

# **STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

**held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber**

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)

Members of the Public: 0

Minute No.

Comments

24/25/259

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

There were no members of the public present.

### **Dorset Councilor Carole Jones report.**

- The Wessex devolution proposal had been rejected by central government.
- Overnight parking charges in Dorset Council car parks are proposed from April 2025.
- The Budget will be agreed next week.
- There will be a two-week extension on the deadline for comment on the planning application for the land on A357 to give more time for public comments.
- A new officer is dealing with issues at Coralian Heights for Bellway Homes.
- The new Head at Sturminster Newton High School has plans to implement a new civic responsibility strategy.

24/25/260

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All members were present.

24/25/261

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

No declarations of interests were declared and no written dispensations received.

24/25/262

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**The minutes of the previous Town Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025, having been circulated and publicised prior to the meeting, were taken as read and approved for signature by the Committee Chair as a true and correct record.**

24/25/263

### **TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:**

- **Planning & Environment Committee 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025**

The Chair of the Committee reported that:

The Committee had resolved to recommend to Full Council that contact be made with Planning Enforcement at Dorset Council to check that the appropriate permissions had been given for the changes to the shop frontage and interior at Kings Barbers, 1 Market Place, Sturminster Newton.

**The Council resolved to approve the recommendations of the committee.**

- **Finance & Policy Committee 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

The Chair of the Committee reported that:

The Committee had reviewed and approved the balance sheet and income and expenditure reports to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 and the recommendations from the Internal Audit report as referred from Town Council.

**The Council noted the report.**

**Cllrs Batstone, Lacey and Mantock requested a record that they had concerns regarding the recommendations of the Internal Audit report.**

24/25/264

**TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATION:**

- **P/FUL/2025/00438 2 Richmar Trading Centre, Butts Pond Industrial Estate.**  
No objections.

24/25/265

**TO CONSIDER AN UPDATE FROM CLLR LACEY AND CLLR BATSTONE REGARDING THE STURMINSTER NEWTON AREA ACTION PLAN**

Cllrs Lacey and Batstone updated members on the Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan. Further work will be done, and another progress report will be given to Council in March.

24/25/266

**TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM CLLR MARKS REGARDING THE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN**

Cllr Marks updated members on the progress of the Community Emergency Response Plan. A group of Councillors and Staff will continue to work on the document and an update will be given to the Amenities committee meeting in March.

24/25/267

**TO CONSIDER FURTHER DETAILS REQUESTED BY THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS FROM:**

SN Amateur Dramatic Society	£500	Granted
SN Football Club Youth	£750	Granted
SN Heritage Trust	£500	Withdrawn

24/25/268

**TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL FROM CLLR LACEY**

Cllr Lacey and the Town Clerk attended a meeting with the Headteacher at the High School, Michael Mottram and Laura Phillips (Teacher). The first meeting of the Youth Town Council will take place in March and each half term thereafter.

24/25/269

**TO APPROVE PAYMENTS OVER £2000**

No payments had been made.

24/25/270

**TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence had been received.

24/25/271

**TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK**

The Town Clerk reported on :

- Progress regarding a lease or agreement with the Allotment Association.
- Progress with the neighbourhood plan review.
- Progress regarding the Mill lease.
- Progress concerning the Honeymead Lane Education and Leisure Hub project and developer contribution funding.

24/25/272

**TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN MAYOR**

Had attended meeting with Town Clerk at the High School.

Visited St Mary's Church to view the display of Wedding Dresses recently.

24/25/273

**TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS AND PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE BUSINESS**

*Cllr Donaldson* – Had attended the Northern Planning Committee meeting where the Rolls Mill application had been granted.

*Cllr Batstone –*

- Reminder that the North Dorset Towns are running a photographic competition.
- There will be a Breakfast meeting at Newstone House on 13 February.
- She had attended a Christmas 2025 planning meeting.

*Cllr Marks –*

- Updated on current business closures in the town.
- He had tried to locate a local business recently and found that it had closed but brown direction signs are still in place.

*Cllr Cooper –*

- Had a query regarding parking horse boxes in the Station Road Car Park.
- Noted several issues with the Trailway – at Fiddleford Ridge there is a concern where water is running down and causing damage to the Bridge. There has been a dead rabbit on trailway for several days with only its eyes removed – could it be diseased?
- Reported that at Stour Connect car park, some tyre marks have appeared down the grass bank.
- Enquired about the possibility of the Rights of Way group placing a plaque on Colber Bridge in memory of Alan Harrison.
- He asked for a meeting with Town Clerk and Cllr Jones to look at a revised version of the Trailway leaflets.

*Cllr Matthews –* spoke regarding the closure of Nordcat transport and concerns with lack of provision of any other community transport.

*Cllr Mantock –*

- had attended the Hinton Hussle meeting.
- She noted concerns that the Library will be operating a new self-service facility where there will be no staff present but the Library remains open.
- She had visited the Vale Family Hub and encouraged others to also do so.

*Cllr Jones –* reported that work is nearly finished at the Vale Family Hub. He extended an invitation to all Cllrs to visit.

*Cllr Lacey –* reminded Cllrs that the Hinton Workspace also runs events as well as offering facilities.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.49 pm

Approved on ..... Chairman's Signature .....