

**STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING**

held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber

Present:

Cllr P Batstone

Cllr L Cooper

Cllr A Donaldson - Chair

Cllr C Fraser

Cllr M Jones

Cllr H Lacey

Cllr D Mantock – Vice Chair

Cllr P Marks

Cllr J Matthews

Cllr J Rose

In Attendance: L Plumridge (Deputy Town Clerk), J Drew (Admin Officer).

Members of the Public:

Minute No.	Comments
24/25/145	<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b> A member of the public voiced his concerns about tree planting on new developments.
24/25/146	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies were received from Cllr N Dobson. The apologies were accepted by the members present.
24/25/147	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</b> No declarations of interests had been declared and no written dispensations received.
24/25/148	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> <b>The minutes of the previous Planning &amp; Environment Committee meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 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.</b>
24/25/149	<b>PLANNING MATTERS</b> <b>PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b> <b>Application No: P/FUL/2023/06986</b> <b>Location:</b> Land East Of Bath Road Sturminster Newton <b>Proposal:</b> Erection of 86no. dwellings, formation of access, green space & associated infrastructure <b>Observations: This was not discussed as the Town Clerk had applied for an extension for obtain further information. This will be discussed at the next Town Council meeting on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.</b>  <b>Application No:</b> P/FUL/2024/04689 <b>Location:</b> Previously R B Snook Building Ltd Land at Clarkes Yard Bath Road Sturminster Newton DT10 1DP <b>Proposal:</b> Demolition of the existing buildings within the site and the erection of 2 No. dwellings, associated landscaping, access, parking and drainage. <b>Observations:</b>

**Sturminster Newton Town Council unable to comment without clarification of the street scene drawings and elevations drawing which don't seem to correlate accurately.**

**The Council would also like to see sight of the Highways report before making comment.**

**Application No:** P/FUL/2024/04736

**Location:** Previously R B Snook Building Ltd Land at Clarkes Yard Bath Road Sturminster Newton DT10 1DP

**Proposal:** Demolish existing buildings and erect 28 No. dwellings, associated landscaping, access, parking, manoeuvring areas, drainage and Trailway link.

**Observations:**

**Objections:**

**The changes to the plan do not comply with Sturminster Newton Neighbourhood Plan Policy 22.**

**The proposed development does not reflect the character of the old part of Sturminster Newton. Building design does not include variation of heights and interest. Landmark buildings facing onto the main roads do not have clear functional links with the historic part of the town.**

**The Councillors, with their local knowledge of many years, are concerned about the stability of the site. The Preliminary Geoenvironmental and Geotechnical Assessment states more testing is needed.**

#### **REPORT ON DECISIONS OF DORSET COUNCIL**

A report of planning decisions made between 19 July 2024 and 12 September 2024. The Council noted the decisions made.

#### **ANY OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

None.

#### **TREE MATTERS**

Cllr Donaldson reported on various trees matters in Sturminster Newton. Green Croft, Church Lane. 90cms from the house. Tree to be felled Lindens, Goughs Close. Large Cooper Beech damaged. Tree to be felled. A tree matter in Penny Street had been reported to him, partly overhanging trees obstructing the highway which had been reported online. But partly a civil matter as the trees concerned are healthy and would not be of interest to the Tree Officer at Dorset Council.

He also reported that he and the Grounds Manager had attended an interesting tree officers workshop at Bere Marsh Farm, Shillingstone.

24/25/150

#### **20mph SPEED RESTRICTION THROUGH TOWN**

The Town Clerk had circulated the attached report.

**The Committee recommended the following:**

- 1. To renew line markings where faded in town.**
- 2. To defer the 20mph speed limit to see if renewed lineage improves driving behaviour.**

24/25/151

#### **STURMINSTER NEWTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION TO THE PARKING LIMIT IN THE ROW**

The Christian Fellowship Group sent a request in as attached.

The Committee considered the request, concerns were raised that increasing the time limit would likely make the parking more popular for other users rather than solving the problem.

**The Committee made the recommendation to suggest the Christian Fellowship request daily parking permits from Dorset Council instead.**

24/25/152

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

*Cllr Mantock* – noted the works at Colber Bridge were nearly finished.

*Cllr Batstone* – as Deputy Mayor she had attended Bridport and Christchurch Civic Days.

*Cllr Lacey* – enquired if there had been a response about Ingrams road sign. The Clerk advised no reply to date.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.34pm.

Approved on ..... Chairman's Signature .....

## **Agenda Item 24/25/150**

### **20mph Speed Restriction through Town**

The Committee recently agreed to look into the possibility of a 20mph speed restriction from the Town Bridge to the Traffic Lights at Old Market Hill.

We have contacted the Police and Highways at Dorset Council to ask their advice on this matter. We have also contacted Infrastructure at Dorset Council for information on the process.

#### **Process**

- Public Consultation
- Support of Police and DC Highways
- Speeds surveys on the road and every road off of it (8 in total) at approx. £300 per survey.
- Adverts and consultation for legal traffic order £1000+ depending on numbers of objections
- Cost for additional signage not known until the legal traffic order is granted.

#### **Police Response**

The Police would support the speed reduction but due to staffing numbers they would not be able to enforce this on a regular basis. However they questioned if most of the day speed was an issue or if it was the perception of speed by pedestrians and bad driver behaviour.

#### **Response from Highways at Dorset Council**

Highways do not feel the problem is speeding but bad driver behaviour, this is a Countrywide problem. They felt that reducing the speed limit would have limited effect and be very costly.

#### **Other Considerations**

During a meeting with Highways, we talked about renewing the line markings on the road around the Town to make sure that they were clear for road users. The markings at the priority point near Ricketts Lane are very faded, along with several other areas. Those that are over 75% faded can be renewed by Dorset Council at their cost. Those which are not faded enough can still be renewed by Dorset Council but at a cost to the Town Council.

#### **Recommendations**

Renewing all the road markings on a regular basis could make a difference to driver behaviour. Do the Council want to consider taking this approach to try to improve the issue or continue with the application process to reduce the speed limit?

Kate Squire

Town Clerk

## **Agenda Item 24/25/151**

From the Sturminster Christian Fellowship

Dear Town Council,

I am copying here an email I sent yesterday to Michael Westwood at Dorset County Council, as he has told me that my request should come, in the first instance, to you. I am not sure who to address but I trust that this email will get to the right person.

I am writing as a leader of Sturminster Christian Fellowship, The Row, Sturminster Newton DT10 1AX.

We use the Fellowship building for various mid-week events, including a monthly Parkinson's Cafe, Carers Coffee Mornings, and an assortment of meetings, for those who attend the Fellowship.

Parking, of course, is restricted in The Row and nearby roads, but the 'Maximum 1 hour' time limit is frustrating, to say the least. It means those who come to our events, many of whom are elderly but do not have a Blue Badge, are limited in how long they can stay, or they risk getting a parking ticket. (As a leader for many of these activities, I have first hand experience!!)

What I am asking is that you would change the TRO and extend the parking limit to 2 hours. This would make a huge difference to all those involved in our regular activities. I would be willing, if necessary, to visit every house in that area of The Row and Inghams to ask residents if they would have any objection to the limit being raised, as I understand that is one of the reasons suggested in the past for leaving it as it is.

I do hope that you will give due consideration to my request, as we as a charity are serving a sector of the community where there is need, and our entirely free activities are highly valued.

I will look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks!

Co-Leader of Sturminster Christian Fellowship