

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
held on Thursday 15th August 2024 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber

Present:

Cllr P Batstone – Vice Chair	Cllr M Jones
Cllr N Dobson	Cllr H Lacey - Chair
Cllr A Donaldson	Cllr P Marks
Cllr C Fraser	Cllr J Matthews
	Cllr J Rose

In Attendance: K Squire (Town Clerk), Dorset Councillor C Jones, A Dodson (Grounds Manager) and L Plumridge (Assistant Town Clerk).

Members of the public: 3

Minute No.	Comments
24/25/111	<p>PUBLIC SESSION</p> <p>A member of the Sturminster Newton Scout Committee advised all health and safety measures for the Scout Hut had been rectified, the group request permission to hire out the Scout Hut. He also suggested the Council could hire the Hut to run a Youth Club.</p> <p>Dorset Councillor Carole Jones reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on the current situation with the Chocolate Factory.• The faded signs at the Bridge are being dealt with and the Cool Play sign has been removed. Unofficial signs also removed and overgrown shrubs cut back.• Works at Colber Bridge are due to start next week.• The new housing association Sovereign Network Group (SNG) have been in Town doing ground works.• Dorset Council have declared a Nature Emergency• Asked about the Speed Indicator Device – the Grounds Manager advised is being repaired.• The holiday activities programme at William Barnes is a great success with a wide variety of activities for children to enjoy.
24/25/112	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr Mantock. The apologies were accepted by the members present.</p>
24/25/113	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</p> <p>Cllr Lacey advised she had a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Cheese Festival committee. No requests for dispensation had been received</p>
24/25/114	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING</p> <p>The minutes of the previous Town Council meeting held on 11th July 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.</p>
24/25/115	<p>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS</p> <p><u>Planning & Environment Committee 18th July:</u> 24/25/093 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE</p> <p>The committee resolved to recommend acceptance of the recommendations of the working group and will relook at the Neighbourhood Plan review project again when new Government guidance is received.</p>



24/25/094 DANGEROUS DRIVING THROUGH TOWN

The Committee recommended that:

- Enquiries are made regarding the removal of the yellow flashing school warning lights
- Enquiries are made regarding the process and cost of a 20mph limit from the Town Bridge to Market Place.
- A meeting is arranged with Dorset Council Highways and the Police regarding parking at Bath Road.
- A request is made to renew the white lines in the High Street, especially at the priority give way.

The Council resolved to approve these recommendations.

Finance & Policy 25th July

There were no recommendations to resolve.

24/25/116 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS OVER £2000

There were no payments over £2000 to approve.

24/25/117 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application No: P/HOU/2024/03985

Location: 10 Rixon Close Sturminster Newton DT10 1BS

Proposal: Conversion of existing garage and erect pitched roof. Erect front porch pitched roof

Observations: No Objections.

Application No: P/FUL/2024/04028

Location: Plot 3 North Dorset Business Park Rolls Mill Way Sturminster Newton DT10 2GA

Proposal: Erection of industrial building

Observations: No Objections.

24/25/118 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence had been received

24/25/119 CO-OPTION OF TOWN COUNCILLOR

The Council resolved to co-opt Lee Cooper as a Councillor and he signed the Declaration of Acceptance.

24/25/120 SCOUT HUT - REOPENING BUILDING

The Council resolved that:

Provided the recommendations from Environmental Health were in place and being followed the Scout Group could reopen the Scout Hut.

Permission for the Scout Group to hire the Scout Hut to the Cheese Festival Committee was granted.

Permission for the Scout Group to hire the Scout Hut to other similar groups, e.g. Guides/Brownies was granted.

Permission for hire of the Scout Hut for other non-Scouting activities would need to continue to be sought from the Town Council as and when required.

24/25/121 ADOPTION OF CCTV POLICY

The CCTV Policy had previously been circulated.

The Council resolved to adopt the CCTV Policy.



