

# STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

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

Tel: 01258 475136 Email: [admin@sturminsternewton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@sturminsternewton-tc.gov.uk)



To: All Town Councillors

Dear Member,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **Town Council** which will be held on **Thursday 7th March 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

01.03.2019

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 Members of the public are invited to raise any matter and speak for up to five minutes. The Chairman will normally permit visitors to speak at other times only in order to provide information and if specifically asked to do so. The Council cannot discuss matters raised unless they already appear on this Agenda.	15 mins
2	To receive and if agreed approve apologies for absence.	1 min
3	To receive declarations of interests and approve any written applications for dispensations.	1 min
4	To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 07.02.2019.*	1 min
5	To approve recommendations from the following committee meetings:	5 mins
	i Planning and Environment Committee 21.02.2019	
6	To receive a report from the Town Clerk on financial matters and to approve:	
	i. the list of payments checked by Cllrs Donaldson and Reed	2 mins
	ii. the budget comparison.	2 mins
	iii. any budget virements proposed.	2 mins
7	To decide what comment to make on each planning application listed below	10 mins
8	To receive a report regarding Sturminster Newton becoming a Dementia Friendly Town and agree further options*	5 mins
9	To consider a proposal to transfer ownership of the Town website to the Community Benefit Society*	10 min
10	To consider and approve a request from the William Williams Trust to investigate the possible enhancement of the Scout Hut*	5 Mins
11	To consider and approve the Financial Risk Assessment for the year ending 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2019*	5 mins
12	To receive and approve the revised Standing Orders*	15 mins
13	To receive and approve the revised Financial Regulations*	15 mins
14	To receive and agree the schedule of meetings for the next municipal year*	
15	To receive reports from District Councillors and discuss any issues raised.*	2 mins
16	To receive a report from the County Councillor and discuss any issues raised.	2 mins
17	To receive a report from the Town Mayor and discuss any issues raised.	2 mins
18	To receive items submitted by DAPTC or NALC and discuss any issues raised.	2 mins

**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)

19	To receive a report from the Town Clerk and discuss any issues raised.	5 mins
20	To receive correspondence and discuss any issues raised.	2 mins
21	To receive information from members and discuss proposals for future business.	5 mins

\* Indicates that this agenda item is the subject of a briefing note circulated to Councillors with the agenda

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

#### Planning Applications received to be considered on 7 March 2019

<b>1</b>	<i>Plan Number</i> 2019/02/03	<i>District Reference</i> 2/2019/0179/FUL	<i>Site Reference</i>	<i>Other Reference</i>
<i>Case Officer</i>				
<i>Applicant</i> M Rose				
<i>House Name</i> Plot 5, North Dorset Bus Park				
<i>Road</i> Rolls Mill Way				
<i>Locality</i>				
<i>Town</i> Sturminster Newton				
<i>County</i> Dorset				
<i>Post Code</i>				
<i>Application date</i> 20/02/19				

**Erect building for Light Industrial (Class B1©), General Industrial (Class B2) and Storage and Distribution (Class B8) uses.**

#### Planning Applications received to be considered on 17 March 2019

<b>2</b>	<i>Plan Number</i> 2019/02/04	<i>District Reference</i> 2/2019/0117/HOUSE	<i>Site Reference</i>	<i>Other Reference</i>
<i>Case Officer</i>				
<i>Applicant</i> Mr and Mrs K Tearle				
<i>House Name</i> Lindens Cottage				
<i>Road</i> The Row				
<i>Locality</i>				
<i>Town</i> Sturminster Newton				
<i>County</i> Dorset				
<i>Post Code</i> DT101AU				
<i>Application date</i> 19/02/19				

**Erect single storey front extension.**

<http://plansearch.north-dorset.gov.uk/online-applications>

**STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
Held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019 in the Council Chamber at 7.15 pm

Present :

Councillor P Batstone	Councillor H Lacey (Mayor)
Councillor L Chater	Councillor H Reed
Councillor A Donaldson	Councillor G Rose
Councillor C Fraser	Councillor R Taylor
Councillor M Jones (Deputy Mayor)	

Absent: Councillor V Fox

In attendance: Mrs Emma Lindsay (Town Clerk) and Miss Kate Squire (Finance Officer)  
 Five members of the public were present.

Minute No.	COMMENTS	RESOLUTION <small>for each item the proposer is named first followed by the seconder</small>
TC/17/19	<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b> Two members of the public raised concerns regarding an ongoing planning matter. A discussion proceeded. The Town Clerk advised that she had been in contact with the planning officer assigned to the case and had been advised that a decision on the matter would be made shortly.	
TC/18/19	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies were received from Cllr Fox. These apologies were accepted by the Members present.	
TC/19/19	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</b> No interests were declared and consequently no written requests for dispensation had been received.	
TC/20/19	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING</b> <b>The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</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
TC/21/19	<b>TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:</b> i. Amenities Committee The minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 10th January 2019 had been circulated and publicised in draft form. <b>The Council RESOLVED to APPROVE the recommendations contained therein.</b>  ii. Planning and Environment Committee The minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 had been circulated and publicised in draft form. No recommendations to approve.  Finance and Personnel Committee The minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 had been circulated and publicised in draft form. No recommendations to approve.	Cllr Reed Cllr Batstone



- TC/22/19 FINANCIAL MATTERS  
i. Approval of Payments  
 The list of payments detailed below and checked by Cllrs Batstone and Chater were **APPROVED**.  
 Cllr Batstone  
 Cllr Chater
- ii. Budget Comparison as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019  
 The Budget Comparison as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 was **APPROVED**.  
 Cllr Rose  
 Cllr Lacey
- iii. Budget Virements  
 There were no budget virements to consider.
- TC/23/19 CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS  
 2/2018/1774/HOUSE - Consultee Comment from Sturminster Newton  
 Town Council  
 Willow Tree Cottage, Fiddleford Village Road, Fiddleford.  
**No objections as it is not in our parish, therefore not in the Sturminster  
 Newton Neighbourhood Plan.**  
**The extension is within the building lines.**  
 Cllr Donaldson  
 Cllr Taylor
- TC/24/19 THE INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT AND RISK ASSESMENT  
 Following the Town Council resolution on the 4th October 2018 (minute  
 number 18/239i) the Town Clerk presented the financial risk assessment  
 report from the Internal Auditors, the Council noted its content and action  
 plan.
- TC/25/19 STURMINSTER NEWTON MILL PROJECT REPORT  
 The Town Council discussed the report, which had previously been  
 circulated, with the members of the Museum and Mill Society present.  
**The Council RESOLVED that Cllrs Jones, Rose, Lacey work with the  
 Town Clerk to pursue a new lease for the Sturminster Newton Mill.**  
 Cllr Taylor  
 Cllr Donaldson
- TC/26/19 FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND  
 After considering the written report circulated with the meeting papers.  
**The Council RESOLVED to submit a joint expression of interest to  
 the Future High Street Fund with the Sturminster Newton Community  
 Benefit Society.**  
 Cllr Batstone  
 Cllr Rose
- TC/27/19 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR THE NEXT MUNICIPAL YEAR  
 The Town Clerk reported that she had been reviewing meeting  
 arrangements for the coming municipal year. The Town Clerk suggested  
 that the Town Council meeting day be earlier in the week. The Council  
 discussed various options and the Town Clerk agreed to send out a  
 survey for Councillors' to note their preferences.
- TC/28/19 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS  
 District Councillor Fox's report, having been previously circulated is  
 included at the end of these minutes.
- TC/29/19 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT  
 County Councillor Batstone's report, having been previously circulated is  
 included at the end of these minutes.
- TC/30/19 TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT  
 The Town Mayor reported she had officially opened the new Community  
 Café at Stour Connect. It is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from  
 8.30am to 12.30pm. She wished them success. She would also be  
 attending a Civic Day at Ferndown but before this she was organising her  
 own Civic Event, Celebrating Volunteers. The afternoon will be a chance  
 to recognise some of the hard working volunteers in our community.
- TC/31/19 DAPTC AND NALC



No reports requiring Members' attention had been received.

TC/32/19 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk updated the Council regarding her work on the Jubilee Path, Neighbourhood Plan and her portfolio for the CiLCA qualification. She also advised that the annual Health and Safety inspection had been passed and that the Grounds Manager would soon have completed the IOSH Managing Safely course. She also advised that she was reviewing the Town Councillor email set up and invited feedback from Councillors.

TC/33/19 CORRESPONDENCE

One item of correspondence had been received. This was read out to the members of the Council. A discussion ensued and Cllr Lacey suggested the most appropriate course of action would be to pass the letter to the emergency planning department at Dorset County Council.

TC/34/19 INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

*Cllr Donaldson* – Reported that he had received very favourable reports regarding the work done by the Grounds Team during the recent snow. He wished to commend them. He also pointed out that the enhancement works had started on Station Road.

*Cllr Rose* – Had attended the Allotment Associations AGM. He also wished to pass on positive comments he had received regarding the Grounds Manager and staff from the Association for the work that had recently been done.

*Cllr Batstone* – Advised that she had been working with a member of the highways team regarding various issues that needed to be addressed. She also updated the Council the legal issue regarding the closed footpath at the bridge were still ongoing.

*Cllr Lacey* – Advised that there seemed to be a lot of confusion over the highways sign at Station Road on social media.

TC/35/19 EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

**In exercise of the power conferred by the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Section 1(2) the Committee RESOLVED that member of the public and press be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that the business to be transacted being of a confidential nature it is likely that personal and/or exempt information would otherwise be improperly disclosed and members would feel unable to discuss the matter freely.**

Cllr Lacey  
Cllr Batstone

TC/36/19 JUBILEE PATH

Having fully discussed the previously circulated report regarding the Jubilee Path.

**The Town Council RESOLVED not to adopt the Jubilee Path and to look for an alternative route to the railway in the longer term.**

Cllr Fraser  
Cllr Batstone

The meeting closed at 8.51pm.

## Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/18 and 31/01/19 inclusive.



Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/18

		2018/2019	Actual Net	Balance
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>Office &amp; Administration</b>				
100	Precept	£277,182.00	£277,182.00	£0.00
105	Contributions to Expenditure	£970.00	£0.00	-£970.00
110	Interest - Public Sector Deposit Fund	£150.00	£334.90	£184.90
115	Interest - Bath Building Society	£150.00	£0.00	-£150.00
120	Chamber hire	£800.00	£105.00	-£695.00
125	Grants received	£0.00	£788.00	£788.00
130	Photocopying, printing, etc.	£5.00	£0.00	-£5.00
135	Insurance Settlements	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
140	VAT reclaimed	£0.00	£7,929.79	£7,929.79
199	Other	£0.00	£184.20	£184.20
<b>Total Office &amp; Administration</b>		<b>£279,257.00</b>	<b>£286,523.89</b>	<b>-£7,266.89</b>
<b>Amenities &amp; Services</b>				
200	Recreation Grounds	£4,250.00	£1,616.28	-£2,633.72
205	Cemetery	£4,500.00	£4,065.00	-£435.00
210	Agency Agreements	£6,200.00	£240.00	-£5,960.00
215	Street cleansing	£9,000.00	£9,000.00	£0.00
220	Contributions	£625.00	£11,366.29	£10,741.29
225	Allotments	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
299	Other	£0.00	£4,770.00	£4,770.00
<b>Total Amenities &amp; Services</b>		<b>£24,575.00</b>	<b>£31,057.57</b>	<b>-£6,482.57</b>
<b>Capital Projects</b>				
300	Developer Contributions	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
399	Other contributions, grants & donations	£0.00	£1,650.05	£1,650.05
<b>Total Capital Projects</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£1,650.05</b>	<b>-£1,650.05</b>
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>£303,832.00</b>	<b>£319,231.51</b>	<b>£15,399.51</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>Office &amp; Administration</b>				
1000	Office staff payroll	£91,938.00	£76,893.65	£15,044.35
1010	Office premises	£8,446.00	£7,104.23	£1,341.77
1020	Office facilities & operations	£13,390.00	£10,489.28	£2,900.72
1030	Insurance	£7,004.00	£7,246.43	-£242.43
1040	Bank Charges	£515.00	£245.12	£269.88
1045	Professional fees	£5,150.00	£4,150.00	£1,000.00
1050	Civic & ceremonial	£1,700.00	£398.98	£1,301.02
1060	Training	£3,090.00	£2,363.56	£726.44
1070	Subscriptions	£1,227.00	£1,274.74	-£47.74
1080	Loan repayments	£15,418.00	£15,417.52	£0.48

## Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/18 and 31/01/19 inclusive.



Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/18

	2018/2019	Actual Net	Balance
1090 VAT paid	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1999 Other	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3050 Petty Cash	£0.00	£38.54	-£38.54
<b>Total Office &amp; Administration</b>	<b>£147,878.00</b>	<b>£125,622.05</b>	<b>-£22,255.95</b>
<b>Amenities &amp; Services</b>			
2000 Grounds staff payroll	£116,826.00	£91,094.18	£25,731.82
2010 Workshop premises	£2,652.00	£2,198.68	£453.32
2020 Grounds operations	£10,249.00	£14,260.56	-£4,011.56
2030 Sports pavilion & facilities	£2,395.00	£2,217.53	£177.47
2040 Town Clock	£546.00	£156.15	£389.85
2050 Play facilities	£8,652.00	£350.00	£8,302.00
2060 Gardens & ornamental	£1,251.00	£737.92	£513.08
2070 Car Parks	£103.00	£0.00	£103.00
2080 Public toilets	£10,197.00	£4,856.04	£5,340.96
2090 Allotments	£52.00	£59.58	-£7.58
2100 Cemetery	£1,906.00	£1,692.05	£213.95
2110 Sturminster Mill	£3,502.00	£10,808.94	-£7,306.94
2120 Footway lighting	£4,069.00	£4,462.47	-£393.47
2130 Town Centre	£412.00	£151.59	£260.41
2140 Open Spaces	£2,163.00	£0.00	£2,163.00
2150 Benches & Other Infrastructure	£206.00	£0.00	£206.00
2160 Events & Festivals	£309.00	£472.00	-£163.00
2170 Rights of Way	£1,288.00	£0.00	£1,288.00
2180 Traffic management	£515.00	£0.00	£515.00
2190 Tree management	£1,545.00	£680.00	£865.00
2999 Other	£0.00	£1.00	-£1.00
<b>Total Amenities &amp; Services</b>	<b>£168,838.00</b>	<b>£134,198.69</b>	<b>-£34,639.31</b>
<b>Capital Projects</b>			
3000 Section 137	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3010 Grants	£4,481.00	£1,750.00	£2,731.00
3020 Skate Bowl Project	£0.00	£2,200.00	-£2,200.00
3030 Neighbourhood Development Plan	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3035 WW1 Centenary Commemoration	£0.00	£982.00	-£982.00
3040 Economic Development Plan	£0.00	£10,000.00	-£10,000.00
3045 Community Resource Support	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Total Capital Projects</b>	<b>£4,481.00</b>	<b>£14,932.00</b>	<b>£10,451.00</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£321,197.00</b>	<b>£274,752.74</b>	<b>£46,444.26</b>
Total Income	£303,832.00	£319,231.51	£15,399.51
Total Expenditure	£321,197.00	£274,752.74	£46,444.26
Funded by reserves		£0.00	
<b>Total Net Balance</b>	<b>-£17,365.00</b>	<b>£44,478.77</b>	

**Sturminster Newton Town Council**  
**BACS Payments for Town Council 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 19 - approval list**



Start of year 01/04/18							
Tn no	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Invoice date	Details	Cheque Total
2018	BACS1902 12A	£120.00	£0.00	£120.00	23/11/18	Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils - Budgets and Precepts Course E Lindsay/K Squire	
2019	BACS1902 12A	£110.00	£0.00	£110.00	23/11/18	Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils - Bring your own chair course H Lacey/E Lindsay	£230.00
2020	BACS1902 12B	£237.16	£39.53	£197.63	23/01/19	Engelbert Strauss Ltd - Grounds Workwear	£237.16
2021	BACS1902 12C	£228.71	£38.12	£190.59	01/02/19	Euomec Contracts Ltd - Street Sweeper Brushes	£228.71
2022	BACS1902 12D	£108.70	£18.12	£90.58	31/01/19	Lyreco Uk Ltd - Stationery	£108.70
2017	BACS1902 12E	£80.65	£3.84	£76.81	01/02/19	Southern Electric - Footway Lighting	
2023	BACS1902 12E	£16.57	£0.78	£15.79	01/02/19	Southern Electric - Footway Lighting	£97.22
2024	BACS1902 12F	£55.52	£9.25	£46.27	18/01/19	Sturminster Newton Building Supplies - Tape, Gloves, Scaplings and Cement	£55.52
1		£3.02	£0.50	£2.52		AS Masking Tape	
2		£15.00	£2.50	£12.50		AS Thermal Knit Gloves	
3		£37.50	£6.25	£31.25		AS Scaplings and Cement	
2025	BACS1902 12G	£132.56	£15.75	£116.81	29/01/19	The Exchange - January 2019 Recharges	£132.56
1		£58.69	£9.78	£48.91		OA Electricity January 2019	
2		£5.81	£0.97	£4.84		OA Alarms January 2019	
3		£20.79	£0.00	£20.79		OA Water January 2019	
4		£27.41	£4.57	£22.84		OA Gas January 2019	
5		£2.60	£0.43	£2.17		OA Refuse January 2019	
6		£17.26	£0.00	£17.26		OA Insurance January 2019	
2026	BACS1902 12H	£1,600.00	£0.00	£1,600.00	13/12/18	Vicky & David Dawson Partnership - Governance Review and Report for the Mill	£1,600.00
2027	BACS1902 12J	£138.00	£23.00	£115.00	15/01/19	Blandford Office Furniture Ltd - Office Table	£138.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£2,827.87</b>	<b>£148.39</b>	<b>£2,679.48</b>			





01/04/18

**Total** £10,589.04**Petty Cash Account Reconciled Statement**

<b>Petty Cash</b>	<b>Petty Cash</b>		
Statement Number	152		
Statement Opening Balance	£200.00	Opening Date	01/01/19
Statement Closing Balance	£161.46	Closing Date	31/01/19
True/ Cashbook Closing Balance	£161.46		

Date	Cheque/ Ref.	Supplier/ Customer	Debit (£)	Credit (£)	Balance (£)
31/01/19	Petty Cash	Multiple Suppliers/ Customers	38.54	0.00	161.46

**District Councillor's Report January 2019.**

Due to the 4 week cycle of Planning Committee meetings we met twice this month, the first included the vexed issue of the field at the Bull Inn, this was originally included in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan but at the Examination Process the Inspector was unhappy with aspects of this and it was removed at his request and so the application had to be decided by the NDDC Planning Committee, they gave it their approval subject to the provision of one house to be tied to the Bull as managers accommodation and improvements to the Bull itself. At the second meeting there were no local issues.

I sat on a Licensing Sub-Committee where 3 members of the License and Orders Committee are asked to decide a license application that has raised issues with the Licensing Officer, the Police or neighbours and as with planning applications these hearings are Quasi-Judicial, meaning that our decision can be challenged in court and so they have to be taken seriously and can be difficult when the parties involved have already fallen out!

