

**STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber**

Present:

Cllr P Batstone – Vice Chair  
Cllr L Cooper  
Cllr N Dobson  
Cllr A Donaldson  
Cllr C Fraser  
Cllr H Lacey - Chair

Cllr P Marks  
Cllr J Matthews  
Cllr J Rose

In Attendance: L Plumridge (Assistant Town Clerk), Jasmine Drew (Administrative Officer).

Members of the public: 4

Minute No.	Comments
24/25/163	<p><b>PUBLIC SESSION</b></p> <p>Two residents representing Manston Road Residents Association conveyed their concerns on the planning appeal ref Land East of Manston Road P/FUL/2023/06986. They will be attending the Appeal Hearing and will be objecting to the plans.</p> <p>A representative from Wessex Internet informed the meeting that they have a Government contract to install fibre throughout the county. They have commenced installation for 150 properties in the Bager area and works should be completed by the end of October. They will be holding a community engagement meeting on 19 November at Lydlinch Village Hall.</p> <p>A representative from the Scout Association was interested to hear the outcome for hiring the Scout Hall to The Pantry and Royal British Legion which will be discussed under Agenda item 24/25/169. He expressed his concerns about the bollards that have been installed in Ricketts Lane car park - whilst it has solved one problem, it has caused some other problems. He acknowledged the letter sent by the Town Council from Cllr Lacey and advised a formal response would be sent.</p> <p>Dorset Councillor Carole Jones sent her apologies and will be sending a report for the next meeting.</p>
24/25/164	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>Apologies had been received from Cllr M Jones and Cllr D Mantock. The apologies were accepted by the members present.</p>
24/25/165	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</b></p> <p>Cllr Fraser declared for transparency that in 1996 he had once acted in a professional capacity for Grassby Funeral Directors, this was a non-pecuniary interest and no objections were raised regarding Cllr Fraser's current work on the renewal of the Chapel lease.</p>
24/25/166	<p><b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous Town Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 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>
24/25/167	<p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:</b></p> <p><b><u>Planning &amp; Environment Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024</u></b> <b>24/25/150</b> <b>20mph SPEED RESTRICTION THROUGH TOWN</b></p>



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.

**Amenities Committee – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**24/25/158**

**RENEWAL OF THE CHAPEL LEASE**

Cllr Fraser reported on a meeting he had attended a meeting with Mr N Grassby of Grassby & Sons Funeral Directors. Mr Grassby had outlined their plans to remove the existing partitions, which Grassbys had originally installed, and to redecorate and make good the interior. This is with the intention of conducting small services in the Chapel.

**The Committee recommend that the Council approve Grassby & Sons plans for the Chapel.**

Cllr Fraser also noted that he had entered into negotiations with Grassby & Sons with regard to a new lease and updated rental.

**The Council resolved to accept the recommendations from both meetings.**

24/25/168

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Application No: P/OUT/2023/01678**

**Location:** Land off Manston Road, Sturminster Newton **APPEAL**

**Proposal:** Erection of up to 52no. dwellings and associated works

**Observations: Councillors requested more details regarding the appeal process should be requested from Dorset Council.**

**Application No: P/FUL/2023/06986**

**Location:** Land east of Bath Road, Sturminster Newton

**Proposal:** Erection of 86no. dwellings, formation of access, green space & associated infrastructure

**Objections: No Objections.**

**Application No: P/FUL/2024/04689**

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

**Proposal:** demolition of the existing buildings within the site and the erection of 2no. dwellings, associated landscaping, access, parking and drainage.

**Observations: Comment deferred, awaiting report from Dorst Highways.**

24/25/169

**PROCESS FOR APPROVING REQUESTS FOR USE OF SCOUT HUT FOR NON-SCOUTING ACTIVITIES**

Discussion ensued;

**The Council resolved to accept that the Scout Association could hire to The Pantry and Royal British Legion on Saturdays and during holiday periods without having to refer to the Council, providing the Scouts were responsible for checking all public liability insurances and risk assessments.**

The Scouts have requested that the youth club equipment be removed from the Scout Hut.



- 24/25/170 **APPROVAL OF REVISED TERMS OF HIRE FOR TOWN COUNCIL LAND**  
This item was deferred, will be discussed at the November Town Council meeting.
- 24/25/171 **APPROVAL OF BALANCE SHEET AS AT 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024**  
**APPROVAL OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AS AT 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025**  
The Council resolved to approve the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure as at 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
- 24/25/172 **APPROVAL OF AUDITED ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 24**  
The Council resolved to approve the Annual Governance & Accountability Report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.
- 24/25/173 **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS OVER £2000**  
There was one payment to consider of £2648.90 from Sturminster Newton Community Buildings Trust for utility charges.  
**The Council resolved to approve the payment of £2648.90.**
- 24/25/174 **REPAIRS TO THE TOWN CLOCK**  
At the last Town Council meeting it had been agreed that Cllrs Jones and Marks would look into repairing the clock to save the costs of using a clockmaker. It had since been decided this would not be possible.  
**The Council resolved that the clock needs to be repaired and the quotation of £1717.00 plus VAT from Smiths of Derby should be accepted and work commissioned.**
- 24/25/175 **REQUEST FROM CLLR MANTOCK TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE**  
Discussion ensued about the request and, although it would be possible under Standing Orders to increase the membership number on a Committee, the Council didn't feel this was necessary as any Councillor can attend all meetings, just not be able to vote on any Committee they were not a member of.  
**The Council resolved to look at this in May 2025 when the new Committees will be formed.**
- 24/25/176 **CORRESPONDENCE**  
A letter has been received from the U3A Croquet Club, raising concerns about the condition of the lawns after the Cheese Festival. They would like to discuss the repositioning of portable toilets for next year's event away from the lawns. Cllr Lacey and the Town Clerk will reply to the letter.  
  
The Fishing Club had written regarding the state of Riverside Meadows after Riverside Fest. The new hiring regulations will be sent to the organisers prior to next year's event.  
  
The Town Clerk had received correspondence regarding safeguarding issues at Foxes Court. These have been passed to Dorset Councillor Jones and the Adult Safeguarding Team.
- 24/25/177 **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK**  
The Town Clerk has been unwell and sent in a report:  
Audit visit – the visit, due to illness, has been postponed and will be rearranged.  
NALC regulations - she has been looking at new regulations issued by NALC and will report this to the Council at the November meeting.  
Sturminster Newton Heritage Trust - a reminder to Councillors and staff are invited to the SNHT viewing of the model railway in the Museum on Tuesday 15 October at 6pm.
- 24/25/178 **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN MAYOR**  
The Mayor reported as follows:



- Read Easy - The Mayor had attended the Read Easy launch earlier this week, which is a good initiative for non-readers. They will be working with other agencies to assist with everyday tasks for non readers.
- Breakfast Meeting – she had also attended the Business Breakfast at Newstone House.

24/25/179 **TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS AND PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE BUSINESS**

*Cllr Donaldson* -referred to a tree matter at Green Croft, Church Lane. This was for additional works to the order that had previously been issued.

*Cllr Batstone* – final arrangements are in progress for Make Stur Sparkle with a leaflet due out shortly.

*Cllr Cooper* – is planning to liaise with Make Stur Sparkle to consider organising a Christmas walk.

*Cllr Lacey* – informed the meeting that due to heavy rainfall last week, there was considerable flooding in The Row – it appears that the drain has not been repaired.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.38pm

Approved on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Chair's Signature Cllr Helen Lacey

