

**STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL****MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL****Held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 in the Council Chamber at 7.15pm****Present :**

Councillor P. Batstone  
 Councillor A. Donaldson  
 Councillor V.Fox  
 Councillor M.Jones  
 Councillor H. Lacey

Councillor H. Reed  
 Councillor G. Rose  
 Councillor C. Spackman  
 Councillor R. Taylor

**Absent :** Councillor C Fraser

**In Attendance:** Mrs Emma Lindsay (Town Clerk) and Mrs Louise Plumridge (Assistant Town Clerk)  
 Mr T Hodgkinson, Wyatt Homes and two members of the public.

MINUTE NUMBER	COMMENTS	RESOLUTION <i>For each item, the proposer is named first followed by the seconder</i>
18/001	<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b>  Mr Tim Hodgkinson of Wyatt Homes gave a presentation outlining the proposed development of land beyond Elm Close, Sturminster Newton. He advised draft plans should be ready by the end of the year for consultation and that planning permission would be applied for in 2019. Councillor Spackman expressed how important it is to work together with Wyatt Homes to support the aspirations of the Sturminster Newton Neighbourhood Plan. The members of the public present expressed their strong concerns that Elm Close should not be used as the main access route for the developers. The Town Clerk advised there would be an opportunity to express their concerns at the consultation event that would be arranged by Wyatt Homes.	
18/002	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  Apologies were received from Councillor Fraser. These apologies were accepted by the Members present.	
18/003	<b>ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND TOWN MAYOR</b>  Councillor H Lacey was proposed by Councillor Rose and seconded by Councillor Spackman. There were no other nominations. <b>Councillor Helen Lacey was duly elected as Chairman of the Council and Town Mayor until the Annual Meeting in 2019.</b>	
18/004	<b>DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE CHAIRMAN</b>  Councillor Lacey read out and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was then signed by the Town Clerk in the presence of the Council.	
18/005	<b>ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR</b>  Councillor Jones was proposed by Councillor Spackman and seconded by Councillor Batstone.	

Councillor Rose was proposed by Councillor Fox and seconded by Councillor Donaldson.

A vote took place by a show of hands:

Councillor Jones received 4 votes

Councillor Rose received 3 votes

**Councillor Martin Jones was duly elected as Vice Chairman of the Council and Deputy Town Mayor until the Annual Meeting in 2019.**

18/006 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Batstone declared an interest in the literary project to be discussed under agenda item 18/008.

18/007 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> April having been circulated and publicised prior to the meeting were taken as read and approved for signature by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

Cllr. Donaldson  
Cllr. Batstone

18/008 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

Finance & Personnel Committee - 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

- i. The minutes of this Committee having been circulated and publicised in draft form.

The Council **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the recommendations contained therein.

Cllr. Donaldson  
Cllr. Fox

18/009 CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING APPLICATION

1	<i>Plan Number</i>	<i>District Reference</i>	<i>Site Reference</i>	<i>Other Reference</i>
	<b>2018/0230/01</b>	2/2018/0230/FUL		
	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>House Name</i>	<i>Road</i>	<i>Locality</i>
	John Roman Park Homes	Land at Market Cross		
	<i>Town</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Post Code</i>	<i>Application date</i>
	Sturminster Newton	Dorset		11/04/208
	<b>Erect 1 no. dwelling, modify vehicular access and form parking (demolish part boundary walls)</b>			

**Sturminster Newton Town Council**

**Objections:**

Objections: None of the issues raised before on 5th April 2018 (see below) at Town Council have been addressed but the Council note that access to the rear of the Natwest building has now been provided.

Difficulty of cars accessing Ricketts Lane in a forward direction from the proposed property. The Council is concerned that the development would have an impact on the building previously occupied by Natwest by removing the pedestrian fire exit and rear access to the building. Removing the rear access would limit future use of the building and potentially cause congestion in the town.

The Council acknowledged the Highway's Officer comments but wished to note that the car park had previously been designated as a staff car park and therefore had limited use.

18/010 APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

After reviewing together the existing Committee structures and



membership.

The Council RESOLVED as follows:

To retain the current committee structure, arrangements and appointments with the the following changes:

Cllr. Jones

Cllr. Reed

Cllrs. Batstone and Taylor will be appointed to the Finance and Personnel Committee. Cllr. Fox will step down from the Finance and Personnel Committee

Cllr. Batstone will step down from the Amenities Committee and Cllr. Fox will join the Amenities Committee.

18/011 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND DELEGATED POWERS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

After reviewing the terms of reference and delegated powers

The Council RESOLVED as follows:

Cllr. Rose

Cllr. Taylor

That the terms of reference and delegated powers will be retained and reviewed with the Standing Orders during the Civic Year 2018/19.

18/012 APPOINTMENT OF CHEQUE SIGNATORIES

The Council RESOLVED to retain the existing cheque signatories : Cllrs Rose, Donaldson, Fraser and Lacey and the Town Clerk Emma Lindsay.

Cllr. Reed

Cllr. Spackman

18/013 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council RESOLVED to approve the appointment of Representatives as set out below on page 2636-2637.

Cllr. Lacey

Cllr. Fox

18/014 STANDING ORDERS

After reviewing the existing Standing Orders

The Council RESOLVED that the existing Standing Orders should be adopted and reviewed during the Civic year 2018/19.

Cllr. Jones

Cllr. Taylor

18/015 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

After reviewing the existing Financial Regulations

The Council RESOLVED that the existing Financial Regulations should be adopted and reviewed during the Civic year 2018/19.

Cllr. Fox

Cllr. Batstone

18/016 LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

After reviewing current subscriptions

The Council RESOLVED in exercise of the General Power of Competence to continue the existing subscriptions to:

- Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils
- Society of Local Council Clerks
- Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
- Clerks and Councils Direct

Cllr. Rose

Cllr. Lacey

18/017 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

The payments listed on page 2637 of these minutes were approved.

Cllr. Batstone

Cllr. Rose

18/018 ANNUAL FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT FOR 2017/2018

The Council reviewed the Annual Risk Assessment for 2017/18 undertaken by the Mayor, Chair of Finance and Personnel and Town

Cllr. Jones

Cllr. Batstone



Clerk. It was agreed that the risk assessment would be reviewed by the Council during the current financial year.  
**The Council RESOLVED to approve the Risk Assessment for 2017/18 and to review during the current financial year.**

- 18/019 COUNCILLOR VACANCY  
 The Town Clerk advised no request to hold an election had been received and outlined the co-option process.  
**The Council RESOLVED the process for co-option should proceed.**  
 Cllr. Fox  
 Cllr. Rose
- 18/020 STURMINSTER NEWTON MILL - HERITAGE LOTTERY FUNDING  
 The Town Clerk advised that the Heritage Lottery application for The Mill had been successful. Part of the project agreement is that the Town Council manage the project. The Clerk suggested that two Councillors should participate in the project group.  
**The Council RESOLVED that Councillors Jones and Rose will represent the Town Council on the Sturminster Newton Mill project group.**  
 Cllr. Fox  
 Cllr. Taylor
- 18/021 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS  
 District Cllr. Fox's report, having previously been circulated, is attached on page 2638 of these minutes.
- 18/022 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT  
 Cllr. Batstone's report, having previously been circulated, is attached on pages 2638 -2639 of these minutes.
- 18/023 TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT  
 Cllr. Donaldson's report, having previously been circulated, is attached on page 2639-2640 of these minutes.
- 18/024 COMMUNICATIONS FROM DAPTC or NALC  
 The Town Clerk advised that DAPTC are conducting a survey on LGR matters with a deadline of 2<sup>nd</sup> June. She will circulate the survey and then arrange a extraordinary meeting to discuss.  
 Cllr. Lacey  
 Cllr. Reed
- 18/025 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT  
 The Town Clerk's Report as tabled was NOTED. She added that Mrs Pam Naylor would be leaving at the end of May and that work was progressing to finish the year end procedures. Interviews are taking place on the 10<sup>th</sup> May. Arrangement are being made for Mrs Pam Naylor to come back to train the new Finance Officer if necessary.
- 18/026 INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS  
*Cllr Reed* expressed she had received complaints about the Post Office in One Stop Shop not being open at the advertised times.  
*Cllr Fox* informed that he is soon to meet Mike Coker, Principal Technical Officer of North Dorset District Council with the Town Clerk to discuss the maintenance of the abandoned churchyard.  
*Cllr Rose* advised the Youth Club were working on their plans for the telephone box on Bath Road.  
*Cllr Spackman* advised he and Cllr Batstone will soon be meeting Matt Prosser, Chief Executive of North Dorset District Council to discuss economic development.  
*Cllr Batstone* suggested the Council invite Dorset Community Action to a Town Council meeting to present and describe the services they can



offer.

*Cllr. Jones* asked for an update on the Jubilee Path situation. The Town Clerk advised that there would be an update at the next Planning & Environment Committee.

*Cllr. Donaldson* advised there was a Quiz Night at William Barnes School on 11<sup>th</sup> May and suggested the Town Council could enter a team. Several members agreed to be part of the Quiz team.

*Cllr. Lacey* advised the Station Road Consultation Event on 2<sup>nd</sup> May had been well attended with Highways Officers and the retailers/residents of Station Road. A consensus was reached to avoid a new Traffic Order but to improve the street scene to make Station Road look less like a road, i.e. planters and to liaise with the Police on enforcing traffic offences.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.51pm.

