

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

held on Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 7.40pm in The Council Chamber

(the late commencement of the meeting was due to the overrunning of a previous meeting attended by Leader of Dorset Council, Nick Ireland).

Present:

Cllr P Batstone (Deputy Chair)
Cllr L Cooper
Cllr N Dobson
Cllr A Donaldson
Cllr C Fraser
Cllr M Jones

Cllr D Mantock
Cllr P Marks
Cllr J Matthews
Cllr H Lacey (Chair)
Cllr J Rose

In Attendance: K Squire (Town Clerk), A Dodson (Grounds Manager), J Drew (Admin Officer).

Members of the Public: 1

Minute No.	Comments
24/25/225	PUBLIC SESSION One member of the local Press was in attendance. Dorset Cllr Carole Jones sent her apologies, she would provide a full report for the next meeting.
24/25/226	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE All Councilors were present.
24/25/227	DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS No declarations of interests had been declared and no written dispensations received.
24/25/228	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING The minutes of the previous Town Council meeting held on 19 th December 2024, having been circulated and publicised prior to the meeting, were taken as read and approved for signature by the Committee Chairman subject to the addition of Cllr Batstone's request that her comment regarding the Christmas display in the Railway Gardens be recorded in information from members.
24/25/229	PLANNING MATTERS PLANNING APPLICATIONS P/FUL/2024/06314 Land at Butts Pond Industrial Estate Sturminster Newton DT10 1AZ Retain industrial building. Observations: No objections. P/FUL/2024/07205 Sturminster Newton Football Club Honeymead Lane Sturminster Newton DT10 1EW Erect detached free-standing spectator stand. Demolish existing. Observations: No objections.



- 24/25/230 **TO CONSIDER THE STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET FOR 2025/2026.**
The Council considered the budget report for the following financial year, as previously circulated.
The Council resolved to approve the proposed budget with a precept request of £458,176.00 for the year 2025/2026.
- 24/25/231 **TO CONSIDER INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT APRIL TO NOVEMBER 24**
After discussing the report which had been previously circulated.
The Council resolved to refer the report to the Finance & Policy Committee.
- 24/25/232 **TO CONSIDER NEXT STEPS REGARDING THE SCOUT BUILDING**
The Council discussed the failure of the Scout Group to respond to requests verbally and in writing regarding their non-compliance with the current lease. A letter had been sent on the 19th September 24 and following the resignation of members of their committee, the Mayor had also made multiple attempts to contact the District Commissioner by email, with no response.
The Council, as Landlords, resolved to instruct Farnfields Solicitors to send a formal letter detailing the matters that need addressing for the group to be compliant with the conditions of their lease.
The building condition report had been given to the group in 2023 so a deadline for compliance of the 23rd March 2025 was agreed. The situation will then be reviewed.
- 24/25/232 **TO APPROVE PAYMENTS OVER £2000**
No invoices for payments over £2000 have been received.
- 24/25/233 **TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE**
A letter had been received from Sturminster Newton Heritage Trust thanking the Council for the grant they had received.
A letter had been received from Stalbridge Town Council requesting funding for their Youth Club, a response would be sent by the Clerk.
- 24/25/234 **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK**
The Clerk had nothing additional to report.
- 24/25/235 **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN MAYOR**
The Mayor had attended a meeting of the charity of William Williams where it was reported that the Blandford Youth Club had suddenly closed.
She will be attending the Hinton Hussle breakfast meeting on 9 January 2025.
- 24/25/236 **TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS AND PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE BUSINESS**
Cllr P Marks – will be meeting with the Chair of the Allotment Association shortly and also meeting the Grounds Manager regarding Christmas 2025.
Cllr A Donaldson – Informed members that objections to the frontage of the new barber shop will be discussed at the P&E committee meeting on 22 January 2025.
Cllr D Mantock – had concerns about the number of businesses in the town that only take cash.
Cllr P Batstone – handed back the Community Star Award presented to Father Christmas. This is due to his personal feelings regarding the Christmas display in the Railway Gardens. She also informed members that the Literary Festival 2025 program is currently being compiled.
Cllr H Lacey – wished to thank Cllr Mantock and her husband for clearing the drains in The Row.
A Dodson – *Requested*, due to recent incidents in the Church Street Car Park, that purchase of additional CCTV in this area be considered.



The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.32 pm

Approved on Chairman's Signature

Chair's signature

