

# STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Council Offices, Old Market Hill, Sturminster Newton DT10 1FH

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To: Members of the Amenities Committee and Co-opted Member



Dear Member,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **Amenities Committee** which will be held on **Thursday 27th June 2019** at Council Offices, Old Market Hill, Sturminster Newton at **7.15pm** to transact the business set out in the Agenda below.

*EML Lindsay*  
Emma Lindsay - Town Clerk

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960

No.	Agenda	Time (est.)
1	To receive comments and questions from members of the public	15 mins
2	To receive and if agreed approve apologies for absence	1 min
3	To receive declarations of interests and approve written applications for dispensations	2 mins
4	To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28.03.2019*	2 mins
5	To receive a report on matters relating to the Open Spaces Group and discuss any issues raised	10 mins
6	To receive a report regarding the replacement of the play train in the Railway Gardens and approve further actions*	10 mins
7	To receive a report regarding the supply of electrical services in the Railway Gardens and approve further actions*	10 mins
8	To receive a report regarding dog fouling and agree further actions*	5 mins
9	To approve a request from the Trail Way Group for a contribution of £25 towards a design for the trail way entrance	5 mins
10	To receive a report from the Town Clerk on the status of services and discuss any issues raised	10 mins
11	To receive a report from the Grounds Manager and discuss any issues and agree further actions*	10 mins
12	To receive correspondence and discuss any issues raised	2 mins
13	To receive information from members and discuss proposals for future business	5 mins

Members are respectfully reminded that

- Only agenda items where the indicated function is to approve or decide may be decided at this meeting. Other items are for information only and no decision can be taken upon them unless and until raised at a later meeting
- The Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, belief or disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights

\* Agenda Items with an asterisk indicates that this agenda item is the subject of a briefing note circulated to Councillors with the agenda

Large print version available on request

Draft minutes of this meeting will be made available a few days after it to view at the Council Office between 9.30am and 12.30pm every weekday and on the website at [www.sturminsternewton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.sturminsternewton-tc.gov.uk)

**STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in the Council Chamber at 7.15 pm

Present:

Councillor L Chater	Councillor H Lacey (Mayor)
Councillor A Donaldson	Councillor H Reed
Councillor V Fox	Councillor G Rose
Councillor M Jones (Deputy Mayor)	

Absent:

None

In attendance: Councillor P Batstone, 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 <small>for each item the proposer is named first followed by the seconder</small>
AM/12/19	<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b> No comments were made or questions asked.	
AM/13/19	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> No apologies for absence had been received.	
AM/14/19	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</b> No interests were declared and consequently no written requests for dispensation had been received.	
AM/15/19	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b> <b>The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 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
AM/16/19	<b>OPEN SPACES GROUP</b> Co-opted Member Jeremy Read reported as follows: Since the last meeting of the Amenities Committee, a good deal of hedge-laying work has been carried out, mainly in Butts Pond Meadows, and a number of dead or dying trees have been identified for removal. Ditches have been cleared, notably the one between Yewstock School and the Meadows, which has been deepened and will provide some stagnant water to encourage the growth of algae, which will provide suitable conditions for frogs. Material has been ordered for building up footpaths in the Meadows in place where flooding has been experienced in wet conditions. Work is continuing to develop up to date work plans for open spaces under the control of the Town Council. This is being undertaken by Countryside Ranger apprentices, under the supervision of Graham Stanley. The Group noted with regret, but fully understood, the decision of the Town Council against proceeding with the link between the Jubilee Path and the Trailway. It is reassuring that the Council intends to review alternative access points. The Group is much encouraged by the action in hand to secure land at the end of Brinsley Close as a possible start to the extension of the Trailway towards Stalbridge, and warmly welcomes the grant of £70,000 by North Dorset District Council to the Trailway Network.	



- AM/17/19 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE STURMINSTER NEWTON OPEN SPACES GROUP  
 After considering the report circulated with the meeting papers, the Committee noted the revised terms of reference for the Sturminster Newton Open Spaces Group.
- AM/18/19 REQUEST FROM THE YOUTH CLUB TO HOLD AN EVENT  
 The Committee discussed a report from the Town Clerk which had been circulated with the meeting papers regarding a request from the Youth Club to hold an event at Rixon Recreation Ground on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019.  
**The Committee RESOLVED to RECOMMEND the approval of the Youth Club holding an event at the Rixon Recreation Ground and to show support of this by waiving the hire charge.** Cllr Rose  
 Cllr Donaldson
- AM/19/19 TREE CONDITION SURVEY  
 The Committee discussed in detail the findings of the recent tree survey. The Town Clerk advised that she had ordered the urgent works adjacent to Riverside Meadows to be done immediately and will gain retrospective permission at the next Town Council meeting.
- AM/20/19 MAINTENANCE OF PLAY EQUIPMENT  
 After considering the report circulated with the meeting papers,  
**The Committee RESOLVED to RECOMMEND the approval of expenditure for maintenance of play equipment.** CllrRose  
 Cllr Donaldson
- AM/21/19 BOILER REPLACEMENT IN THE PAVILION  
 Having discussed the report circulated with the meeting papers,  
**The Committee RESOLVED to RECOMMEND the approval of the installation of a new boiler in the Pavilion.** CllrJones  
 Cllr Lacey
- AM/22/19 TOWN CLERKS REPORT  
Sturminster Newton Mill work has begun on looking at renewing the lease. Allotments the Clerk and Grounds Manager are working with the Allotment Association to streamline processes and how the Association can best support the tenants.  
Cemetery The Clerk advised that she hoped the Cemetery Reconsecration will take place during the Summer.
- AM/23/19 GROUNDS MANAGERS REPORT  
 The Committee fully discussed a report from the Grounds Manager which had previously been circulated.
- AM/24/19 CORRESPONDENCE  
 The Town Clerk reported that a letter had been received regarding dog fouling in Town. The Clerk recommended that this be discussed as an agenda item at the next Amenities Committee meeting and advised that she would contact the Dog Warden and work with the Grounds Manager to find possible solutions.  
 The Town Clerk had also received a letter from the Sturminster Newton Garden Club asking for permission to hold a Plant Sale outside near the Railway Gardens on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Permission has previously been granted and the Town Clerk will write back.
- AM/25/19 INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS  
 Cllr Jones asked if the Council would reconsider allowing BBQ's at the Mill and Recreation Ground. The Grounds Manager responded that the use of BBQ's would be too great a health and safety risk.



Cllr Chater voiced concerns about the speed of traffic at Northfields. The Town Clerk suggested this be raised as an agenda item at the next Planning and Environment Committee meeting.

Cllr Donaldson updated the Committee regarding an accident that had occurred on the road at the school, the lack of hazard signs at the bridge warning of the school is a pressing issue.

Meeting Closed at 8.15pm

Approved On ..... Chairs Signature.....

**Sturminster Newton Town Council  
Amenities Committee 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**Replacement of the Play Equipment in the Railway Gardens**

**1. Introduction**

The play train in the Railway Gardens was installed in 2009 and is now in need of replacement.

There have been discussions regarding whether to replace the train with another piece of play equipment or to replace it with seating. This report provides a summary of these options.

**2. Options**

**Option 1**

Replace the train with a piece of play equipment suitable for younger children at an estimated cost of £2500-£5000 depending on the equipment selected. If the Council is minded to replace the train with another piece of play equipment it would be helpful to ask the community to choose from a pre-selected list. This survey could be carried out during the summer using an on-line tool such as Survey Monkey.

**Option 2**

Replace the train with two benches at a cost of £400 each.

**Option 3**

Replace the train with a wheel-chair friendly picnic bench at a cost of £640.

**3. Recommendation**

That the Committee considers the contents of the report and selects a replacement option for the play train.

Emma Lindsay  
Town Clerk

**Sturminster Newton Town Council  
Amenities Committee 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**Installation of electrical supply to the Railway Gardens and illumination of the Town Sign**

**1. Introduction**

The Council has previously considered commissioning electrical services in the Railway Gardens to enhance them by illuminating the central bed and other features e.g. the statues.

The Railway Gardens is a central amenity within the Town and is used by the community to host events, particularly in the summer months. Feedback from user groups suggests that having access to electricity in the Gardens would be of benefit for future events.