*Emma Lindsay*  
Town Clerk

## STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

### MEMBERS APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS 2018/19

Blackmore Vale Transport Forum	Councillor Pauline Batstone Councillor Helen Reed
Butts Pond Local Nature Reserve ( <i>Co-opted to Amenities Committee</i> )	Mr. Jeremy Read
Carnival Trustees ( <i>2<sup>nd</sup> year of 4-year appointment</i> )	Councillor Joe Rose
Cemetery Liaison	Councillor Helen Reed
DAPTC Larger Local Councils & AGM	Mayor Deputy Mayor Town Clerk
DAPTC - Northern Area Meetings	Mayor Councillor Pauline Batstone
Development Working Party	Mayor Councillor Christopher Spackman Town Clerk
Footpaths Liaison Officer ( <i>Co-opted to Planning &amp; Environment Committee</i> )	Mr. Alan Harrison
Newsletter & Unity.Com	Mayor & Town Clerk
Planning Issues - Councillor to Liaise with NDDC	Chairman of the Planning & Environment Committee
Press Releases/Media	Mayor & Town Clerk
Sturfit Trust	Councillor Chris Spackman
Sturminster Newton Allotments Association	Councillor Joe Rose
Sturminster Newton Museum & Mill Society	Councillor Martin Jones
SturQuest Board of Directors	Mayor
SturQuest Open Spaces Group	Councillor Vic Fox
Trailway Support Group	Councillor Martin Jones
Tree Warden	Councillor Pauline Batstone (deputy)
William Williams Trust ( <i>3<sup>rd</sup> year of 4-year appointment</i> )	Councillor Vic Fox
Youth Centre Liaison	Councillor Helen Lacey
	Councillor Robert Taylor



**MEMBERS ELECTED TO REPRESENT THE TOWN ON OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES  
2018/19**

North Dorset District Council  
Dorset County Council

Councillor Victor Fox  
Councillor Pauline Batstone

**Sturminster Newton Town Council  
Bacs payments 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018**

<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Heading Invoice edate</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Cheque Total</b>
BACS1805 03A	£3,256.44	£0.00	£3,256.44	01/04/18	H M Revenue & Customs - Tax & NI-April 2018	£3,256.44
BACS1805 03C	£144.02	£24.00	£120.02	1010/5 01/04/18	SturQuest - Office telephones	£144.02
BACS1805 03F	£11.76	£0.00	£11.76	2110/3 01/04/18	Water2business - Mill wash hand basin	£11.76
BACS1805 03D	£140.00	£0.00	£140.00	2020/7 01/04/18	Symonds and Sampson - Land adj. Recreation Ground	£140.00
BACS1805 03B	£203.98	£34.00	£169.98	01/04/18	Rigby Taylor - Line marking & spray	£203.98
	£160.50	£26.75	£133.75	2030/6	Line marking	
	£43.48	£7.25	£36.23	2020/7	Gallup	
BACS1805 03E	£1,020.00	£0.00	£1,020.00	1020/6 01/04/18	Unity.com - Annual advertising	£1,020.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,776.20</b>	<b>£58.00</b>	<b>£4,718.20</b>			

**Sturminster Newton Town Council  
Cheque payment 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018**

<b>Tn no</b>	<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Net Invoice date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Cheque Total</b>
1463	002333	£99.86	£4.75	£95.11 28/03/18	Southern Electric - Market stalls electricity	£99.86
<b>Total</b>		<b>£99.86</b>	<b>£4.75</b>	<b>£95.</b>		

Signature

Signature

Date

03/05/18 10:30 AM Vs: 8.05.02

*Sturminster Newton Town Council*

*Page 1 of 1*

Approved on:

Chair's signature: .....

Agenda Item 18/021

Cllr V Fox

NDDC Councillor's Report for April 2018.

April started with a License and Orders Sub Committee meeting to decide an extension to a TENS or Temporary Events Notice for a club in Shaftesbury, after much deliberation the Sub Committee composed of 3 members of the main committee did allow a small extension to the requested closing time.

The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee met the Stephen Hill the General Manager working on service integration ahead of LGR, in particular we discussed the issues surrounding IT and other immediate needs as May 2019 appears to be getting ever closer.

The NDDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee was mainly consumed examining the sale of Shaftesbury Market, this has now been widely covered in the local press, but the closure of the last remaining cattle market in the county does mark another milestone in the enormous change in farming practice locals like myself have seen in the last 30 years.

I attended a meeting of the NDDC Planning Committee where the most difficult issue was a telecommunications mast for Milton Abbas.

I also hosted the MP's surgery at the Town Council Offices.

Agenda Item 18/022

Cllr. Pauline Batstone

The month of April began with the opening of the Community Chest community shop for Stur., the aim of which is to raise funds to use the improvement of the central town environment. As well as acting as line manager to the Shop Manager and being a general dog body, I have done a couple of shifts so far as a shop assistant.

