

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE**Held on Thursday 23rd November 2017 in the Council Chamber at 7.15pmPresent :

Councillor H. Reed (Chair)

Councillor P. Batstone

Councillor A. Donaldson (*ex officio*)

Councillor V. Fox

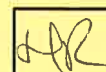
Councillor M. Jones (Vice-Chair)

Councillor H. Lacey (*ex officio*)

Councillor G. Rose

Absent:In Attendance: 1 member of public, Jeremy Read (Co-opted member), Adam Dodson (Grounds Manager), Kate Townsend (Assistant Town Clerk)

MINUTE NUMBER	COMMENTS	RESOLUTION <i>For each item, the proposer is named first followed by the seconder</i>
17/270	PUBLIC SESSION No questions were asked or comments made.	
17/271	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE No apologies.	
17/272	DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS No interests were declared and consequently no written requests for dispensation had been received.	
17/273	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING The minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 28 th September 2017 (pages 2468 to 2470) having been circulated and publicized prior to the meeting were taken as read and approved for signature by the committee chair as a true and correct record.	Cllr. Donaldson Cllr. Rose
17/274	OPEN SPACES GROUP- Jeremy Reed reported that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butts Pond Meadows - The final stage of the Yewstock drainage improvements - the clearance and improvement of the adjoining ditch in Butts Pond Meadows - will be completed during December. A short article describing the project appears in the new issue of <i>Unity</i> magazine. • Trees - The Town Council, at its meeting on 2nd November, noted a comment about the loss of trees in the town. The Open Spaces Group has been invited to consider this, and will discuss it at its next meeting on 5th December. • Skate Bowl in Rixon Rec - The new issue of <i>Unity</i> also 	



- That a minimum of £5,000 be allocated to next year's play equipment budget.

Cllr Batstone
Cllr Jones

17/277 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk reported as follows:

- The Skate Park - this is now open and being well used. A grass matting path has been installed for access to the bowl whilst the landscaping around the bowl establishes.
- Jubilee Path Transfer - it is hoped that the transfer will be finalised by the end of January 2018.
- Broad Oak Street Lighting - 2 lamps have now been replaced, and a further 4 street lamps are budgeted for replacement this financial year. The choice of lamps will be agreed in consultation with the Broad Oak Resident's Association.
- Wooden town sign near Durrant - both the Conservation Officer & Planning Officer have confirmed there are no restrictions on the removal of this sign. The Mayor has been approached by someone who believes he may be able to paint it.
- Fields in Trust, Deed of Dedication is to be progressed by the Clerk.

17/278

REQUEST TO ADOPT THE PHONE BOX ON BATH RD TO ENCASE A COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR

It was explained that the Youth Club would like the Town Council to adopt the phone box on Bath Road from BT and allow them to refurbish the phone box and install a community defibrillator in it. This would be paid for by the Youth Club who would seek to raise £2500.00 through crowdfunding for the project. Of the money raised they envisage allocating approx. £1000.00 to cover the cost of the defibrillator and £1500.00 for the refurbishment of the phone box and on-going maintenance costs.

The committee **RECOMMENDED** that
The Town Council adopt the phone box and allow the Youth Club to proceed with the project.

Cllr Rose
Cllr Batstone

17/279

CORRESPONDENCE

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

17/280

INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

Cllr. Jones reported:

- a. That the mill car park is being misused in the evenings and asked if the gate could be closed at night but it was explained this is not possible. He asked for this item to be added to the next Amenities committee agenda.
- b. That he had received a request for the council to consider who will administer the new Town website but it was explained that

Grounds Manager Report Amenities 23/11/2017

Grounds Operative appointment

After interviewing a number of candidates, a unanimous decision was made and an offer accepted. Once all the formalities are in place, hopefully the new operative will start on the Tuesday 2nd January 2018.

Winter Work program

During the winter months the grounds staff undertake a variety of tasks which are generally too time consuming during the growing season.

These tasks consist of:

- Bench refurbishment (44 benches including picnic tables under SNTC)
- Events (Christmas etc)
- Sport pitch maintenance and repairs
- Projects as listed below
- Building maintenance, including internal and external decoration
- Machinery maintenance
- Sign cleaning (all of Sturminster parish incl. Bagber)
- Repairs and maintenance of play areas
- Clearance and maintenance of grips and gulleys
- Full sweep and tidy of Sturminster and Shillingstone (The latter being under contract)
- Footpath maintenance
- Maintenance to verges and amenity areas
- Clearing and litter picking
- Clearance of debris and foliage around the Mill on land and in the river

Due to the mild weather, grounds staff generally carrying on cutting grassed areas throughout the winter, although not as often as the summer.

Tasks that are carried out all year round consist of:

- Play area safety reports
- Health and Safety reports
- Inspection and reporting faults with any of the Council sites
- Gardening
- Hedge cutting
- Toilet maintenance and cleaning
- Bin servicing

Cemetery

Work will commence at the Cemetery in the New Year.

Garden of Remembrance: - Grounds staff will install kerbed edges for the first line of new cremation plots which will create 19 new plots. The kerbs will be sunk just below grass level to allow easy maintenance but will define each plot individually. The capacity of the new cremation area would allow for 76 new plots.