

# STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: T Watson  
TheHub@Stalbridge,  
Station Road, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 2RG.  
Tel 01963 364276.

Email: clerk@stalbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk

**Draft minutes of The Town Council Meeting held at the above address on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

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

T Watson (Clerk)

## In attendance

There were 26 members of the public in attendance.

Pauline Batstone (County Councillor), PC Sugrue & PCSO Downs were in attendance.

Welcome to members of the public and introductions.

### **1. Community Open Forum.**

No comments were received.

### **2. To receive apologies.**

Apologies had been received in advance of the meeting for W Batty-Smith.

### **3. Declarations of interest.**

None.

### **4. To approve the minutes of the meeting - held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

Amendments: C Moore was present : Item 7 replace Stalbridge Court with Close : Item 6. remove substantially x 2 replace with major. Item 12 added gave advice at Raleigh Road.

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

### **5. Correspondence: as detailed in annex. 1a.**

Date	From	Info	Action
16.01.14	NDDC	Nomination for North Dorset Building Excellence awards	Clerk has sent before & after photos. Agreed a member / members will attend TBA nearer the date.
26.01.14	DAPTC	Information on 1 <sup>st</sup> Responders	Noted
29.01.14	Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner	Precept consultation 14-15	Noted
	Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner	Invitation to police & Crime Commissioners forum & surgery Stur Fri 4th April	Members felt that representation was essential to express how much the service of a Rural Beat Officer is valued and is a benefit to Stalbridge. G Carr-Jones agreed to attend.

### **6. To resolve the Town Council position on a skate park for Stalbridge and give further instruction.**

The Chairman introduced the item and advised that for 11 years he has had some awareness of young people expressing a need for a skate park in Stalbridge. He explained that consideration would be given to the project in the order of a) Need b) Funding / management

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and c) Location. Some of the comments in support of the project from members of the Youth Club were read out.

A majority of members recognised the need for a facility for an older age group and felt that a skate park would have a lasting use. However some members had mixed feelings particularly with regard to the site. It was noted that the need for such a facility may be increased as the school leaving age is being raised and that public transport to alternative parks is neither easy nor necessarily affordable. The Chairman commended the Skate Park Group for their work in demonstrating support for the project and fund raising.

Comments were received from members of the public in opposition to the project as follows:-  
There is a Skate Park at Henstridge which Stalbridge youngsters could use.

Young people do not go out as they play on electronic games at home.

What would happen if all 451 people who signed the petition used the facility at once?

Concerns were expressed at the potential for antisocial behaviour and disturbance to residents.

The following comments were received from members of the public in favour of the project.

Stalbridge is the only town in North Dorset that does not have or plan to have a skate park.

The facility would be used by inline skates, scooters and BMX bikes as well as skate boards.

A wide range of age groups for 4 to 40 would use the facility.

There was recognition that there is a need for a place for youngsters to meet which is suitable for both boys and girls.

Members of the public asked members to note that the BMX track created in the late 70's / early 80's had been removed when the new equipment at Jarvis Field Play Area had been installed in 2010. There was a query as to why there is a shortage of funding available for the Youth Club, yet funds are available for a skate park. It was advised that Youth Club is funded by Dorset County Council Children's Services and a contribution is made by the TC. The skate park would be funded by the TC, fund raising and grants.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the TC recognise that there is a need for a skate park / wheeled facility in Stalbridge as a recreation facility.**

Vote: 7 for, 2 abstentions: J Cowley & R Knapp

It was understood that a steel structure would be noisy, more costly to maintain and have a shorter lifespan. Further to this members of the public advised that the Skate Park at Henstridge is not the best design. The understanding so far is that a concrete and therefore quiet and durable park will cost approx. £60,000. Members considered that a capital financial contribution could be made from the bequest to the TC. It was felt that future maintenance could be kept to a minimum by a good and well thought out design.

Dorchester Skate Park was considered as an example of a good concrete facility which is well used. Members of the public suggested the incorporation of additional facilities i.e. a basket ball ring. Members accepted that there would be costs involved in maintenance of the whole area and increased insurance costs.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Town Council will make a capital financial contribution to the project and will cover subsequent running cost for the park. (The remaining build cost of the project being made up of grants & fund raising)**

Vote: 8 for, 1 abstention: J Cowley

A number of letters opposing the project based on 2 particular sites at Grosvenor Rd and Jarvis Field Play Area had been received as matters of correspondence at previous TC

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meetings. The recent communications also regarding these 2 sites, included concerns of excessive litter, inadequacy of size of site, safety of access, loss of the open grass area for ball games, disruption to residents, noise, antisocial behaviour, misuse of the facility, lack of parking and conflict of having an area used by mixed age groups. The general conclusion being that the facility should be as far away as possible from residential properties. The Chairman felt the need to apologise to the young people present at the assumption in the letters that young people using the park will have a negative effect on the adjacent neighbourhood. It was agreed that all age groups involved in this project deserve equal respect.

Members of the public asked that consideration is given to the antisocial behaviour issues at the parks in Henstridge and Bournemouth. PC Sugrue offered to address any specific concerns, which were not forthcoming. He advised that the site selection and design needs to bear in mind community safety. He assured that in his role as Rural Beat Officer, the facility would be policed and any issues would be dealt with, if they are reported. He offered to feedback any other information he is able to gather from alternative parks. P Batstone advised from her experience with the Sturminster Newton skate park project, that upon site selection extensive neighbour consultation is essential and that the location and design needs to facilitate the police being able to observe easily without intrusion to the park users.