At the County Council in my role as Chairman of the Children and Adults Safeguarding Committee I have attended a "wash up" meeting following our 13th March Meeting. I also attended the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. The Safeguarding Committee are concerned to explore further the issue of children out of school and also the issue of how the Youth Clubs, set up when Youth Centres were closed, have fared. Both issues will be looked at in the July meeting. A fun event was the Youth Council's session where young people met to consider and review the Council's pledge to those in care. This formed part of an overnight stay for the young people at the Springhead Centre, Fontmell Magna, and I have to confess I gave my apologies for the various wide game and other activities planned to tire them out during the night. The downside of that was

hearing some worrying tales from some young people of how they have been treated whilst in care, which I have fed back to the Department

I attended the Annual Meeting of the County Council which in large part is a formality but we also considered two motions one concerned with locating staff under the new Council arrangements in Weymouth as a means of countering the low wage economy there and one proposing the use of Proportional Representation for elections to the new Council, the latter being beyond the powers of local government. The issue of Local Government Reorganisation was also raised by Christchurch Councillors who continue to maintain that the Secretary of State has acted ultra vires and therefore a privately funded judicial review is being requested.

In my role as Equality Champion I have attended a meeting to review the implementation of the Council's revised Equality Policy. It is hoped this can be the policy adopted under the new authority. I was invited to introduce the speaker, Dr. Sarah Peers, Director of Programmes at The Innovation Institute, at a training event for senior County Council staff where the issue of equality and diversity was considered and in particular the gender gap and how we can encourage young women to extend their career horizons and ambitions. I continue to Chair the Dorset Race Equality Council although I will be standing down in May now that we have a new Chief Executive in post – I have chaired the Council since the previous chairman resigned suddenly in December 2016. This has been very time consuming as the Council operates across Dorset but is based in Boscombe. I have also attended the Dorset Interagency Committee for Gypsies and Travellers which is concerned with combatting negative media reporting. The government has launched a consultation on the proposed new " Powers for dealing with unauthorised development and encampments" which the local Gypsy community in particular will be commenting on.

As a Member of NDDC I have attended the Commercialisation Panel which is endeavouring to identify ways in which the Councils in the Dorset Councils Partnership can increase their revenue through investment in commercial projects. Unfortunately there are few options yet identified for NDDC. I have attended one meeting about our own proposed Enterprise Hub which was also discussed at this month's Economy Board Meeting. I have heard the proposals for the Ward boundaries under the new unitary authority, where Council Wards will be approximately half the size of the existing Divisions with 82 Councillors replacing the current 165 occupying 206 seats (as 31 are "double hatters"). Most Wards will have one Councillor although there are proposals for two or even three Councillor Wards in some of the towns (but not Stur.). The first meeting of the Shadow Authority of those 165 Councillors which will run until April 2019 will be in June at a venue yet to be arranged, although I understand The Exchange has been proposed.

I have attended four Parish and Town Council Meetings in April and one Parish Meeting, that of Pulham where the two major concerns continue to be the non-functioning reed bed in the village and speeding vehicles.

Pauline Batstone, County, District and Town Councillor.

#### Agenda Item 18/023

The year finished with a busy month of Civic Functions around the County and preparation for the Annual Town Meeting.

In addition:



18th April D.A.P.T.C Northern area Parish and Town Council Committee Meeting at Okeford Fitzpaine. This meeting was largely given over to Planning and the concerns regarding the inadequacy of police coverage in North Dorset. It was agreed that those engaging in illegal activities appear to regard North Dorset as an " easy touch " and The Committee Chairman was charged with the task of writing to both the Police Commissioner and Chief Constable requesting they meet with the Committee a.s.a.p. .

19th April. Sturquest Directors Meeting devoted to the Sturquest closure. It is anticipated that two more meetings will be required to monitor the closure. I assume that the Mayor will be invited to attend these meetings in a non-voting capacity as has been the case in the past.

22nd April. Scouts St. Georges Day Parade at Sherborne. Two areas combined together this year and the Mayors and Escorts from Sherborne , Gillingham, Sturminster, Dorchester and Blandford took the salute from 800 Beavers, Cub Scouts and Sea Scouts ! Afterwards 75 presentations were made to some of those present including leaders. Graham Airey from Sturminster received a " silver acorn " awarded for distinguished service. This is much deserved and Graham is to be congratulated.

24th April. Scout Executive Committee Meeting

25th April. Festival of Guiding, Blandford. A speaker whose subject was the Falkland Island was followed by the presentation of 15 awards.

Thank you all for your help and support during the year.

Andrew Donaldson

Cllr Andrew Donaldson - Mayor



