

# STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

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

**Approved minutes of The Town Council Meeting held at the above address on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March commencing at 7.30pm.**

**Present Councillors** K Garland (Chair), T Bishop , P Brember, J Cowley, C Moore, B Newton, & J Wardell.

T Watson (Clerk)

## **In attendance**

There were 10 members of the public in attendance.

Apologies had been received from G Carr-Jones (North Dorset Dist. & DC Cllr.) W Batty-Smith (North Dorset Dist. Cllr.)

## **Welcome to members of the public and introductions.**

### **1. Community open forum.**

A question was asked with regard to permission for tree works. Advice was given to refer to NDDC Planning.

A question was raised as to why the Lower Rd & Thornhill Rd application decisions had not been reported at the Planning Meeting.

J Wardell advised that as the applications were granted there would be some further work on conditions and for this reason the decision notices had not been issued yet.

Members of the public noted that there were two members of Stalbridge TC present at the NDDC planning meeting 27.02.18, who spoke on the applications as Ward Member and Ramblers Representative, but there was not a member of Stalbridge TC present to make representation on behalf of the TC. Disappointment was expressed at this situation and members were asked the reason for this.

K Garland sincerely apologised on behalf of the Town Council and passed the question to J Cowley, who she had understood had committed to attending the meeting. J Cowley read out a statement explaining the reason that he had not attended the meeting on behalf of the Town Council (Addendum to minutes). Members agreed that a member of the Town Council should have been in attendance and made representation, however due to a breakdown in communication there had not been the opportunity for another member to attend in J Cowleys place.

Members of the public felt that the Chairman may have a conflict of interest in having multiple roles in local Government and that Stalbridge should be put first.

The Clerk advised that the comments made by The Town Council made up part of the Committee report and that the Chairman had made it implicitly clear to the TC on three occasions that he would be speaking as Ward Member and had asked for other members to commit to representing Stalbridge TC. She also advised that the role of Chairman does not convey any special powers over and above other members other than a casting vote when a vote is tied.

C Moore pointed out that it is a TC member's duty to make democratic representation, regardless of the final resolution differing from their personal views

Members of the public expressed further concerns at the way in which the NDDC meeting had been carried out with particular reference to the behaviour of the DCC Highways Officer.

The Clerk advised that these concerns should be passed to NDDC & DCC

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Members agreed that the matter (non-attendance of a Town Councillor at the NDDC Planning meeting) was regrettable and a lesson must be learned from it.

## 2. To receive apologies.

G Carr-Jones, D Hine, B Penfold & R Knapp

## 3. Declarations of interest.

K Garland 17a. payment to IK services

## 4. To approve the minutes of the meeting - held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

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

## 5. To receive Town Councillors reports.

C Moore – Pavilion refurbishment project is commencing and the PF Management Committee will be making an application to the TC for the funds set aside by the TC for the project.

T Bishop – Attended the NDDC led Development Working Party meeting at which there was an update on the 'Issues & Options' consultation and it was advised that no national building companies wish to be involved in development in North Dorset. He had attended an NHS travel meeting and PPG Chairs meeting and gave an update on the future provision of GP Services in Stalbridge <http://www.stalbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk/news-and-events/stalbridge-gp-surgery-up-date>.

P Brember – Presented the proposed locations for the Silent Soldiers in Stalbridge.

J Wardell - Attended the NDDC led Development Working Party meeting at which the viability of the provision of affordable housing and multiple self-build on sites was discussed. There will be another issues and options consultation. Attended the LMG meeting at which concerns were expressed at The reduction in income received from fines (via DCC). Other Counties have started to do away with fines altogether, which it is hoped will not be adopted by DCC Library service. Housekeeping issues raised will be dealt with at the Hub User group meeting. Attended a meeting with the tree Officer regarding tree works at the Playingfields. At the NDDC planning meeting 27.02.18 she spoke on behalf of the ramblers Association.

## 6. To receive North Dorset District Councillors reports.

Addendum to minutes paper copy available from the TC office or TC web site link <http://www.stalbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk/news-and-events/county-councillors-report-march-2018>

## 7. To receive the Dorset County Councillors report.

Addendum to minutes paper copy available from the TC office or TC web site link <http://www.stalbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk/news-and-events/north-dorset-district-councillors-report-march-2018>

## 8. To consider a request to place a sign on the Ring for a two week period and give further instruction. B Newton

The Clerk provided members with a draft policy for signage on The Ring to assist them in considering the request. Some members had reservations regarding the term.

**RESOLVED: Agreed to grant the request to place a sign on The Ring for a 2 week period ending 21<sup>st</sup> March on the basis the TC do not indemnify the risk and the sign will be covered under the applicants own PL insurance.**

## 9. To agree a budget for catering equipment for The Hub

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The Clerk advised that as use of the building has increased and refreshments are being served on a more regular basis, therefore equipment is required that is fit for the current purposes.

**RESOLVED: Proposed and agreed to have a £100 budget for catering equipment for The Hub**

10. For the TC to take direct control of the domain name and approve associated costs.  
(Ref. Annual risk assessment)

The Clerk advised that it would cost £120 plus VAT to achieve this.

