

STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: T Watson

8 Ring Street, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 2LZ.

Tel 01963 364276.

Email: clerk@stalbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk

**Draft minutes of The Town Council Meeting held in the Town Council Office
On Wednesday 7th December 2011.**

Present Councillors: G Carr-Jones (Chair), J Cowley, W Batty-Smith, T Bishop, D Hine, A Dike, C Moore, J Smith, R Knapp, P Ashcroft & K Garland.

T J Watson (Clerk)

In attendance

Apologies had been received from D Fox County Councillor.

There were 8 members of the public in attendance, including PC Sugrue.

Welcome to members of the public and introductions.

1. To receive apologies.

None.

2. Declarations of interest.

None.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting - held on 9th November

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting having previously been circulated to Councillors were approved and signed by the Chairman.

PC Sugrue invited members questions and comments.

4. Correspondence: as detailed in annex. 1a.

Date	From	Info	Action
08/11/11	Dorset County Council	Highways questionnaire	The completion of the questionnaire was delegated to a working party to make representation on behalf of the TC. Members: J Cowley, T Bishop & R Knapp.
25/11/11	Stalbridge Hall management Committee	Letter ref gift left to the community by Mr Tim Stone	The letter had been passed to the steering group and was noted by members.
28/11/11	Mr & Mrs Gibbs	Letter ref flags on the ring	The Clerk was instructed to write a letter of thanks to Mr & Mrs Gibbs. Future agenda item for flags on The Ring.
Undated	Friday Morning Coffee Group	Letter ref gift left to the community by Mr Tim Stone	The letter had been passed to the steering group and was noted by members.
28.11.11	NDDC (Planning policy)	Taking forward growth in towns & villages of North Dorset. Invitation to event 18 th January	Noted.
28.11.11	Mrs Peak	Letter regarding disabled parking bay on Gold St & Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations.	The Clerk had made a request on behalf of Mrs Peak in June. On progressing the issue with Highways who advised that the order to remove the space was in progress, but may take 3 to 5 months to complete. The Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations are listed on this agenda. Clerk to reply to Mrs Peak.

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5. To receive a concluding report from the Community Hub steering group and give further instruction.

G Carr- Jones

B Russell gave reports on behalf of The Friends Of The Library, Community Office & The Lights Group.

Friends of the library: Update on the current situation of the County Council's intention to close Stalbridge library. Three options remain.

1. Close the library and depend on a fortnightly mobile library visit lasting between 25 minutes to 1 hour.

2. Fund the library via the precept, a cost to Stalbridge residents of a minimum of £9,000 per annum in addition to the £6,874.50 already contributed.

3. Retain as a community managed library run by volunteers with the Dorset Library Service providing the initial books and additional stock of 300 new books P/A. This option would result in no extra charge in terms of precept should the TC & Community Offices be at the same location as the library. Existing volunteers could be utilised to offer at least 20 opening hours per week (increase of 1.5 hours on current opening hours).

The report concluded in advising that over a third of Stalbridge residents use the library, PC's are in constant use, story time in the school holidays is very popular and the school and pre-school make use of it for educational visits.

The future of the library depends entirely on the Community Hub Project.

Community office: The report highlighted issues in terms of safety, access and lack of parking at the current office and the potential to save money in running costs. Members of the Community Office volunteers are more than happy to give their time freely to assist both library users and visitors to the Community Office.

The Lights Group: The concept of extending the library building, as a capital project to provide accommodation for the TC and Community Office is a unique opportunity, a building Stalbridge could be proud of and a fitting memorial to Mr Tim Stone. The Hub managed by a Community Partnership would allow Stalbridge the opportunity to access some of the monies from planning gains denied to Stalbridge previously.

PC Sugrue advised that he felt that amalgamating the library with the TC & Community Office would facilitate more people visiting and would improve access to the PCSO at his surgeries.

Hugh De long gave a brief presentation of the benefits of having a Community Partnership. A partnership can access potential funding and rate relief which is not available to the TC. Working with other North Dorset partnerships Stalbridge has a voice and an opportunity to facilitate improvements in local transport, broadband access, the progression of the trialway extension and to re-visit and deliver town plan objectives.

There was an open forum during which members of the public present were given the opportunity to speak. Whilst there was support for keeping the library open concerns were expressed that the legacy left to the TC by Mr T Stone should be spent on non capital expenditure for repairs / maintenance at the hall. More consultation and a public meeting were requested.

Members received the draft business plan for the Community Hub and were broadly supportive of the concept of both a Community Partnership, to enhance Stalbridge's position in North Dorset and of the hub building as a way of retaining the library with no extra cost to the people of Stalbridge.

It was felt that more time was needed to review the draft business plan and consider all the potential options in terms of capital expenditure.

Further assurance was given that to date all actions of the TC had been of a purely exploratory nature and any comprehensive alternative capital expenditure proposals made would be given due consideration.

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RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the steering group proceed and defer the item to the January meeting prior to further public consultation.

6. To resolve if the Town Council wish to be involved in an event to commemorate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. D Hine

An e-mail had been sent to the following local groups: Scout Group, PCC, Lights Group, Hall Committee and Playing Fields Committee. It was noted that the Hall Committee had some provisional ideas. Whilst members were happy to be involved in an event / events they did not feel that the TC should take the lead on this occasion. It was agreed to put an advert in the December newsletter to gauge the level of local interest.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement that the TC are happy to publicize & act as a contact point for those wishing to get together to organise an event to commemorate the Queens Diamond Jubilee.

7. To consider the issue of Horse riders using Church Walk and give further instruction. W Batty-Smith

The Clerk advised that N Brown (footpaths officer) was making efforts to find out who the riders concerned were and advise them that it was not permitted. The Clerk had also passed the issue to the senior rights of way officer at DCC, pending reply. Advice was received from J Wardell that if the land is privately owned and the land owner gives permission then horse riding is allowed. Members felt that the path may be owned by the Stalbridge Estate. There was further discussion with regard to the required width of a bridleway and barriers, signs and accessibility.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to make enquires with Stalbridge Estate. Pending the outcome to ask the County Council to erect signs.

8. To receive a report from the street cleaning working group and give further instruction.

D Hine advised that the alternative contractor had withdrawn their intention to tender for the contract.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that before the street cleaning contract for 2013 is awarded an advert is to be placed under Public Notices in the BVM Inviting tenders.

9. To receive quotations for the Jubilee play area fence and award the contract.

Opportunity to quote based on a specification supplied by the Playing Fields' Committee had been offered to Townsend Fencing, Westree, Fencewise & TJ Allard.

Quotations had been received from Westree & Fencewise.

The quotations included: removal and disposal of the existing fence. Re-instate existing gate. Replacement 107 metres 1.2m high plastic coated chain link fence 2.24/3.15 HD gauge or 1.7/2.5LD mounted on concrete posts (WT 3m int.) (FW 1.8m int.). Top rail to be fitted to the side adjacent to the football pitch.

An additional figure had been quoted for self closing gate suitable for disabled access of £675.00.

The Clerk advised that there was approx £2,700.00 available in the maintenance budget for 10.11. (Inc. forecast spend to Y/E)

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to instruct Fencewise to carry out the fencing works including the self closing gate.

10. To approve the December issue of the quarterly Newsletter.

An amendment was requested on the Shaping Stalbridge section based on the report received at the meeting. It was agreed to amend the NDDC section as some information was out of date.

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Contact details were received for PCSO Down and it was agreed to add a piece on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. D Hine agreed to proof read. G Carr-Jones suggested asking the school if they would be prepared to put copies in the children's book bags and the TC would be happy to put school items in the newsletter in return. C Moore offered to liaise with the school.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to approve the December issue of the quarterly Newsletter with the above amendments.

11. To consider the purchase of a portable hard drive for computer back up and give further instruction.

The Clerk advised that the current volume that needs to be backed up exceeds the volume available on current storage pen (512mb). Having taken advice from 4 Counties Computers an 8GB pen should be adequate at a cost of approx £14.00.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to purchase an 8Gb pen.

