

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
Held on Thursday 27th June 2019 in the Council Chamber at 7.15 pm

Present:

Councillor A Donaldson – Vice Chairman
 Councillor H Lacey (Mayor)
 Councillor H Reed - Chairman

Councillor G Rose
 Councillor R Taylor

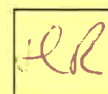
Absent:

Councillor L Chater, Councillor M Jones

In attendance: Vic Fox (Co-opted Member), Mrs Emma Lindsay (Town Clerk), Adam Dodson (Grounds Manager) and Kate Squire (Finance Officer) and 2 members of the public.

Minute No.	COMMENTS	RESOLUTION <small>for each item the proposer is named first followed by the seconder</small>
AM/26/19	PUBLIC SESSION A member of the public presented some young oak trees from Rosanna at the library; these were gratefully received by the Grounds Manager. She asked if the gardening club could maintain the sensory garden. She also asked if the Council could look at the surface of the entrance to the trailway as it was becoming difficult for users of mobility scooters and bicycles.	
AM/27/19	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Cllr Chater and Cllr Jones. These apologies were accepted by the members present.	
AM/28/19	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS No interests were declared and consequently no written requests for dispensation had been received.	
AM/29/19	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 28th March 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	Cllr Donaldson Cllr Taylor
AM/30/19	OPEN SPACES GROUP Co-opted Member Vic Fox reported that the Open Spaces Group had agreed to contribute towards the Trailway Entrance design work. He advised that there was a lack of water at the Meadows but most creatures would adapt to this. His full report in appended at the end of these minutes	
AM/31/19	PLAY TRAIN IN THE RAILWAY GARDENS The Committee considered the contents of the report circulated with the meeting papers. The Committee RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the existing play train is replaced with a wheel-chair friendly picnic bench at a cost of £640.	Cllr Taylor Cllr Donaldson
AM/32/19	SUPPLY OF ELECTRICAL SERVICES INTO THE RAILWAY GARDENS The Committee considered the contents of the report circulated with the meeting papers. The Committee RESOLVED to RECOMMEND the illumination of the town sign during this financial year. The Committee RESOLVED to RECOMMEND the installation of electrical	Cllr Rose Cllr Donaldson

Chair' Initials



points in the Railway Gardens, to be added to the budget priorities for the next financial year.

AM/33/19 DOG FOULING

The Committee considered the contents of the report circulated with the meeting papers.

The Committee RESOLVED to RECOMMEND the purchase of three dog waste bag dispensers and a supply of bags at a total cost of £452.

Cllr Donaldson
Cllr Rose

AM/34/19 TRAILWAY ENTRANCE

The Committee considered a request from the Trailway group for a contribution of £25 towards the design work to improve the Trailway Entrance.

The Committee RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that a contribution of £25 be made to the Trailway Group towards the design work to improve the Trailway Entrance.

Cllr Rose
Cllr Donaldson

AM/35/19 TOWN CLERKS REPORT

The Town Clerk reported:

Allotments

The allotment inspections have been completed.

Cemetery Consecration

The Town Clerk advised that she had written to the diocese of Salisbury to arrange the Consecration of the Cemetery and will be proceeding with the organisation of this as soon as a date has been arranged.

Drone Policy

The Town Clerk reported that she had looked at other Town Councils policies regarding drones which had mixed findings. Some Council banned the use though this would be hard to implement. Some referred enquiries directly to the Civil Aviation Authority guidelines. She advised that the Town Council should publicise the CAA guidance on the Town Council website.

Flags

The Town Clerk and the Grounds Manager are developing an inventory of flags owned or needed and a schedule of the appropriate times to fly these.

AM/36/19 GROUNDS MANAGERS REPORT

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

Cllr Lacey thanked the Grounds Team for doing a fine job in the Town.

Cllr Reed asked who was responsible for the maintenance of the footpath at the end of Butts Pond Industrial Estate leading to Filbridge Rise which was overgrown. The Grounds Manager advised this was the Housing Association. The office staff will contact them to ask for it to be cleared.

The Committee discussed the relocation of the Silent Soldier. The Office Team will investigate possible re-siting at either the Warrior Chapel at the Church or near the War Memorial.

AM/37/19 CORRESPONDENCE

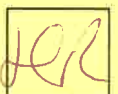
The Town Clerk reported that no correspondence within the Committee's terms of reference had been received.

AM/38/19 INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Donaldson commented that following the installation of the flower troughs around Town he had had to advise a member of the public that these were a privately sponsored venture organized by Sturbiz and not funded by the Town Council.

Cllr Lacey reported that both Hart and Sons and Olives et Al were now offering free water refills.

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Meeting closed at 19.55

Approved On 24th September 2019 Chairs Signature.....HR

Open Spaces Group Report

SNEDS. Arrangements for placing the Open Spaces Group under the umbrella of the Sturminster Newton Economic Development Society (SNEDS) continue to make progress. The new Terms of Reference for the Group, which were reported to the Committee at its last meeting, have been amended to refer to SNEDS by its correct name. The Group has also agreed to the following draft documents:

- The Subsidiary Agreement between SNEDS and groups such as the OSG
- The Governance diagram for SNEDS
- The list of activities for which insurance cover will be provided by SNEDS to subsidiary groups

Trees. Anna Lewington, who is an ethnobotanist (studying the uses that people make of plants) and who has written a number of books on trees, is leading a project to increase local awareness of the quality and value of a number of notable trees in and around the town. She is submitting an article to *Unity* to further this purpose. Although planting additional trees in the town centre is prevented by the network of underground services, it is hoped to obtain support preserve and increase the tree cover in the outer areas and boundaries of the town – it may be possible to obtain grants from the Woodland Trust towards the cost of this work.

Trailway Entrance. Some time ago, the Open Spaces Group proposed that the entrance to the town from the Trailway should be marked by the erection of a signal post from the old Somerset and Dorset Railway. This has now been taken up by the newly formed Sturminster Newton Railway Heritage Group, in which the OSG is represented. An initial design study for the development of the entrance is being prepared by Charles Gardner of Matrix Consultants, and the proposed project is to be discussed at a meeting on 9th July.

Chair' Initials

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