

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

held on Wednesday 19th March 2025 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber

In attendance:

Cllr P Batstone

Cllr N Dobson

Cllr A Donaldson – Chair

Cllr D Mantock – Vice Chair

Cllr P Marks

Cllr J Matthews

Cllr H Lacey

Also in attendance: K Squire (Clerk), A Dodson (Grounds Manager)

Members of the public: 0

Minute No	Comment
24/25/292	To receive comments and questions from members of the public. No members of the public were present
24/25/293	Apologies for Absence. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Cooper, Fraser, Jones. These apologies were accepted by the members present. The Clerk will apologise at the next meeting for not conveying Cllr Rose's apologies for this meeting, in error.
24/25/293	To receive declarations of interests and approve any written applications for dispensations. No interests were declared and no written applications for dispensation had been received.
24/25/295	To approve the minutes of the previous Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 22nd January 2025. The minutes of the previous Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 22nd 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.
24/25/296	Planning Matters: • Planning Applications P/HOU/2025/01494 Kite Cottage DT10 2EY No objections • To Report on Decisions of Dorset Council A report on planning decisions made between 28th November 2024 and 14th March 2025 had been previously circulated. The Committee noted the decisions made. • Any Other Planning Matters Dorset Council Planning Department had written to advise they were investigating the enquiry regarding the shop frontage of Kings Barbers in the Market Place. • Tree Matters Cllr Donaldson reported the crowning of apple trees at 82 Newton Hill for information only.
24/25/297	To consider a report from the Grounds Manager regarding silver birch trees by the Jubilee Path and agree actions. The Grounds Manager presented a report, regarding silver birch trees by the Jubilee Path covering the current issues affecting residents and potential future issues. The Committee resolved to get some additional quotes and bring these back to the committee for decision.

- 24/25/298 To consider condition of railings at the bridge and agree actions.**
The Committee agreed that the railings are in bad condition and need more than just painting. These are the responsibility of Dorset Council, so the Committee were reluctant to consider setting aside Town Council funds for the repairs. The Grounds Manager had already contacted Dorset Council Highways Department and was waiting for a response. **The Committee resolved to chase a response from Dorset Council and contact Hinton St Mary Estate to ask for their support as adjoining landowners.**
- 24/25/299 To receive a report from the Grounds Manager on Highways issues raised with Dorset Council.**
The Grounds Manager had recently met with a Dorset Council Highways representative to discuss a range of issues as follows:
- Green Close, verges are owned by Dorset Council but maintained as part of an agreement with the Town Council. Residents are parking on the verge or accessing driveways over the verge. - This is now under investigation.
 - Renewal of line marking in Town Centre. - This is being agreed.
 - Drain covers at Bridge Street are being reported to Wessex Water.
 - Possibility of siting bike racks where the phone box used to be on Station Road. - This could be looked at.
 - Railings at the bridge. – As discussed in agenda item 24/25/298.
 - Goughs Close – The road sweeper is too large.
 - Honeymead Lane, pavement is overgrown – This is now under investigation.
 - Old Market Hill, pavement is overgrown - This is now under investigation.
 - Pot Holes, various – This is now under investigation.
 - Football Club, had requested to put two signs up to advertise home games – This was agreed.
- The Clerk will organise a visit from Highways shortly and report on progress at a future meeting.
- 24/25/300 To consider free parking allocation for 2025.**
The Committee resolved to book the following:
8th June - Big Lunch
29 Nov – Christmas Light Switch On
6 Dec – Small Business Saturday
24 Dec – Weekday in December
1 Jan – New Years Day Car Run (next year's allocation)
1 remaining day for a first Saturday of the month Car Meet.
- 24/25/301 To receive a summary from Cllr Mantock regarding training recently attended on Neighbourhood Planning.**
Cllr Mantock gave an update on recent Neighbourhood Planning training she had attended and would circulate supplementary information received to members. She pointed out that changes to planning policy mean Neighbourhood Plans are much shorter now, with Government Policy and Local Plans determining fundamentals and Neighbourhood Plans adding local detail.
- 24/25/302 To receive a summary from Cllrs Donaldson and Mantock regarding the DAPTC/Dorset Council 'Future Planning' event.**
Cllrs Donaldson & Mantock gave an update on the 'Future Planning' event they had attended with the Clerk. This had been very well attended and both felt reassured that the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group were on the right track with their review of the plan.
- 24/25/303 To consider commenting on Marnhull Neighbourhood Plan consultation.**
The Committee agreed that the Marnhull Neighbourhood Plan was a well thought out document but there were no areas of concern to make comment on as a Council. If members wished to comment they could do so as individuals.

24/25/304

To receive information from members and proposals for future business.

Cllr Batstone – Warned there was glass on the road at Newton and commented on the increasing charges in Dorset Council car parks. She wondered if grant funding available from Dorset Police through Operation Relentless could be used for outreach at the Youth Club when set up. She gave an update on the out of hours service provided by the library. Adam Dodson – Advised that the sale of the former Royal British Legion Club House had fallen through.

Cllr Lacey – Had noted a rise in charges when using parking apps and warned members to be aware that in some places the options of duration are different than those at the pay machines. She also advised that DAPTC has released its paper entitled Future Directions for Dorset's Towns and Larger Parishes.

Cllr Donaldson – Voiced concerns that Dorset Council are constantly citing increases in the cost of Adult Social Services as a reason for budget cuts in other vital areas. He encouraged members to report pot holes.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.37pm

Signed Approved on