

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST 26 AT 7.15PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER



PRESENT:

Cllr P Batstone
Cllr L Cooper
Cllr A Donaldson (Vice Chair)
Cllr C Fraser
Cllr P Marks
Cllr J Rose (Chair)
Cllr S Trim

IN ATTENDANCE:

K Squire (Town Clerk), Dorset Councillor Carole Jones

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 4

MINUTE NO	COMMENTS
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26/27/114	To receive comments and questions from members of the public
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The Chair of the Sturminster Newton Allotment Association spoke about the Coles Close allotments project and stressed that he didn't want the recent objections to turn into allotments versus a play area. He recognised the value of both uses and suggested that, if circumstances had changed, a compromise should be explored to provide benefit to the whole community. The Association confirmed its willingness to hear residents' concerns and work with the Town Council to find a practical and fair solution.

26/27/115	Report from Dorset Councillor Carole Jones
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Cllr Jones reported:

- Complaints from residents regarding building site noise on the A357. Mitigation of noise and outlook is being investigated. Complaints have also been made regarding the Market Fields site.
- Dorset Council are holding Community Conversation events in September and October to discuss how various organisations from the area can work better together for the community.
- School funding is a growing concern as SEND reforms will make it more difficult to track numbers of pupils needing support and getting the right amount of funding. Communication with parents will be key to allay concerns.
- Lots of problems with bins and bins collections. Vehicle breakdowns and shortages of staff have contributed to the issues.
- Possible issues at Rolls Mill have been reported to Dorset Council Enforcement.
- Good news regarding Manston Road development proposal, which was refused again.

- Thanks to Grounds Manager, Adam Dodson, Cllr Marks and the Chair of the Allotment Association for responding to Coles Close allotments project issues.

26/27/116 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Lacey who was away and Cllr Jackson who had been called away for work. These apologies were accepted by members.

26/27/117 To approve declarations of interest and written applications for dispensation
No interests were declared and no written requests for dispensation received.

26/27/118 To approve the minutes of the previous Town Council meetings held on 1 July and 22 July 26.

The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 1 July and 22 July 26, having been circulated and published prior to the meeting, were both taken as a true and correct records and duly signed by the Chair.

26/27/119 To approve recommendations from the following Committees:

- **Planning & Environment Committee 15 July 26**

There were no items for recommendation from the Planning & Environment Committee.

- **Finance & Policy Committee 22 July 26**

The Vice Chair of the Finance & Policy Committee reported the following recommendations:

1. The Committee resolved to recommend approval of the income & expenditure report as at 30 June 26 to Full Council.
2. The Committee resolved to recommend approval of the balance sheet as at 30 June 26 to Full Council.
3. The Committee resolved to recommend to Full Council, approval of the reserves 26/27 taking into consideration changes made following finalisation of the accounts for 25/26.
4. The Committee resolved to recommend to Full Council that the subscription to the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils is not renewed. National Association of Local Councils membership should be subscribed to separately.

The Council resolved to approve the recommendations of the Committee as shown above.

26/27/120 To approve the updated Staff Handbook 26/27

The Council considered the Staff Handbook 26/27 which had been circulated with the meeting papers. The Council resolved to approve the Staff Handbook 26/27.

26/27/121 To approve the updated Health & Safety policy and handbook 26/27

The Council considered the Health & Safety Policy and Handbook 26/27 which had been circulated with the meeting papers. The Council resolved to approve the Health & Safety policy and handbook 26/27.

