

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCILMINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCILHeld on Thursday 8TH March 2018 in the Council Chamber at 7.15pmPresent :

Councillor A. Donaldson (Town Mayor & Chairman)
 Councillor P. Batstone
 Councillor N. Cowell

Councillor V. Fox
 Councillor C. Fraser
 Councillor G. Rose

Absent : Councillor M Jones, Councillor H Lacey, Councillor H Reed and Councillor C Spackman

In Attendance: District Councillor M Roake, Mrs Emma Lindsay (Town Clerk) and Mrs Louise Plumridge (Assistant Town Clerk).
 Members of the Public: None.

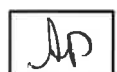
MINUTE NUMBER	COMMENTS	RESOLUTION <i>For each item, the proposer is named first followed by the seconder</i>
18/387	PUBLIC SESSION No comments made or questions asked.	
18/388	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Councillor M Jones, Councillor H Lacey, Councillor H Reed and Councillor C Spackman. These apologies were accepted by the Members present.	
18/389	DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS No interests were declared and consequently no written requests for dispensation had been received.	
18/390	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 1 st February 2018 (pages 2565 -2579) having been circulated and publicised prior to the meeting were taken as read and approved for signature by the chair as a true and correct record.	Cllr. Batstone Cllr. Fraser
18/391	TO CONSIDER THE CO-OPTION OF ROBERT TAYLOR TO THE COUNCIL. The Council RESOLVED to APPROVE the co-option of Robert Taylor. Robert Taylor read and signed the Declaration of Office.	Cllr. Batstone Cllr. Rose
18/392	RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES	
18/393	i. <u>Planning & Environment Committee</u> - 15-02-18 The Minutes of this meeting, having been circulated and publicised in draft form, were NOTED there being no recommendations requiring ratification.	
18/394	FINANCIAL MATTERS	



STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL Comment:
No Objections.

Cllr. Batstone
Cllr. Fox

- 18/396 TO APPROVE A CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2018/2019
The Clerk presented the Calendar of Meetings for 2018/2019. The Council RESOLVED to APPROVE the Calendar of Meetings.
- 18/397 USE OF REMAINING ALLOCATION OF FREE PARKING DAYS
The Council considered a request from The Beer Festival for a free parking day on Saturday 2nd June. The Council RESOLVED to APPROVE this request.
- 18/398 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
The Town Clerk reported that no reports had been received requiring the Members' attention
- 18/399 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS
District Councillor, Cllr. V Fox's report is attached on pages 2596 to 2597 of these minutes.
District Councillor, Cllr. M Roake's report is attached on pages 2597 - 2598 of these minutes.
- 18/400 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT
County Councillor, Cllr. P Batstone's report is attached on pages 2598 - 2600 of these minutes.
- 18/401 MAYOR'S REPORT
The Mayor Cllr. A Donaldson's report is attached on pages 2600 - 2602 of these minutes.
- 18/402 COMMUNICATIONS FROM DAPTC AND NALC
- i. No correspondence requiring Members' attention had been received.
 - ii. The DAPTC newsletter had been circulated.
- 18/403 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE
The Town Clerk's monthly report having been circulated and publicised was noted. The Town Clerk reported that:
- i. First Aid training had taken place in March for 6 Town Council staff.
 - ii. The Town Clerk had attended a training course on the EDGE financial system.
 - iii. Planning for the Annual Town Meeting has started. It is intended to keep it simple and to run as last year with The Mayor, Cllr Donaldson addressing the meeting.
- 18/404 CORRESPONDENCE
A funding plea letter had been received from Dorset Youth Association. It was agreed to invite them to apply for the Sturminster Town Council grant scheme.
- 18/405 INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS



	07B					inflator for workshop	
1385	BACS1803 07C	£9.65	£1.61	£8.04	11/01/18	Condor Office Solutions - Photocopier	
1386	BACS1803 07C	£180.00	£30.00	£150.00	31/01/18	Condor Office Solutions - Photocopier-rental	£189.65
1391	BACS1803 07D	£180.00	£0.00	£180.00	07/02/18	Coombs, Andrew (Gas Engineer) Ltd - Boiler service-Pavilion	£180.00
1365	BACS1803 07E	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	08/01/18	Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils - NALC publication	£20.00
1387	BACS1803 07F	£650.00	£0.00	£650.00	02/02/18	Fair Account - Internal audit services	£650.00
1373	BACS1803 07G	£100.19	£16.70	£83.49	30/01/18	Hampshire Flag Company - Dorset Flag	£100.19
1369	BACS1803 07H	£6.00	£1.00	£5.00	09/01/18	Hart & Sons (Dorset) Ltd - Light bulbs for office	
1370	BACS1803 07H	£9.95	£1.66	£8.29	03/01/18	Hart & Sons (Dorset) Ltd - Trousers for groundstaff	
1372	BACS1803 07H	£9.49	£1.58	£7.91	04/01/18	Hart & Sons (Dorset) Ltd - Voltage tester, batteries etc	£25.44
1389	BACS1803 07J	£2,981.32	£0.00	£2,981.32	05/03/18	H M Revenue & Customs - Tax & NI-February 2018	£2,981.32
1392	BACS1803 07K	£27.46	£4.58	£22.88	07/02/18	Northover G & Sons Ltd - Fuel	
1393	BACS1803 07K	£28.97	£4.83	£24.14	09/02/18	Northover G & Sons Ltd - Fuel	
1394	BACS1803 07K	£32.76	£1.56	£31.20	21/02/18	Northover G & Sons Ltd - Fuel	£89.19



