Valuation on Council buildings was completed today to make sure they are adequately insured.
- Complaints have been received about hedges and verges; the areas covered by the Town Council have all been cut so staff are signposting residents to the relevant outside organisation.
- The Clerk is continuing to work on the Youth Hub and directions given by the Council, she will meet with the working group and then provide an update to Council at the August meeting. High School pupils provided feedback through the School Council on their wants and needs, which included a youth club, place to do homework and spend time with friends, this is good feedback as it indicates the Youth Hub plans are on the right track. She hopes to set up a link between the Town Council and School Council in September to work on the project together.

Chairman's Signature

15/8/2024

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.24pm.

Approved on

# SNTC – Priorities for 2024/25 - Action Plan

PRIORITIES	Who	What	How	When	Report back to Town Council
TOWN PLAN	Cllr Lacey/Cllr Batstone	Preparation of a Town Plan (keep as simple as possible)	Work out practicalities of who can do the work and devise a plan	By end August 2024	TC 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 and update TC on a monthly basis thereafter
YOUTH HUB	Working Group/Town Clerk	1. Short term youth club solution. 2. Longer term grant funded project	Investigate working with High School or portacabin on rec. Continue project as agreed by Council	Ongoing	Update TC on a monthly basis
COMMUNICATION STRATEGY	Cllr Mantock/Cllr Lacey/Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk	Preparation of a Communication Strategy	Look at other TC policies – Social media – work out an achievable work programme Decide who is going to do it	By end September 2024	TC 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024 and update TC on a monthly basis thereafter
DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN	Cllr Marks/Town Clerk	Preparation of a Disaster Recovery Plan	Cllr Marks to implement	By end December 2024	TC Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2025 and update TC on a monthly basis thereafter



Chair's signature