**2. Survey**

SSE Enterprise Limited (SSE) have carried out a survey of the area and quoted to provide services within the gardens as illustrated in the plan attached. The main lamp in the centre bed has two lamp fittings which need recommissioning. The main electrical feed would be taken from this point and distributed to the electricity columns on the plan. A fourth electrical point would be powered from the top lamp post closest to Bath Rd, which would feed a light to the statues.

**3. Costs**

**Railway Garden Costs**

SSE has quoted £1630 to supply the necessary components and a price of £20.11 per metre for cabling. For the purpose of this report we have assumed that the installation will require 112 metres of cable. It should be noted that this cost excludes the groundworks required to create the trenches for the cables. We have been advised that a reasonable estimate for the ground works is £35 per metre. The total estimate for this work is £6713. If the Council decides to proceed with this project we will secure a firm price for the ground works.

**Town Sign Costs**

SSE have quoted £170.99 to upgrade the street light adjacent to the town sign to provide power for an LED light. This excludes the cost of the light estimated at £300. Planning permission is required at a cost of £132 and will require the approval of Dorset Council.

**Budget**

£900 was allocated in the 2019/20 budget towards the cost of electrical works in the Railway Gardens. If the Committee agrees to proceed with this project it should consider recommending that the Council adds it to the list of budget priorities for 2020/21.

**4. Recommendation**

- That the Committee decides if it wishes to recommend the installation of electrical points in the Railway Gardens.
- That the Committee decides if it wishes to recommend the illumination of the town sign.

Emma Lindsay  
Town Clerk

**Sturminster Newton Town Council**  
**Amenities Committee 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**Dog Fouling**

**1. Introduction**

There have been a number of complaints regarding either dog fouling in the town or owners failing to pick up after their dogs. This is a problem that is common across the County and requires the Council and community to work together on a solution.

**2. Proposal**

We have been in touch with the Dorset Council Dog Warden who has outlined what can be done in an effort to resolve this problem. In summary she advises that it is imperative to encourage residents to report incidents of dog fouling to the Council. If this is done, patterns of behaviour can be established and the warden can carry out patrols in hotspots and issue enforcement notices where appropriate.

Owners will often use the excuse that they do not have a bag with them to pick up after their dog. To mitigate this issue the Council could provide poo bag dispensers in popular dog walking areas. The suggested locations are at two points on the Trailway and in the recreation ground. The dispensers will cost £79 each and a year's supply of supply of biodegradable bags will cost £215.

If approved, the provision of the dispensers would be publicised extensively within the community along with a strong encouragement to report dog fouling in order to gain the support of the dog warden.

**3. Recommendation**

That the Committee considers the contents of the report and decides whether or not to recommend the actions outlined in the report.

Emma Lindsay  
Town Clerk

## Sturminster Newton Town Council

Amenities Committee 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019***Delivery Plan for Grounds –Summer 2018/19***

Summer – 2019	Comments
<b>ROUTINE WORK:</b>	
Planting	New planters have been purchase and planted.
	Planning is underway for the winter planting schemes
Trees	Quotations are being sought to carry out a programme of remedial works
Street furniture	Work will start on refurbishing the town bins, bollards and finger posts during the summer
Green space maintenance	Work will continue through the summer with grass cutting and maintenance of amenities spaces
<b>COMPLETED WORKS</b>	Repairs to the Station Road toilets will be completed by the end of June.
	Repairs to Play equipment – Aerial runway and springer at Ricketts lane – work has been booked for August Rixon Recreation play equipment order has been placed and will be completed during August.
	Mill Car park – Footpath leading to toilets had been re-concreted by Grounds staff as severe ground movement prevented door to open on disabled toilet.
	Railings at the bridge have been refurbished
<b>PROJECT WORK:</b>	Ricketts Lane car park – Work is underway to replace the railings and improve the car park surface. It is intended that this work is completed prior to the Cheese Festival in September.  Mill Car park – Gate to be replaced with locking post.  Cemetery – Remove ant hills and start to level graves. Continue with Cemetery enhancement. E.g. area for the scattering of ashes
<b>EMERGENCY WORKS</b>	Securing the bench adjacent to the Pavilion