



# Stalbridge Town Council Meetings

## Town Council Meeting Minutes

Approved minutes of Video Conference meeting held via Microsoft teams of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Commencing after the Interim Planning Committee meeting held at 7 p.m.

### Councillors present at the meeting:

K Garland (Chair), D Andrews, J Convoy, M Dimmer, H Hatcher, R Lovell, M Robinson, R Roden & S Waite.

### Clerk for the meeting:

T Watson

### In attendance:

- No members of the public had requested access to the Video Conference meeting.
- G Carr-Jones (Dorset Councillor) was in attendance

### 1. Open Forum

No comments

### 2. To receive apologies

B Benfold

### 3. To receive declarations of interest & Requests for dispensations (Please notify the Town Clerk prior to the meeting)

K Garland: Pecuniary item 14a.in relation to payments to IK services.

H Hatcher: Pecuniary item 14a.in relation to payments to Stalbridge Building Supplies

### 4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2020

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the meeting having previously been circulated to Councillors were approved to be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

### 5. Clerks report & Correspondence: As detailed in annex 1a.

#### Clerks Report

Fir trees in front of Maple Row - Obstructing the width of the pavement on Jarvis Way, residents have been very helpful and they have now been trimmed back.

Street lighting in Gold street – Reported that lights are staying on all night to DC Highways ref 15200

Corrugated iron panel / gate in the wall at Park Grove – Fixings had failed reported to Landowner.  
Graffiti at Jarvis Field play area – Reported to PCSO, some has cleaned off, the train will need to be re-painted

General Power of Competence module of CiLCA- For the Council to be eligible to use the power completion of the relevant CiLCA module is required at a cost for submission of £30.00 AGREED

Christmas office closure – from 24<sup>th</sup> December re-opening 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

## **Correspondence**

Dorset Council Highways – Road works report - North Dorset

Dorset Council Highways – Temporary closure of Cox Hill, Marnhull

DAPTC - Second Phase of DAPTC Constitution Review - Area Committees

### **6. To receive Town Councillors reports.**

H Hatcher – Queried installation of SID pole on station Rd, Clerk advised order placed before lockdown in March seemed to have gone astray now replaced order.

S Waite – Attended DAPTC executive meeting but area meetings are not happening as there is difficulty with holding them online.

B Lovell – Disappointed at DC’s policy for road naming not allowing individuals names.

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

Offered to communicate with DC licencing regarding the street naming policy precluding people’s names. He encouraged members to engage with the Dorset local plan consultation due to start in mid-January and to look at the wider picture and perhaps join with other ward councils to make a response. The DC draft budget includes a 2% increase and a 3% increase in social care and covers the loss of income arising from covid 19. DC have appointed a neighbourhood planning officer details will be forwarded when available. Members questions concerned the viability and cost of having a neighbourhood plan and the difficulties previously experienced in recruiting a team.

### **8. To respond to the request for road name suggestions for the Thornhill development**

DC’s policy not to include individuals names was noted.

**RESOLVED: To propose Antioch, Ash, Fieldfare , Blackthorn, Elm, Lime tree , Calew, Woodlanders, Trillian , Robin, Oak tree, Lay, Westerly Wind, stable & Poppy.**

### **9. To purchase of a replacement Stalbridge flag for The Ring. M Robinson**

M Robinson advised that a suitable robust flag had been sourced at a reduced cost and that it may be necessary to replace the flag annually.

**RESOLVED: To purchase of a replacement Stalbridge flag for The Ring.**

### **10. To request that statutory consultees be given the opportunity to speak at remote Dorset Council Planning Committee meetings held during the covid 19 pandemic. L Lovell**

Whilst members appreciated that the Planning Officer’s report will probably have briefly summarised consultees comments it was felt that a brief verbal summary gives the chance to

emphasise views directly to Committee members which may influence their view, especially any who had not fully digested the large number of written submissions. It was also felt that some people prefer a concise, verbal presentation to longer written comments.

**RESOLVED: To request that statutory consultees be given the opportunity to speak at remote Dorset Council Planning Committee meetings held during the covid 19 pandemic**

**11. For the Town Council to send a welcome letter to new residents directing them to Stalbridge.info**

**K Garland**

K Garland advised that this would not cost a lot to print and other members offered to assist with hand delivery. The proposal was amended it include reference to the Town Council web site.

**RESOLVED: Town Council to send a welcome letter to new residents directing them to Stalbridge.info and the Town council web site.**

**12. Review to Town Councils operations in relation to Covid19 and give further instruction in relation to:**

**K Garland**

**a. Meetings (full council and sub-committees)**

It was understood that tier two restrictions mean that face to face meetings are not possible. J Convoy expressed interest in joining the Interim Planning Committee. A suggestion was made to record the meetings. In majority members felt that there was no merit in recording meetings, as giving members of the public access via the phone to participate in open forum was adequate and more than some other Councils are doing

**RESOLVED: Video conference meetings should continue monthly. Convoy to join the Interim Planning Committee.**

**b. Services & expenditure**

The Clerk advised that grass cutting, and town orderly services are still operational. Members reviewed their previous resolution to revert to core services for the period where they are unable to hold public meetings.

Expenditure in relation to safety measures put in place in play areas and buildings managed by the Town Council stood to date at £3,367.17. The plumbers and electricians bills for the WC works are outstanding.

**RESOLVED: To remain at core service provision until public meetings can be held.**

**c. Community support**

The Stalbridge helpers scheme reformed at the beginning of the recent lock down and the volunteers are happy to keep going until Christmas when the service will be reviewed again.

**d. Buildings & land (playgrounds, public WC's & Hub including the community library)**

The Clerk advised that the WC works are nearly complete but there is a problem with the auto flush pressure which needs resolving before they can open. The Community Library have re-opened on the same reduced hours as before lockdown. The tier two restrictions mean that The Hub is still closed for groups and organisations.

**RESOLVED:** For the Community Library to continue to open based on reduced hours and for the rest of the building to remain closed to groups pending review at the January meeting.

**13. To receive the external auditors report for the year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

**RESOLVED:** The external auditors report for the Year end 31st March 2020 was received with no matters arising.

**14. Finance.**

**a. To receive a list of payments made under the scheme of delegation in relation to covid 19.**

**RESOLVED:** List of payments made under the scheme of delegation in relation to covid 19 was noted

**b. To approve a transfer from the deposit to the instant access account.**

**RESOLVED:** A transfer of £20,000 was approved from the deposit to the instant access account to cover day to day running expenses.

**c. To receive the quarterly financial report ending 30.09.20**

Members received information prior to the meeting. The cash book had been verified against the current and deposit account statements to be signed at a later date.

**RESOLVED:** To accept the quarterly financial report ending 30.09.20 as presented

**d. To consider a draft budget for the 21.22 precept and give further instruction**

The draft budget and accompanying notes had been circulated in the meeting papers. The Chairman noted the recent work that had been undertaken to reduce buildings and office costs and encouraged members to consider a zero increase in precept value in the light of the current economic climate due to covid 19. This view was not shared by all members who favoured a small annual increase over a larger bi-annual one. There was some confusion regarding the allocated funds in the draft budget and the Clerk explained that the budget is based on core services and expenditure that has previously been resolved by the Council. It was noted that the tax base figure would be available in the 11th December and the final precept demand would be resolved at a meeting in January 2021.

**15. