

**STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in the Council Chamber at 7.15 pm

Present:

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

Absent:

Councillor L Chater,

In attendance: 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/01/19	<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b> No comments were made or questions asked.	
AM/02/19	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies were received from Cllr Chater. These apologies were accepted by the members present.	
AM/03/19	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</b> No interests were declared and consequently no written requests for dispensation had been received.	
AM/04/19	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b> <b>The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 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 Rose Cllr Donaldson
AM/05/19	<b>OPEN SPACES GROUP</b> Co-opted Member Jeremy Read's reported as follows: The Open Spaces Group last met on 6 November and is due to meet again on 22 January. Since the last meeting of the Group, some willows in the main pond have been cleared, work to clean and improve the ditches has been completed, and a dead tree was removed. A final grass cut was made. At the last meeting, it was suggested that the Trees Group should work to promote tree planting in the area around the town. It was noted with regret that the proposal for a tree in Station Road, adjacent to Poets' Corner, was not viable due to the complexity of underground services. The suggested alternative of using a planter could not be recommended, because of the difficulty of maintenance and the poor likeliness of satisfactory growth. The Rights of Way Group has continued to be active, and has developed a plan for maintenance and improvement work in conjunction with the Countryside Rangers. The Open Spaces Group is very grateful to the Town Council for the confirmation of permission to hold its meetings in the Council Chamber without charge.	

Chair' Initials



AM/06/19 ALLOCATION OF THE REMAINING FREE PARKING DAYS

Following a discussion regarding the possible events that could benefit from free parking in the Town. The Committee agreed to allocate the remaining free parking days to The Big Lunch Weekend, The Boogie Woogie Festival and The Literary Festival.

**The Committee RESOLVED to RECOMMEND the allocation of the remaining free parking days as follows:**

**The Big Lunch Weekend – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019**

**The Literary Festival – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**The Boogie Woogie Festival – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

Cllr Reed

Cllr Rose

AM/07/19 APPROVAL OF A TOWN COUNCIL SUBSCRIPTION TO THE INSTITUTE OF CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM MANAGEMENT (ICCM)

The Committee discussed a report from the Town Clerk regarding the benefits of subscribing to the ICCM, which is attached to these minutes. Cllr Reed expressed thanks to the Grounds Team for their hard work at the Cemetery.

**The Committee RESOLVED to RECOMMEND the approval of a Town Council subscription to the ICCM**

Cllr Rose

Cllr Donaldson

AM/08/19 TOWN CLERKS REPORT

The Town Clerk reported:

Allotments

The annual inspections and paperwork have been completed. The Town Clerk is working with the Grounds Manager on ways to streamline this process and to look at our role as the Allotment Association have delegated responsibility.

Honeymead/Northfields Hedgerow

The Town Clerk and the Grounds Manager visited the site and observed that the hedgerow limits the sightline in order to slow the traffic. As the issues along the road are traffic related they felt the hedgerow should remain but the Grounds Manager would seek advice from the Highways team of other possible traffic calming solutions.

Sturminster Newton Mill

The Town Clerk reported that the Mill condition survey had now been completed and findings would be circulated when received.

AM/09/19 GROUNDS MANAGERS REPORT

The Committee discussed a report from the Grounds Manager which is attached to these minutes.

He also reported that the Tree Inspection Report would be due shortly and any relevant actions would be taken.

The Town Clerk and the Grounds Manager were working with Mike Woods from the Community Benefit Society, to advise of ways for the retailers to look after their own shop fronts.

The second utility vehicle would be sign painted shortly.

He and the Charge Hand had recently attended the SOLTEX exhibition and made some good contacts.

Cllr Jones asked about a replacement bin for the Mill, the Grounds Manager confirmed this had been ordered.

Cllr Fox asked about the possibility of a dog waste bag dispenser in the War Memorial recreation ground. The Grounds Manager will look into the options and costs before the next meeting. Cllr Lacey suggested the bags should be biodegradable.

Cllr Lacey thanked the Grounds Manager and his team for keeping the Town so clean and tidy. Cllr's Jones and Reed also expressed their gratitude.

Chair' Initials



AM/10/19 CORRESPONDENCE

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

AM/11/19 INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Batstone had been approached by a member of the public regarding the street lights at The Gavel. The Finance Officer advised that the office staff have made contact with the land owners who are looking into the matter.

Cllr Jones advised that he was working on a proposal for a sculpture for the railway gardens to commemorate the two World Wars. The Councillors were happy for Cllr Jones to work on a proposal and bring the findings and costings to the next meeting. The Town Clerk suggested that she and Cllr Jones work together on a proposal that fitted with the purpose of the Railway Gardens.

Cllr Taylor suggested Cllr Jones also contact the Commonwealth War Graves and the Royal British Legion for advice.

Cllr Fox reported that he had been in contact with the Countryside Rangers to reposition a new fingerpost by the footbridge which had not been put in a very practical place.

Cllr Lacey made the Councillors aware of an event the Rotary are organising called 'Don't Bin It, Sculpt It' which was aimed at raising awareness to reuse plastic items. The competition is open for Groups and Individuals and will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May. She also reported that the Cheese Festival Committee had met to discuss and allocate grants and would be awarding these next month.

Cllr Reed advised that building work had begun on two new business units at Butts Pond Industrial Estate.

Meeting Closed at 8.02pm

Approved On 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 Chairs Signature JC Reed

Chair' Initials

JCR