

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 26 AT 7.15PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER



PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

K Squire (Town Clerk) A Dodson (Grounds Manager)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 17

MINUTE NO	COMMENTS
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| 26/27/155 | To receive comments and questions from members of the public
Rev Mary Gubbins spoke in support of agenda item 26/27/166
The Chair of Sturminster Newton Allotment Association spoke in support of agenda item 26/27/159
8 members of the public spoke in objection to a Town Council resolution to install allotments on the green space at Coles Close relating to agenda item 26/27/159. |
| 26/27/156 | Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Jackson who was unwell. These apologies were accepted by members. |
| 26/27/157 | To approve declarations of interest and written applications for dispensation
No interests were declared and no written requests for dispensation received. |
| 26/27/158 | To approve the minutes of the previous Amenities Committee meeting held on 24 June 26
The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 24 June 26, having been circulated and published prior to the meeting, were taken as a true and correct record and duly signed by the Chair. |
| 26/27/166 | To consider a request from the Christians Together group to site their nativity scene in the Railway Gardens over the festive period.
The committee considered correspondence previously circulated.
The committee resolved to recommend to Council that the Christians Together Nativity Scene be sited in the Railway Gardens over the festive period. |

- 26/27/159 To consider Coles Close green space project and agree further actions**
The committee considered a report previously circulated.
The committee resolved to recommend that Councils previous resolution to install allotments on the green space at Coles Close be reconsidered due to new information not available at the time of resolution.
- 26/27/160 To receive a report from the Grounds Manager**
The Grounds Managers report is attached to these minutes.
- 26/27/161 To receive a report from the Footpaths Officer**
The Footpaths Officer updated the committee on activities and works of the Rights of Way Group, including a positive first 'Walk with Us' weekend over the Summer.
- 26/27/162 To consider solicitors recommendations regarding unauthorised bin on buggy refuge, Ricketts Lane and agree further actions**
The committee considered a report previously circulated.
The committee resolved to recommend to Council that the Clerk send a letter to requesting removal of the bin from the buggy refuge in the first instance and instruct the solicitor to write if this is not successful.
- 26/27/163 To consider a request to for a Yarn Bomb display in the Railway Gardens and agree further actions**
The committee considered correspondence previously circulated.
The committee resolved to recommend to Council that permission be given for a yarn bomb display in the Railway Gardens subject to approval of plans and installation by the Grounds Manager.
- 26/27/164 To consider concerns regarding cooking oil being disposed of, and car washing water potentially running onto Riverside Meadows, and agree any further action required.**
The committee considered a report previously circulated.
The committee agreed to await a response from the Environment Agency and Dorset Council Environmental Health
- 26/27/165 To consider a change to the previous funding arrangement for the town Christmas tree and lights, and whether the Town Council should purchase the main town Christmas tree directly, with the Community Benefit Society continuing to organise the Christmas lights.**
The committee resolved to recommend to Council that it is more logical for the Council to purchase the main town Christmas tree and the Community Benefit Society to organise the lights.

- 26/27/167 To consider an update to the current draft Community Emergency Response Plan (CERP) and agree adoption of the updated working document.**
The updated CERP had been previously circulated.
The committee resolved to adopt the plan as a working document subject to some minor edits of references to NDDC and DCC. The full plan will not be published on the website to avoid oversharing of contact information, but a summary of the plan would be uploaded instead.
- 26/27/168 To consider a request from the Sturminster Newton Allotments Association (SNAA) to investigate installation of a standpipe at Chinnocks allotment site.**
The committee considered a report previously circulated.
The committee resolved to recommend to Council that the SNAA be given permission to investigate installation of a standpipe at Chinnocks allotment site.
- 26/27/169 To receive a report from Cllr Jackson regarding Dorset Wildlife Trust project and agree further actions**
Cllr Jackson had sent apologise so the Grounds Manager provided a verbal update on the project.
- 26/27/170 To review and approve terms and conditions for hire of Town Council land**
The committee resolved to approve the terms and conditions for hire of Town Council land.
- 26/27/171 To receive information from members and proposals for future business**
Cllr Batstone – reported the following a recent conversation it may be possible for the Town to make occasional use of Durrant Field to access Ricketts Lane Recreation Ground for events.

The chair closed the meeting at 9.00pm

Chairs Signature.....Date Approved.....

Agenda Item 26/27/160

Grounds Report – Amenities Committee Meeting

1. Grounds Staff

It has been a very different summer due to the prolonged period of hot weather. The grounds staff have spent a significant amount of time undertaking watering duties across Council sites.

Hedge cutting, footpath clearance and weeding have been carried out at all Council-owned sites.

During the afternoons, when temperatures were reaching the mid-30s, the grounds staff continued working indoors, refurbishing benches, making Remembrance poppies, carrying out machinery maintenance, and undertaking in-house training.

2. Cemetery

The gravel areas around the chapel have been weeded and raked.

A full cut of the entire site has been completed.

The wildflowers struggled during the hot weather but have started to recover and flower again during September.

3. GroundsFest

Jerry and I attended GroundsFest at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, last week. We last attended the event three years ago.

The exhibition provides an excellent opportunity to meet suppliers of grounds maintenance machinery from around the world. We made contact with several new suppliers of wildflower seed, plants and machinery, whilst also meeting with existing suppliers.

4. Coles Close

I met with Cllr Carole Jones, Cllr Peter Marks and Allotment Association Chairman Mike Burt at Coles Close.

Several ideas were discussed that could provide benefits for both the allotments and the children's play area, and we will look at these further over the coming months.

5. Allotment Inspections

A full inspection of the Filbridge Rise allotments has been carried out.

Of the 50 plots inspected, 13 failed to meet the required cultivation standards. The inspection report has been sent to the Allotment Association, and appropriate action is being taken.

6. Vandalism

Play equipment at Rixon Recreation Ground has been severely vandalised over the weekend. I secured the area following reports and the team made repairs on Monday morning. Also graffiti at Ricketts Lane Recreation Ground. Both incidents have been reported to the Police.