**RESOLVED: Proposed and agreed that the TC to take direct control of the domain name and approve associated costs.**

11. To award the contract for The Cross survey and remedial works.

A report had been provided in advance of meeting

**RESOLVED: Proposed and agreed to award the contract to Cliveden Conservation including the initial visit and report by structural engineer M Kirby.**

12. To make suggestions for utilization of the gift to the Town Council

**DEFERRED**

13. To approve the March 2018 edition of the TC quarterly newsletter

**RESOLVED: Proposed and agreed to approve the March 2018 edition of the TC quarterly newsletter with the correction of a typo.**

14. To approve the draft car park order for Station Rd car park

The Clerk explained that in conjunction with section 59 1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 a Parish or community council shall not exercise their powers under section 57(1) (b) of the Act without the consent of the Council in which the Parish or community is situated; and any consent given by the County Council may be subject to such conditions or restrictions as they think fit. The Draft car parking order is based on the NDDC model. She also advised that she is in the process of taking advice on the future management of the car park in conjunction with any car park order that is approved. The Clerk was asked to establish if the access road has been adopted.

**RESOLVED: Proposed and agreed to approve the draft car park order for Station Rd car park with an amendment.**

15. To carry out the annual review of Members interests

The Clerk suggested rather than do this during the meeting any members wishing to review their interests do so after their meeting or during TC Office hours.

16. Correspondence: as detailed in annex. 1a

07.03.18	The Gardening Club	Opportunity to have a page in the garden show programme	Agreed to have a page
13.02.18	Stalbridge Hall MC	Letter to inform the TC that planning has been applied for	Agreed to advise the Hall MC need to request consent from the Landlord
19.02.18	Dorset Youth Association	Request for funding	Agreed £100
25.02.18	Stalbridge History Society	Application for funding for entry in the North Dorset Museums trail leaflet	Agreed £32.00

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04.03.18	Mr & Mrs Peak	Letter ref ND planning 27.02.18	Letter circulated prior to the meeting Clerk instructed to reply.
07.03.18	C Wiles	Letter complaint regarding TC non- attendance at the ND planning meeting 27.02.18	Letter circulated prior to the meeting Clerk instructed to reply.
05.03.18	Stalbridge Archive Group	Letter ref the 'the way forward' for the Stalbridge archive	The Group had written in lieu of non-attendance by a TC member at their AGM and had extended an open invitation to members to their Wednesday AM sessions.

## 17. Finance.

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

Tesco Mobile	Phone charges 09/02 - 08/03/18	£ 11.50
ICO	Renewal of Data Protection registration 2018-2019	£ 35.00
North Dorset Electrical Services	Replacement of dawn to dusk light switch for main entrance at the Hub	£ 73.20
Prodigy IT Solutions	SIL27746 Silver Support Pack - March	£ 241.20
Prodigy IT Solutions	SIL27746 Support Pack VoIP	£ 134.38
I K Services	Street Cleaning Services - Feb	£ 1,816.67
T Watson	In lieu cartridgesave.co.uk - toner cartridges	£ 336.28
Asda Stores Ltd	Mugs, glasses, plates for kitchen at Hub	£ 36.95
T Watson	Salary - March	£ 1,110.29
P Garraway	Salary - March	£ 424.17
In lieu P Garraway	Post Office Ltd - postage VAT return & 12 x 2nd class stamps	£ 7.70
HMRC	Tax & Ni March	£ 251.73
Dorset County Pension Fund	Emp & Empl pension contribution March	£ 367.18
John Fieldhouse Design & Print	Web authoring for Stalbridge.info 04/02/18 - 25/02/18	£ 288.00
Dorset County Council	Christmas Event Signage	£ 14.40
The Inwood Estate	First half Yearly rent For Stalbridge Playing Fields	£2,236.09
RBL	Silent soldiers x 2	£200.00

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by J Wardell seconded by C Moore and agreed to approve the payments as presented.

### 18. Clerks report on matters arising.

Stalbridge.info Stats February - 2,399 Unique Visitors per Week (approx. 10,500 per month), 7,523 Page Views per Week (approx. 32,500 per month)

Hunts – Report of rubbish overflowing onto the trailway. J Wardell agreed to assess.

Stalbridge Hall - function at the Hall where refuse accrued has been left by the people hiring the venue.

Station Rd car park - Ian has suggested purchasing a grit bin for Station Rd car park

Office task diary – Has been provided to members and will be updated periodically.

Jubilee Play Area- Refurbishment project has commenced, there has been liaison with the PF Management Committee and Groundsmen regarding access via the Playing Fields.

**19. Date of the Next meeting - The next Town Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018. All items for inclusion on the agenda must be received by the Clerk by 9.00am on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018.**

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There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9 pm

See Addendum below J Cowley statement

Date: 04 April 2018

Signed: .....

Chairman

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LOWER ROAD

I submitted to the Town Clerk, the statement I proposed making. I was told I should repeat only what the Town Council had resolved. This, I considered too narrow an interpretation as I would be merely repeating what members of the Management Committee would, no doubt, already <sup>have</sup> had in front of them!

The Town Council's statement made reference to the access onto the A357 at the Ring. I had expanded this to include the inadequacies of the A357 itself, much mentioned ~~by~~ <sup>at</sup> the public meetings on these applications.

I said I was no longer prepared to represent the Town Council at the meeting. I was unable to speak as a member of the public as I had not made, or received approval to speak. Thus, my place could be taken by another member.