12. To respond the NDDC consultation regarding Gypsy & Traveller site allocation.

The Clerk advised that there is a consultation event on 12th December should members wish to attend and the item can be deferred to the Jan meeting as the deadline for response is 10th February. PC Sugrue advised that the consultation document is based primary on privately owned land and omits a number of existing sites. Members felt that Stalbridge is not directly affected.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to defer the item to the January meeting.

13. Finance:

a. To approve the accounts as presented in annex 1b. for payment.

Tracey Watson	Salary December	£581.81
HM Revenue & customs	Tax & NI December	£85.35
	Direct Debit Electricity office 30.09.2011-31.10.11	£25.27
British Gas		
BT	Call & Line rent TC & Comm. office 17/08-16/11	£218.38
Stalbridge Players	1/4 page programme advert	£5.00
Direct office Supplies	Paper & planner	£23.75
SLCC	Annual membership	£110.00
Clerks mileage	19/09-29/11/2011	£8.20
Vale Fire & Security	Renew / service fire extinguishers office	£85.00
J Ayres	Mowing Jarvis Field Sept & Oct	£556.00
Gillingham Town Council	Street Cleaning November 2011	£1,685.59
	Direct Debit Electricity WC's 30.09.2011-31.10.11	£12.70
British Gas		
Stalbridge Community Office	In lieu of open evening refreshments and lights for window	£22.44
NDDC	Rent for land adjacent to Pond Close	£12.00
Stalbridge Hall Management Committee	Balance of grant	£684.79

RESOLVED: Proposed by D Hine, seconded by W Batty-Smith and agreed that approval of invoices as presented be made.

14. Clerks report on matters arising.

Grit bin on Westacres Estate: - It was not possible to site the grit bin as originally specified as the grass verge at Robinson Heights was uneven and too far away from the connecting path with Hardy Crescent for it to be of use to both roads. It was therefore placed on the grass verge on the junction of Hardy Crescent so that there is clear and flat access to take grit to Robinson Heights should it be required.

Station Road recycling facility: - To cover the Christmas excess volume there is an option of extra mobile glass bins and additional collection of the large bin. The Clerk advised that this facility appears to be being used on a regular basis by local catering business and pubs /

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clubs. Members agreed to send a letter to them advising the terms of use of the facility and requesting considerate use in times of excess volume.

Overflow of surface water and foul drainage at Ring Street:- Subsequent to the recent issue and the fact that this has occurred at least 3 times in the last 2 years the Clerk has contacted Wessex Water and asked them to advise the TC of the current status of this serious problem.

15. To receive Town Councillors reports.

D Hine – The resident of South Cottage has agreed to having the nameplate (The Cutting) fixed on his boundary wall (not house), with the obvious proviso regarding potential damage being the TC's responsibility. He would like to liaise with the person fixing the sign.

Several members had concerns with the poor finish appearing to be left after the installation of the street lights in the High Street. It was agreed to postpone comment pending the final finish on works completion. The Clerk advised that she had passed on complaints regarding blocking the pavement during works.

T Bishop – Update to members on his attendance of the briefing session on High Speed Broadband for Dorset, budget workshop, CEPEND meeting & Community transport workshop. The DAPTC meeting in Stalbridge may be postponed to later in 2012.

A Dike – Asked members of the Hall Committee present to look into the letting policy in terms of reduced or no charge with regard to charitable events.

Brought a letter to Council requesting a skate park in Stalbridge.

J Cowley – Requested update on the new 5 aside goal posts for Jarvis Field. G Carr-Jones advised that they are still with the Youth Club pending refurbishment. He may consider asking the Football Club if they would be interested in being involved.

G Carr-Jones- Brought an introductory letter to TC from the new youth leader.

Advised that there will be changes in the way that refuse is collected in the future and Michael Roake of the DWP will be invited to Council in the new year to update members.

The Chairmen of the other North Dorset Community Partnerships will be invited in turn to make presentations to Council in the new year.

16. To receive North Dorset District Councillors reports.

None.

17. To receive the Dorset County Councillors report.

None.

18. Date of the Next meeting - The next Town Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 11th January**. All items for inclusion on the agenda must be received by the Clerk by 9.00am on Tuesday 3rd January 2011.

The meeting Closed at 9 pm