

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7th JANUARY 2026 AT 7.15PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER



PRESENT:

Cllr P Batstone
Cllr L Cooper
Cllr A Donaldson
Cllr C Fraser
Cllr D Mantock (Vice Chair)
Cllr P Marks
Cllr J Rose (Chair)
Cllr S Trim

IN ATTENDANCE:

K Squire (Town Clerk) Dorset Councillor Carole Jones

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 5

MINUTE NO **COMMENTS**

25/26/222 **To receive comments and questions from members of the public**
A member of the public spoke requesting placement of a litter bin on Bath Road between the High School and the Town Centre. The Mayor advised that the Town Council do not own any land on Bath Road to site a bin but could request Dorset Council look into the issue.
The Chair of the Allotment Association thanked the Clerk and Grounds Manager for their support with the allotment extension project especially the S106 Developer Funding application, he noted the Town Council would be considering S106 funding later in the meeting and urged the Town Council to look at ways to encourage other community groups to apply for funds available.

Report from Dorset Councillor Carole Jones

- Cllr Jones spoke regarding S106 funding. The Vale Family Hub have applied for £20k for a new electricity supply to the unit. The money will come from funds from the land at the A357 Woodlands Farm/Glue Hill development which Cllr Jones advised had £130k in. She asked for Town Council support of the application.
- She also reported that the adoption of the road at Drovers/The Gavel from Taylor Wimpey had hit some obstacles.
- Lastly, she updated on the ongoing Dorset Council budget negotiations.

25/26/223 **Apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Dobson, Jackson and Lacey. These apologies were accepted by members.

25/26/224 **To approve declarations of interest and written applications for dispensation**
No interests were declared and no written requests for dispensation received.

25/26/225 To approve the minutes of the previous Town Council meeting held on 17th December 2025.
The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 17th December 2025, having been circulated and published prior to the meeting, were taken as a true and correct record and duly signed by the Chair.
shown above.

25/26/226 To consider request from Bellway Homes to transfer land and play areas at Corallian Heights to the Town Council
The Clerk reported her concerns regarding taking on responsibility of the SuDS drainage on the Corallian Heights site. She had spoken to Graham Stanley of the Dorset Council Rangers and he had recommended that the Town Council get an independent inspection and survey on the SuDS to ensure they have been installed to an adequate standard and are fully functional. He has some contacts and he recommended asking Bellway Homes to pay for the survey.
The Council resolved to source an independent surveyor on the SuDS and consider the results before proceeding with a land transfer.

25/26/227 To discuss project to support community organisations and agree further actions
The Clerk advised that she had contacted the Volunteer Centre to ask if they would be able to support on the project. They can offer knowledge, experience and training and would be happy to give advice.
The Council resolved that in the first instance a working group be set up to agree the terms of reference and aims and objectives for the project. This would comprise of Cllr Batstone, Cllr Donaldson, Cllr Mantock and Cllr Rose and the Clerk. Cllr Dobson (absent) would be asked to join if he is able.

25/26/228 To discuss current S106 funds and agree further actions
The Clerk read a report which is attached to these minutes. However, two updates had been made by Dorset Councillor Jones earlier in the meeting.
1. The application is for £20k.
2. The funding is being requested from the Land at the A357 Woodlands Farm/Glue Hill. Dorset Councillor Jones advised that total funds available have increased to £130k.
The Council resolved that in light of the increased amount of £130k available they could support the application from the Vale Family Hub for £20k and there would still be enough funding remaining for other organisations to apply for.
The Council also resolved to advertise the availability of funding to other eligible community organisations.

25/26/229 To approve payments over £2000
No payments to approve.

25/26/230 To receive correspondence
No correspondence received.

25/26/231 To receive a report from the Town Clerk
The Clerk had nothing further to report that had not already been covered.

25/26/232 To receive a report from the Town Mayor
The Town Mayor reported:
I attended two civic carol services in the run-up to Christmas.
This morning I held a meeting with the groups potentially involved with the new youth building. (Cllr Lacey, the clerk and head groundsman also present). The group were shown an initial drawing indicating the location and probable size of the new building. It was a very positive meeting with everyone contributing to give us an understanding of what will be required, both in terms of the space and facilities that each group would require in order to operate and what facilities could possibly be shared with other users. There will be a brief period for each group to reflect and consider before meeting again to progress the design in more detail.

25/26/233 To receive information from members and proposals for future business
Cllr Donaldson – Had reported several potholes and encouraged other Cllrs to go online and do the same. He had also reported issues with the traffic lights at the top of Old Market Hill.
Cllr Fraser – shared having seen an engineer attending the bridge traffic lights to try to resolve and issue with the brightness of one set.
Cllr Mantock – Enquired if the Town Council could consider holding an open evening prior to the budget being set in future.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.10pm

Chairs Signature..... Date Approved

Verbal Report from the Town Clerk

Members are asked to consider a request for Town Council support for a retrospective Section 106 funding application of £25,000 from the Vale Family Hub, towards the cost of a new electricity supply.

Dorset Council has confirmed that the application is currently undetermined and is awaiting the outcome of the Town Council's consideration. While Town Council support is not a prerequisite for approval, it is one of several factors considered as evidence of local support, or to highlight any concerns.

Key points confirmed by the Dorset Council officer are:

- Retrospective Section 106 applications can be considered, subject to how recent the project is and whether the organisation had the capacity to deliver the work.
- Resident consultation is not required, although evidence of local and Town Council support is welcomed.
- The relevant Section 106 pot is for community leisure and indoor sports facilities, from the Land at the A357 Woodlands Farm/Glue Hill development.

Members should also note that there is one relevant Section 106 funding pot, and that other community organisations in the town may also be eligible to apply for funding for community facility projects.

Members may wish to consider:

- Whether to support the Vale Family Hub application at this stage, or
- Whether to request that the availability of this Section 106 funding pot be advertised to other eligible community organisations, with applications then considered together, in the interests of fairness and transparency.

Kate Squire
Town Clerk