# STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7.15PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER**

**PRESENT:**
Cllr P Batstone
Cllr L Cooper
Cllr A Donaldson
Cllr C Fraser
Cllr L Jackson
Cllr J Rose
Cllr S Trim

**IN ATTENDANCE:**
K Squire (Town Clerk) A Dodson (Grounds Manager)

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**: 4

**MINUTE NO** **COMMENTS**

**26/27/130** **To receive comments and questions from members of the public**

- A member of the Manston Road Resident Association requested support from the Town Council regarding agenda item 26/27/136.
- A resident raised concerns regarding
    1. excessive speeding on Bath Road,
    2. lack of speed signage compared to surrounding villages,
    3. no response following reports to the police about dangerous parking,
    4. Deterioration of town sign on the B3092.
- A resident spoke in support of planning application P/PIP/2026/04574 to be considered as part of agenda item 26/27/135.

**26/27/131** **Report from Dorset Councillor Carole Jones**
The Clerk relayed a message from Dorset Councillor Jones who sent her apologies and updated that while August was quieter at Dorset Council she was dealing with a number of local issues for residents.

**26/27/132** **Apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Lacey and Marks who were both unwell. These apologies were accepted by members.

**26/27/133** **To approve declarations of interest and written applications for dispensation**
No interests were declared and no written requests for dispensation received.

**26/27/134** **To approve the minutes of the previous Town Council meeting held on 12 August 2026**
The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 12 August 2026, having been circulated and published prior to the meeting, were taken as a true and correct record and duly signed by the Chair.



Chairs Initials .....

**26/27/135 To consider planning applications:**

- **P/VOC/2026/04255 8 Plot 2 North Dorset Business Park, Rolls Mill Way**
  No Objection

- **P/FUL/2026/04348 Bonslea Lodge, White Lane Close, DT10 1EJ**
  Objection
  Sturminster Newton Town Council objects to this application.
  The Town Council considers that the proposal does not comply with Policy 23 of the Sturminster Newton Neighbourhood Plan, particularly in relation to fronts and boundaries and landscaping. The proposed development would result in overdevelopment of the site and would not be in keeping with the character and appearance of the surrounding area, contrary to the aims set out in section 6.2.1 of the Sturminster Newton Neighbourhood Plan.
  The Town Council also has concerns regarding highway safety, specifically the proposed access directly onto Bath Road which is opposite the fire station entrance.
  For these reasons, the Town Council objects to the application.

- **P/VOC/2026/04527 Banbury Cross Boarding Kennels and Cattery, Angers Lane, Fiddleford, DT10 2BY**
  No objection

- **P/PIP/2026/04574 The Retreat, Hewletts Drove, Rivers Corner, DT10 2AE**
  No objection
  Sturminster Newton Town Council supports this application.
  The proposed dwelling would occupy a small parcel of land within an existing cluster of residential development at Hewletts Drove. In recent years, the area has seen additional residential development through new build properties, conversions and changes of use to residential use. The proposal would therefore represent a limited infill development within an established group of dwellings rather than an isolated encroachment into open countryside.
  The Town Council considers that a single dwelling on this site would not materially alter the character or appearance of the area and would sit comfortably within the existing pattern of development. The proposal is modest in scale and would make efficient use of a small site within an already developed locality.

**26/27/136 To consider a request from the Manston Road Residents Association regarding land East of Manston Road.**

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Dorset Council to request an opportunity to discuss the options available to protect the site. She had also reviewed the new National Planning Policy Framework to consider how any

amendments to the wording of the Sturminster Newton Neighbourhood Plan, as part of the current review, could be made sufficiently robust to protect the clear boundary between the town and the surrounding countryside in this area.
The Council resolved to support the work of the Clerk in this matter. The Clerk will update the Town Council and the Manston Road Residents Association with further information when available.

**26/27/137 To consider Co-Option to fill the vacancy in the position of Town Councillor**
Following consideration of a valid application, The Council resolved to fill the vacancy by co-opting Robert Goodland to the position of Town Councillor.