- 24/25/122 **SECTION 38 AGREEMENT FOR NORTH HONEYMEAD FIELD, NORTH FIELDS**
The Council resolved to sign the section 38 agreement for North Honeymead Field, North Fields.
- 24/25/123 **TOWN WALK-ABOUT LEAFLETS**
 The Clerk advised the office gets many requests for the walk about leaflets and asked the Council for guidance on quantities for print. The current leaflets need updating and she is working on this with the Rights of Way group
The Council resolved that enough be printed to cover to the end of the year and a review of costs and quantities be done when the update is completed.
- 24/25/124 **FIRE STATION**
 The Town Clerk advised she had contacted the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service to raise concerns regarding the possible loss of an appliance at Sturminster Newton Fire Station. She had also contacted Simon Hoare MP and Dorset Councillor C Jones. The Council asked the Clerk to find out which appliance could be lost. The Clerk also raised concerns over indications that the Station itself could be closed within a few years. The Council asked to be kept informed of any news.
- 24/25/125 **WORKSHOP EXTENSION PROJECT**
 The project had been put on hold to ensure the project represented best value for money, location and use of space in the area. The changing rooms are seldom used and are not cost effective so the plans could be changed to use this space as part of the workshop and reduce the area of new build required, which will cut the cost. Minor changes to the planning application will be needed
The Council resolved to proceed with the project. Enquiries to be made into changing the planning approval, a quote to be obtained for the works and then instigation of the public works loan process.
- 24/25/126 **MAINTENANCE WORK ON LAND OWNED BY OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**
 The Clerk advised there have been numerous complaints about footpaths and overgrown areas which are privately owned or belong to other organisations. She is liaising with Dorset Cllr C Jones and Dorset Council Highways and Rangers and Sovereign Network Group but it is difficult to manage the expectations of members of the public. She asked for Council direction on this extra maintenance work and for permission to request land registry searches for certain areas where ownership of land is not known.
The Council resolved that the grounds team only do maintenance work on Town Council owned land or that we are contracted by Dorset Council to do. The only proviso would be if the Grounds Manager decided an intervention necessary on serious health and safety grounds.
The Council also resolved to authorise use of land registry searches as a tool to ascertain ownership.
- 24/25/127 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**
 The Town Clerk reported as follows:
Cemetery – the grounds team have been working up at the Cemetery this week to keep up with this years vigorous summer growth.
Dorset Council Highways – she is meeting Dorset Council Highways next week tie up some of the anomalies of land ownership and discuss other Highways issues.
Police – PC Lewis has stressed the importance of incidents being reported online and not to his email. There have been reports of ASB at the bus stop and at Newfoundland Drive, please encourage people to report things online to build up a picture.
Speed Surveys – have been ordered for the locations suggested for an additional SID.
- 24/25/128 **TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**
 The Mayor had attended the following August events:
 The Roma Holocaust Memorial Service at Sherborne Abbey and Newstone House Olympic Games



24/25/129 **INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS**

Cllr Batstone – Reminded Members of the Riverside Fest on Saturday the 17th August

Cllr Donaldson – Complaints regarding ASB at Bus Stop and condition of highway/footpaths at Stalbridge Lane.

Cllr Lacey – Asked if Council could consider changing meeting night, asked Clerk to put this on the next Town Council agenda.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

In exercise of the power conferred by the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Section 1(2) members of the public and press will be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that the business to be transacted being of a confidential nature it is likely that personal and/or exempt information would otherwise be improperly disclosed and members would feel unable to discuss the matter freely.

The Council resolved to go into confidential session

24/25/130 **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE – YOUTH HUB PROJECT**

The Youth Hub working group provided an update to the Council and proposed options to move forward with the project.

The Council resolved to accept the Youth Hub working groups' proposals.

The Council resolved to come out of confidential session

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:41pm

Approved on 5 Sept 2024 Chairman's Signature 