Financial Budget Comparison

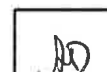
Comparison between 01/04/17 and 28/02/18 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.
Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/17

		2017/2018	Actual Net	Balance
INCOME				
Full Council				
91070	2016/17 General	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
91105	2016/17 Neighbourhood Development Plan	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
91125	2016/17 Community Garden Project	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Full Council		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Office & Administration Committee				
100	Precept	£229,674.00	£229,674.00	£0.00
105	Contributions to Expenditure	£970.00	£387.25	-£582.75
110	Interest - Public Sector Deposit Fund	£150.00	£144.00	-£6.00
115	Interest - Bath Building Society	£150.00	£390.86	£240.86
120	Chamber hire	£1,000.00	£612.50	-£387.50
125	Grants received	£0.00	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
130	Photocopying, printing, etc.	£20.00	£0.00	-£20.00
135	Insurance Settlements	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
140	VAT reclaimed	£1,150.00	£7,126.49	£5,976.49
199	Other	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Office & Administration Committee		£233,114.00	£248,335.10	£15,221.10
Amenities & Services Committee				
200	Recreation Grounds	£4,250.00	£1,180.00	-£3,070.00
205	Cemetery	£5,250.00	£4,105.00	-£1,145.00
210	Agency Agreements	£6,200.00	£4,451.12	-£1,748.88
215	Street cleansing	£9,000.00	£9,000.00	£0.00
220	Contributions	£625.00	£576.19	-£48.81
225	Allotments	£0.00	£12.19	£12.19
299	Other	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Amenities & Services Committee		£25,325.00	£19,324.50	-£6,000.50
Capital Projects Committee				
300	Developer Contributions	£75,000.00	£75,000.00	£0.00
399	Other contributions, grants & donations	£0.00	£8,488.00	£8,488.00
Total Capital Projects Committee		£75,000.00	£83,488.00	£8,488.00
Total Income		£333,439.00	£351,147.60	£17,708.60

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/17 and 28/02/18 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.
Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/17

		2017/2018	Actual Net	Balance
EXPENDITURE				
Full Council				
95040	2016/17 Petty Cash	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
95050	2016/17 Accounting Costs	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
95070	2016/17 Other pre-committed	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
95110	2016/17 Grounds Maintenance	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
95115	2016/17 Workshop heating	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00



3000	Section 137	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3010	Grants	£4,350.00	£4,363.00	-£13.00
3020	Skate Bowl Project	£89,500.00	£99,453.16	-£9,953.16
3030	Neighbourhood Development Plan	£4,470.00	£8,534.00	-£4,064.00
3035	WW1 Centenary Commemoration	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3040	Economic Development Plan	£0.00	£4,422.69	-£4,422.69
3045	Community Resource Support	£32,000.00	£24,326.40	£7,673.60
Total Capital Projects Committee		£130,320.00	£141,099.25	-£10,779.25
Total Expenditure		£373,124.00	£350,761.78	£22,362.22
Total Income		£333,439.00	£351,147.60	£17,708.60
Total Expenditure		£373,124.00	£350,761.78	£22,362.22
Total Net Balance		-£39,685.00	£385.82	

Approved on:

Chair's signature:

Agenda Item 18/399

Cllr Victor Fox.

This month I attended the Joint Advisory Scrutiny Committee; this is a combined committee from all three councils looking at issues concerning the Dorset Council Partnership this is mainly looking at the single management of council services. This month we received a report from the HR Manager on Vacancy Management, use of Agency Staff and sickness rates.

I went a Budget Briefing ahead of setting the next Council Tax where the Section 151 Officer showed us his budget statement showing that thanks to the shared single management system now in place he was able to produce a balanced budget for 2018/19 without having to find more cost reductions, a great achievement after a decade of cuts at NDDC.

Members of the Joint Scrutiny Committee were invited to Pilsdon Manor at Shave Cross in the Marshwood Vale, this is a religious community run as a charity where they help people with issues surrounding mental health and homelessness. I suggest members could find out more on their website, but I found their commitment to people who needed a hand to deal with homelessness by helping after they had found accommodation most uplifting.

31/01/18

We received an invitation to attend an informal private visit to see the new exhibitions at the Museum which were very interesting and well put together. I would recommend a visit if passing.

Following this visit I chaired a meeting of the Sturquest Projects Forum. This meeting was mainly given over to information regarding the new Town Web Site, events planned for the year, the World War 1 armistice Centenary and the Stour Connect Centre which has seen a very poor take up of its "meals on wheels" project.

With regard to the armistice Centenary you will have noted the display in the western corner of the Railway Gardens and I would congratulate and thank the grounds team for their effort. A formal opening of this display in conjunction with the R.B.L.I. and with associated publicity is planned for 1300hrs. on Friday 16th March. Please come along if you have time.

1/02/18-5/02/18

The Twinning Visit to Montebourg for the Chandeleur (Candlemass Fair). We were very well received and caused some fascination particularly over the regalia (mayors in France wear a sash) and fears were expressed by one resident that the Mayor of Montebourg might want a Chain after seeing ours! There was plenty of publicity and photographs in the French press (I still have the papers if any one hasn't seen them) and you will probably have seen the brief article in this month's Unity with, I understand, a further article planned for next month. It is important to emphasise that the cost of this trip (around £300) was entirely self financed with not one penny coming from Town Council money.

12/02/18

The Snowdrop Festival Service in the Railway Gardens. I was unable to attend this event due to work commitments but the Mayoress represented us both.

22/02/18

North Dorset Development Party Meeting, The Hub, Stalbridge . This meeting was chiefly given over to Planning matters with particular interest being shown in the progress of Neighbourhood Plans and the development planned for Gillingham. The meeting received a talk on affordable housing from Paul Derrien and Clyde Lambert from the Dorset Council Partnership. It is sobering to note that during the last financial year only 40 affordable homes were built in North Dorset, a testament to opposition from developers on financial grounds I would suggest.

23/02/18

D.A.P.T.C. Larger Parishes and Town Councils Meeting. This meeting was addressed by Tony Harris from the D.C.C. Landscape Team. His team provide a service (free at the moment!) to advise on matters relating to landscaping and undertake work.

- £394,773 for 2017/18
- £182,744 in 2018/19.
- The forecasts assume that RSG is zero for 2019/20

North Dorset District Council agreed:

That the council tax charge for North Dorset District Council is increased by £5 per annum to £126.96 for a Band D property in line with the 2018/19 referendum limits set by the Secretary of State

I also presented to North Dorset District Council the Treasury Management Strategy which I have summarised some of my comments as follows.

The US economy is performing well, and the Federal Reserve is raising interest rates in regular steps to remove some of the emergency monetary stimulus it has provided for the past decade.

The European Central Bank is yet to raise rates, but has started to taper its quantitative easing programme, signalling some confidence in the Eurozone economy.

Credit outlook: High profile bank failures in Italy and Portugal have reinforced concerns over the health of the European banking sector.

The largest UK banks will ring-fence their retail banking functions into separate legal entities during 2018.

There remains some uncertainty over how these changes will impact upon the credit strength of the residual legal entities.

Consumer price inflation reached 3.0% in September 2017 as the post-referendum devaluation of sterling continued to feed through to imports.

This effect is expected to fall out of year-on-year inflation measures during 2018, removing pressure on the Bank of England to raise interest rates.

Household consumption growth, the driver of UK GDP growth, has softened following some contraction in real wages. We are also seeing the way the consumer purchasing power is changing some well-known high street retailers are facing some difficult and very challenging trading condition however the year on year growth in online consumer spending is significant.

Savings rates are at an all-time low, with little scope for further reduction to smooth consumption.

When inflation eventually eases, consumer savings are likely to be replenished, further diverting money away from consumption.

Full Council agreed:

Approval of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy 2018/2019

Agenda Item 18/400

Cllr. Pauline Batstone

I start this report with an important event which came at the end of the month namely the Secretary of State's agreement on the 26th February that the nine Councils of rural Dorset could become one

The meeting was , again, given over to planning with a grudging admission from Hillary Jordon of Dorset Council Partnership that development in the county was being hindered by land speculators buying sites, obtaining outline planning permission and then attempting to sell at a profit. There was also criticism of policing (or lack of it!) throughout the county and withdrawal or threatened withdrawal of high street banking facilities. I suppose that it is some small comfort to note that we are not on our own!

John D. J.
5/3/18