The Shadow Dorset Council met to formally adopt the new Constitution for the new Unitary Dorset Council and much discussion was held on proposed new Protocol of access to the Planning Department by Town and Parish Councils resulting in revised wording reverting, in effect, to the current system of direct input to the Planning Department as a Statutory Consultee.

Cllr Victor Fox. NDDC.

**County Councillors Report January 2019**

A new year and a new Council as from 1st April. The existing Councillors will continue in post until 2nd May with the Shadow Council and Shadow Executive Committee having responsibility for running the new Council until a new set of 82 Councillors have been elected. The new Ward of Blackmore Vale takes in the parishes of Pulham, Mappowder, Hazelbury Bryan, Fifehead Neville, Woolland, Ibberton, Okeford Fitzpaine, Lydlinch and Ibberton and replaces the former Lydden Vale Ward of North Dorset District Council which in turn is part of the Blackmore Vale Division of the County Council. Glanvilles Wootton becomes part of the Sherborne Rural Ward. The plan is to save money and deliver a more efficient service to residents by operating more efficiently with fewer managers, fewer councillors (saving £500,000 pa.) fewer buildings and continuing and growing use of electronic means of communications. As I have said before, the biggest budget items are Children and Families and Adult Social Care taking three quarters of the income of the current County Council.

Before Christmas the County Council received a large sum of money towards our high cost of road repairs so please make sure you report the areas and potholes which are worrying you - either report on line (dorsetforyou) or by telephone to 01305 221000. The Shadow Council have agreed a Highways Maintenance Programme for



the next two years who indicates resurfacing or surface dressing to a number of roads in our area. I try and drive around most of the lanes in my Division every month or so, in addition to the direct journeys I may make, and am pleased to see how some of them have been improved over the past few months. In particular the dreaded Marsh Lane between Hazelbury Bryan and Ansty has received long overdue treatment although the water leak at the Hazelbury Bryan end is still a problem causing surface erosion and needs sorting.

An Enquiry Day into the service which children with special educational needs (SEND) get from the County. Councillors met with children, their parents and carers, head teachers, practitioners and those who commission services to hear what works and what does not work. In the absence of more money from central government for SEND Councillors are determined to see what can be done to make the existing funds go further and be used more effectively.

My attention was drawn this month to the work of The Prince's Countryside Fund which has grants of up to £50,000 available for projects that will provide a long-term positive impact to the individuals and communities they seek to benefit. The Trust provides funding towards projects affecting areas of greatest rural need. The grants aim to sustain rural communities, improve the prospects of viability for farm and rural businesses and support aid delivery in an emergency and build resilience. For more information look at their website but it may be of value to people in our community. The closing date for the current round of applications is in February.

During the coming month I will be at:

Pulham Coffee Morning on Saturday 2nd February at 10.30 a.m. the Exchange Coffee Bar at 11.30 a.m.

Hilton Coffee Morning at The Church on 9th February

Okeford Fitzpaine on Saturday 16th February

Preferred e.mail address - [cllr.p.batstone@btinternet.com](mailto:cllr.p.batstone@btinternet.com)

Phone - 01258 472583

Twitter @paulinebatstone

Facebook Page - Councillor Pauline Batstone

Website - [sturminster-newton.org](http://sturminster-newton.org)



District Councillor report for February 2019.

This month I attended an update briefing on the budget preparations and the issues facing the new Dorset Council with a major cost being nearly 500 children in care.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> the Shadow Council met to decide the budget and set the Council Tax for the next municipal year and although it included a substantial rise for many (including myself) the move to a single charge for the whole area makes sense for the new council to start with a level figure rather than try and bring 5 different District charges together over several years.

The NDDC Planning Committee did some informal site visits before the long meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>. This was one of our longest meetings with an agenda running to 208 pages! We gave outline permission for over 1600 houses including the demolition and redevelopment of the old NDDC offices at Nordon, not an easy decision as it had been the home of NDDC since it was formed in 1974.

Cllr Victor Fox NDDC.