**26/27/138 To consider first draft of strategic plan and agree further actions**
The Council noted the draft strategic plan which had previously been circulated with the meeting papers. The Clerk will work on completing the action plan with the relevant working groups and officers and bring the final draft back to Council for approval and adoption.

**26/27/139 To consider funding of the Terracycle blister pack recycling service and a possible community engagement opportunity**
The Clerk reported that a resident had been personally funding a medical blister pack recycling service, with the collection box located in the Town Council office. The service had proved very popular and had brought a significant number of additional visitors into the office. Although the resident had originally estimated that the box would need emptying quarterly, it was now filling approximately monthly. The cost per box is approximately £200.
The Clerk requested that the Town Council take on the financial responsibility for the service and use the increased visitor numbers as an opportunity to engage with residents who may not usually have contact with the Council. She would investigate the best way to make use of this opportunity, including the possible use of an electronic device to capture feedback or share information.
The Council resolved to support the request to fund the service and asked the Clerk to investigate ways to maximise the engagement opportunity.

**26/27/140 To consider Councillor capacity for community engagement at the Cheese Festival 2026 and agree further actions**
The Clerk updated that a table at the Cheese Festival was free on Saturday the 12th September. Councillors who were available agreed to cover the stand on a rota. The Clerk will organise this.

**26/27/141 To agree budget timetable for budget setting 27/28**
The Council resolved to agree the budget timetable as set out in the report previously circulated with the meeting papers

**26/27/142 To review and approve the following policies:**

- Publication Scheme
- Accessibility Statement (Website)
- GDPR
- Privacy



Chairs Initials .....

The Council resolved to adopt the above policies previously circulated, with one edit to the privacy policy, to amend reference to the Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils (DAPTC) to National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

**26/27/143 To approve the recording of Town Council meetings to enable more efficient administration of meeting minutes and actions**

The Council resolved to approve the recording of Town Council meetings for internal administration purposes.

**26/27/144 To approve payments over £2000**

There were no payments over £2000

**26/27/145 To receive correspondence**

There was no correspondence to receive.

**26/27/146 To receive a report from the Town Clerk**

The Clerk reported:

- A reminder for any Councillors who have not renewed their register of interests on the new Dorset Council system to do so.
- A reminder for any Councillors who haven't completed the online GDPR training that it must be done before end of the financial year.
- Confirmed that Cllr Rose, Cllr Lacey and the Assistant Town Clerk will attend the Community Conversations event on the 4th September.
- She had met with the neighbourhood plan review group and made a start on the project.
- She had attended a NALC community engagement webinar with the Community Engagement working group.
- She had met with PCSO Whalley about a walk and talk event at the trailway to discuss safety for women and girls. More details will follow when received.

**26/27/147 To receive a report from the Town Mayor**

The Mayor reported a quiet month, with August being a usual civic break for most.

**26/27/148 To receive information from members and proposals for future business**

Cllr Jackson – Updated members on progress with the biodiversity project working with the Dorset Wildlife Trust. He also asked to work with Cllr Fraser on a water quality project.

Cllr Trim – Reported that she had signed up to 'Scribefest' and would attend some of the talks scheduled.

Cllr Cooper – Enquired regarding siting a bin at Bath Road. The Clerk advised she had requested this but would chase an answer.

Cllr Batstone – Informed members that the Literary Festival and Riverside Festival were beginning preparations for next years events. She also asked if the Open Spaces Group could be restarted.



Chairs Initials .....

Cllr Donaldson – Reported that the planning application affecting Hillcrest Close had been granted officer approval despite Town Council and 27 other objections, he felt it was disgraceful that the objectors had not been given the opportunity to hear deliberations of a planning committee. He also reported that a small variation of the planning application for 9 Rabin Hill had been approved.

**The Chair closed the meeting at 8.36pm**

**Chairs Signature…… Date Approved ……..**



Chairs Initials ……