Members of the public expressed a perception that the location of the park had been already decided by the Town Council. Assurance was made that this is not the case and they were encouraged to access official Town Council records as a point of information.

The Chairman asked for contributions of possible sites for consideration from all present. The following sites were suggested:

Jarvis Way Play area, an area within the walled Sports Field at Park Grove, The Sidings adjacent to the pizza takeaway, Grosvenour Road open grassed area, Station Road car park adjacent to the Hub, the grassed area behind the Stalbridge Hall and the land adjacent to Pond Walk.

In conclusion of the debate it was agreed to form a working/task group to carry out a feasibility study on each of the suggested sites and make a recommendation to the Town Council of the most suitable site. Those who wished to be involved were asked to advise the Clerk.

## **7. To receive residents feedback on the tree in the Springfields hedge and give further instruction.**

The residents' questionnaire had arisen from a previous proposal to remove the tree at the October 2013 meeting. At this meeting some members were reluctant to remove a healthy tree and it was resolved to consult the adjacent residents. The questionnaire was made on the presumption that if the TC do not receive representation from residents they are happy for the tree to remain. A single reply had been received that requested that the tree is replaced.

**RESOLVED: There was general agreement to instruct the Clerk to obtain a quote for remedial works to the tree to reduce its volume.**

## **8. To receive an update from the footpath officer.**

It was understood that N Brown had been liaising with the DCC rangers resulting in the following: Road signs will be erected at FP19 Wards Hill to Landshire Lane and the newly designated FP93 Jarvis Way to railway. On FP1 Grosvenor Road to Wood Lane recent heavy rains have washed away some of the stone surfacing, particularly in the centre section where there is a steeper gradient. Gullies will be dug to help drain the footpath and the stone surface will be repaired as soon as some stone is available.

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## 9. For the Town Council to consider a re-design of The Ring planting, to facilitate more cost effective maintenance and give further instruction. P Ashcroft

P Ashcroft explained that she felt that the Ring looked shabby and that it had cost £300.00 last year to remove the weeds from the beds. She asked members to consider removing the beds and replacing them with shrubs set in grass, which would achieve lower maintenance costs. It was also noted that the grass at the south end of the Ring was being damaged by buses that are not able to make the tight turn right on to the A357. A quotation had been received but there was some confusion regarding the specification of trees and their suitability in terms of visibility.

**DEFERED:** Pending further investigation and the Clerk was instructed to Ask DCC highways for a quote for increasing the visibility splay at the south end of the ring adjacent to the A357.

## 10. Finance.

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

HMRC	Tax & NI February	£83.52
T Watson	Salary February	£775.00
IK Service	Street & WC cleaning January	£1,552.00
IK Service	HUB WC clng 31/12/13-25/01/14	£46.00
BT	DD Line rent & diversion 364276	£41.86
BT	DD Line rent & diversion 364177	£30.39
N Power	DD Electricity HUB 14/10-13/01/14	£154.59
Total Gas & Power	DD Gas Hub 30.11.13-31.12-13	£77.18
Buzz Connect	VOIP phones December	£25.25
Stalbridge Building Supplies	Hub key cutting	£24.48
	Town & hub waste bin rental and collections Jan - March 14	£353.31
DCC	Stationary	£22.74
Direct Office Supplies	Replacement for lost CN 2902 Approved mtg. May 13	£0.94
Direct Office supplies	Plants for The Cross planter	£10.00
Williams Florist	Electricity Library 12.02-13.03.13	£140.32
N Power	Electricity Library 01.04-02.05.13	£148.52
N Power	Onsite service support PC & Wifi Issue	£78.00
Prodigy PC		

**RESOLVED:** Proposed by K Garland seconded by T Bishop and agreed that approval of the invoices as presented be made. It was agreed to sign off a whole bill direct debit to Prodigy PC

## 11. Clerks report on matters arising.

Town Orderly's report: The Hub windows and external doors have been cleaned. The Snowdrop Walk has been swept. Query regarding removal of the ivy making the path 100% accessible. Clear up at the pump on Church Hill, the path up to the Church and Church Walk. The lay-by and seat on the Stalbridge / Henstridge Rd has had a litter pick. Request to members on any specific areas they would like to be addressed.

Help to the Town Orderly: John Harris and Gerald Hinks helped Ian clear large amount of leaves at Park Road on Saturday 18th January 2014. Thanks letters.

What's on at the Hub. The first addition is ready to go to print.

## 12. To receive Town Councillors reports.

D Hine – The small concrete ramp is crumbling at the Pound Close end of the path Pound Close to Dikes. The external stone work at 8 Ring Street is of a poor quality.

G Carr-Jones - 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Community Library, thanks to the volunteers. Conversion works at 8 Ring Street are complete, excellent internal works. Synergy have noted

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the comment on the external stone work and this will be addressed when the weather improved.

T Bishop- Attended the DAPTC meeting. The DAPTC have a new web site.

J Cowley – Progressed fencing repair at Jarvis Field Play area. Clerk advised this is pending better weather.

### **13. To receive North Dorset District Councillors reports.**

G Carr-Jones advised that DWP (Dorset Waste Partnership) are looking at removing the bring banks across North Dorset.

### **14. To receive the Dorset County Councillors report.**

Pauline has been out with DCC Highways on pot hole assessments and encouraged reporting. She is working on the issue of visibility of the exit of footpath 39 at Spire Hill on to the A357 with J Wardell. Monthly written report to follow.

**15. Date of the Next meeting** - The next Town Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014**. All items for inclusion on the agenda must be received by the Clerk by 9.00am on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

The meeting closed at 9pm