- 26/27/122 To approve the Risk Management Policy and Risk Assessment 26/27**
The Council considered the Risk Management Policy and Risk Assessment 26/27 which had been circulated with the meeting papers. The Council resolved to approve the Risk Management Policy and Risk Assessment 26/27.
- 26/27/123 To receive an update from the Youth Hub working group and agree further actions**
Cllr Marks updated the Council regarding a recent meeting with the 1st Sturminster Newton Scouts Committee and subsequent meeting of the Youth Hub working group. He reported next steps for the project including outline plans, memorandums of understanding and regular meetings with all parties with updates to the Council for approval. The Council agreed with this process.
- 26/27/124 To receive an update on land transfers from the Clerk and agree further actions**
The Clerk reported on two land transfers:
1. Corallian Heights
Funds had already been received for long term maintenance of the agreed open space and play equipment but additional areas had been added to the original agreement including a significant section of hedge. Dorset Council recommended asking for an extra amount from the developer to take on these areas before proceeding.
The Council resolved that the Clerk should try to negotiate.
 2. Glue Hill/A357 Site
Developer contributions for the long term maintenance of the land had been suggested by Dorset Council at £34,475.05. However this was prior to knowing the site included a LAP (local area of play) and that the green space has significant wildlife friendly sections with a management plan agreed as park of the planning process. Dorset Council suggest asking for an extra £9687.95 towards the LAP and funds to buy equipment required to manage the land.
The Council resolved that the Clerk should try to negotiate.
- 26/27/125 To approve payments over £2000**
No payments over £2000 to approve.
- 26/27/126 To receive correspondence**
An email had been received from the Christians Together in Stur group. Asking if the nativity scene that was outside of the Christian Fellowship building last year could be placed somewhere in the Railway Gardens from the day of the Christmas light switch on 28 November 26. The Clerk had replied to suggest a visible place at the bottom of the Railway Gardens and asked about any sharp parts, how it would be secured to the ground and if a risk assessment could be done, she also asked if public liability insurance would be obtained and stressed that the Council couldn't take responsibility for any damage to the structure. The Council agreed this should be considered at the next Amenities Committee meeting.

26/27/127 To receive a report from the Town Clerk

The Clerk reported:

- She had written to thank the Heritage Trust for their hospitality at the recent 'Evening at the Mill' event.
- She was still battling to get the consultant to complete the condition survey report, due to concerns of the Mill Wright and will update the Amenities Committee in September on progress.
- A second funding bid to the Police Crime Commissioner's Operation Relentless fund for additional CCTV cameras, as suggested by the Police Crime Commissioner and backed by Search and Rescue Police teams, had been rejected. This is disappointing as over 70 hours of the Grounds Managers own time had been spent assisting the police and the PCC had specifically encouraged the Council to apply.
- She was continuing to work on the first draft of the strategic plan after the previous weeks workshop and contacting each working group to aid in completing the action plan.
- Further to Council resolution, she had met with the Neighbourhood Plan Review working group and agreed the progression on the review.
- She reported that she had had to go ahead with the IT subscription to WatchGuard for firewall and antivirus protection as the current licence expired that evening but was looking at a market test at the end of the year for the IT support contract near when this expires.
- Lastly, the Council had been offered a spot at the Cheese Festival to do some community engagement if members are interested.

26/27/128 To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor reported:

July

Tues 7th Business breakfast at Newstone House (with Andrew/Pauline)

Tues 28th Chamber of Trade, discussing launch date & event

August

Wed 5th Met with the Clerk and Naomi Mason (Dorset Council) re: upcoming 'community conversations' events – all members should have received an invite.

Fri 7th Meeting to discuss response to resident's email queries, agreed with Chairs of Committees and has now been sent and acknowledgement received.

Mon 10th Meeting with Youth Hub working group

I have attended one civic event outside the town:-

Sun 26th July Wareham Civic Service

26/27/129 To receive information from members and proposals for future business

Cllr Cooper – Advised that the willow tree growing out of Colber Bridge has finally been removed.

Cllr Batstone – Reminded members of the Riverside Family Festival taking place on Saturday the 15th August 26.

Cllr Donaldson – reported:

- Attending the recent Northern Area Planning Meeting to speak on behalf of the Council in objection of planning application P/ P/OUT/2025/06076, Land off Manston Road, Sturminster Newton, DT10 1AF. The application was refused.
- Confirmed he would be attending the Dorset Council Planning Forum on the 8 September.
- He attended the 10th Annual Roma Holocaust Memorial Service organised by Kushti Bok Dorset on the 2 August on behalf of the Mayor. A profound and thought provoking service remembering the ‘Night of the Gypsies’ where 2897 Roma and Sinti people were murdered at Auschwitz by the Nazis.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.14pm

Chairs Signature..... Date Approved