

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
Held on Wednesday 24th September 2025 at 7.15pm in the Council Chamber

In attendance:

Cllr L Cooper (Vice Chair)
Cllr N Dobson
Cllr C Fraser

Cllr D Mantock
Cllr P Marks (Chair)
Cllr J Rose

Also in attendance: J Drew (Office Administrator), A Dodson (Grounds Manager).

Members of the public: 6

Minute No	Comment
25/26/132	To receive comments and questions from members of the public. A representative from the Allotment Association gave an update on behalf of their Chair. He asked for clarification that the Town Council are not intending to sell any of the allotments.
25/26/133	Apologies for Absence. Apologies were received from Cllr H Lacey. These apologies were accepted by members present.
25/26/134	To receive declarations of interests and approve any written applications for dispensations. No declarations of interest were made or written applications for dispensation received
25/26/135	To approve the minutes of the previous Amenities Committee meeting, held on the 25th June 2025. The minutes of the previous Amenities Committee held on the 25 th June 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.
25/26/136	To consider draft lease for the Chapel at the Cemetery. Grassbys have agreed to continue with the lease of the Chapel on the same terms as previously. A draft copy of the lease which had been circulated with the agenda, was considered by members. The Committee resolved to recommend the Town Council enter into a new 5-year lease agreement with Grassbys.
25/26/137	To consider an update regarding Unit 2, the Youth Club. Work is now underway preparing the Unit for the Youth Club.
25/26/138	To consider the draft Community Emergency Response Plan (CERP). The draft CERP which had been circulated with the agenda, was considered by members. The Committee resolved to recommend the CERP to the Town Council for adoption.
25/26/139	To consider draft Environment Policy. The draft Environment Policy which had been circulated with the agenda, was considered by members. The Committee resolved to recommend the Environment Policy to the Town Council for adoption.

- 25/26/140 To consider pedestrian safety concerning the buggy refuge area on Ricketts Lane.**
A report regarding land transferred to the Town Council for use as a buggy refuge area on Ricketts Lane was considered by members. The Clerk will seek clarification regarding conditions of use placed on the land in the transfer deeds and report back to the members.
- 25/26/141 To receive a report from the Grounds Manager.**
Interviews had taken place for two new Grounds Operatives. There were 18 applicants and 4 were interviewed. The new staff will be commencing at the beginning of October.
All went well at the Cheese Festival despite the heavy rain in the week leading up to the event.
The replacement gate at Colber Bridge has been securely installed.
- 25/26/142 To receive a report from Open Spaces Group.**
The Open Spaces group had met. They had agreed the Co-option of Mr Victor Fox and Mr Martin Jones. They continue to work with the Rangers on the Agreements for Butts Pond and Riverside Meadows. Tree works have been completed on both sites. Wildflower seeds will be sown this autumn.
Staff from Harts held a litter pick using the Town Councils equipment.
The new gate has been installed at Colber Bridge. The painting is still outstanding due to prohibitive costs.
- 25/26/143 To receive a report from the Footpaths Officer.**
Cllr Cooper has been in touch with C G Fry regarding the footpath on the Market Fields site. Work on this footpath will be starting soon.
Currently Wessex Water have a compound in Durrant field but this should not affect the footpath.
A bridge on the footpath from Manston to Hinton is broken – this will need to be replaced.
- 25/26/144 To receive information from members and proposals for future business.**
Cllr Mantock – had received several complaints about the red lines painted on the crossing outside Oxfords the Bakers. This has been reported.
Cllr Marks - there are problems with a manhole cover in Stalbridge Lane. This will be reported.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.04pm

Signed: Approved On: