

**STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL****MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING****Held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in the Council Chamber at 7.15 pm**

## Present :

Councillor A Donaldson

Councillor M Jones (Deputy Mayor)

Councillor H Lacey (Mayor)

Councillor H Reed

Councillor G Rose

Absent: Councillor L Chater, Councillor V Fox

In attendance: 2 members of the public, Councillor Robert Taylor, Jeremy Read (Co-opted Member), Mrs Emma Lindsay (Town Clerk), Adam Dodson (Grounds Manager) and Kate Squire (Finance Officer)

Minute No.	COMMENTS	RESOLUTION for each item the proposer is named first followed by the seconder
18/221	<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b> No comments were made or questions asked.	
18/222	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies were received from Cllrs Chater and Fox. These apologies were accepted by the Members present.	Cllr Jones Cllr Lacey
18/223	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</b> No interests were declared and consequently no written requests for dispensation had been received.	
18/224	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b> <b>The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018 having been circulated and publicised prior to the meeting were taken as read and approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and correct record</b>	Cllr Donaldson Cllr Rose
18/225	<b>OPEN SPACES GROUP</b> Co-opted Member Jeremy Read's report is attached to these minutes.	
18/226	<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CHINNOCKS ALLOTMENT SITE</b> After considering the written report circulated with the meeting papers regarding a management plan for the Chinnocks Allotment site. <b>The Committee RESOLVED to RECOMMEND the approval of the management plan set out in the report.</b>	Cllr Jones Cllr Rose
18/227	<b>PROPOSAL FROM THE ROTARY CLUB TO PLANT CROCUS BULBS IN THE RAILWAY GARDENS</b> After considering the written report circulated with the meeting papers <b>The Committee RESOLVED to RECOMMEND approval of the proposal from the Rotary Club to plant crocus bulbs in the Railway Gardens.</b>	Cllr Jones Cllr Lacey
18/228	<b>ADOPTION OF A TOWN COUNCIL SKY LANTERN AND HELIUM BALLOON POLICY</b> After considering the written report circulated with the meeting papers <b>The Committee RESOLVED to RECOMMEND the adoption of the Sky</b>	Cllr Jones

Chair' Initials



**Lantern and Helium Balloon Policy for Sturminster Newton Town Council.**

Cllr Lacey

- 18/229 PROPOSAL TO ENHANCE THE RAILWAY GARDENS  
The committee discussed a number of enhancements including further flower beds and additional seating. The Town Clerk advised that these proposals would be costed as part of the budget setting process for 2019/20
- 18/230 PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT GOAL POSTS FOR THE RICKETTS LANE RECREATION GROUND  
After considering the written report circulated with the meeting papers **The Committee RESOLVED to RECOMMEND the purchase of the replacement goal posts for the Ricketts Lane Recreation Ground.**
- 18/231 TOWN CLERKS REPORT  
The Town Clerk reported:  
Skate Park – The opening event went well and feedback continues to be positive.  
Cllr Reed expressed her thanks to the staff for organising the event and their hard work on the day.  
Street Lighting in Broad Oak – New lamps have been ordered. The final replacement phase will take place in the next financial year.  
Allotment Inspection – The Town Clerk had undertaken a thorough inspection with the Grounds Manager and a number of plots had failed. She advised that the tenants have now been given more time to rectify problems before re-inspection.  
Railings on the Bridge – The Town Clerk advised that a purchase order had been issued for the painting of the railings on the Bridge which will be completed in spring 2019.  
Sturminster Newton Mill – The survey work has been started in support of the Heritage Lottery Fund project.
- 18/232 GROUND MANAGER'S REPORT  
The Grounds Manager reported:  
Workshop Security – Due to an attempted break-in, the Grounds Manager is obtaining quotes to increase security, he advised that at present the workshop is as secure as possible.  
Stour-Shed Group – The Grounds Manager had a meeting with the Stour-Shed Group; this voluntary group is keen to work with the Town Council on a number of projects.  
Rangers – The Grounds Manager met with the Rangers to discuss and schedule winter works.  
Trees – The large Leylandii trees on the land at Ricketts Lane adjacent to the School need to be cut back, this has been referred to the climbing team.  
The Town Clerk encouraged the Councillors to make others aware that emergencies regarding trees should be reported on [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com) or to Highways rather than leaving messages for the Grounds Manager.  
Snow and Ice Policy – After last year's bad weather the Grounds Team and the Town Clerk will be reviewing the Snow and Ice Policy and will be making some operational changes  
Benches – The benches are being taken in to the workshop in stages to be repaired and repainted.  
Filbridge Rise Allotments – The Grounds Manager advised that in order to improve access around the allotments, the team plans to take down one side of the current double chain link fence and make room for a path

Cllr Lacey  
Cllr Donaldson

without encroaching on existing allotment space. The Town Clerk advised that this work would be carried out as part of the winter programme

18/233 CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk reported that no correspondence within the Committee's terms of reference had been received.

18/234 INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Reed commented on the marvelous job being done by the new Town Orderly.

Jeremy Reed expressed thanks on behalf of the Open Spaces group to the Town Council for allowing the use of the Chamber for group meetings.

Cllr Jones advised he would be meeting with the SSE to discuss the possibility of lighting in the Railway Gardens

Cllr Reed asked about the use of environmentally friendly weed killer.

The Grounds Manager will look into this when he visits the forthcoming trade show.

Cllr Lacey thanked the Grounds Team for their hard work in relation to the Cheese Festival.

Cllr Jones wanted to thank the Cheese Festival Committee for another successful year.

Cllr Reed reported that the Carnival event was reasonably well supported but was still unsure if the full event will take place next year. She added that more help is needed on the Committee.

### Open Spaces Report

The main item concerned Trees. The Trees Group now contains people of considerable professional experience. It is headed by John Budd, ([john.15.budd@hotmail.com](mailto:john.15.budd@hotmail.com)) a former officer on the staff of the Forestry Commission, who has recently been joined by Anna Lewington ([anna@anna-lewington.co.uk](mailto:anna@anna-lewington.co.uk)). She is an ethnobotanist, studying the uses that people make of plants, and has worked at Kew; she has published a number of books on trees, and John Short, her partner, has 40 years' experience as a horticultural consultant in plant nutrition and growing media, and has run a tree nursery.

All three strongly support the idea of more tree planting in the town. They liked the idea of a tree at Poet's corner, at the bottom of the pedestrian section of Station Road, if ground planting were to be possible., but they were concerned about the possibility of using planters in the town centre to avoid problems with underground services. They were worried about the maintenance issues associated with caring for trees in planters. To quote John Short: "It is perfectly possible to grow and maintain a very good tree in the right-sized container with constant nutrition and irrigation, but the practical reality is that other than in a specialist nursery such a tree is almost impossible to maintain and will not thrive; it will become an embarrassment rather than a positive feature of the town".

All three are very keen to help in any way that they can. In, 2009 the Trees Group produced a list of potential planting sites, which they would be delighted to discuss with the group working on enhancement of the town, and I believe that they would be able to offer useful advice.

Two other points involve the future of the Open Spaces Group. The members of the Group wish to express their very warm appreciation of the approval given by the Council for them to meet in the

Council Chamber. And the problem of handling the Group's finances has been solved by the Sturminster Newton Community Benefit Society, which runs the Community chest, and which has agreed to hold a sub-account for the Group to replace that previously operated by SturQuest.

Approved On .....10<sup>th</sup> January 2019.....Chairs Signature.....*JL Reed*.....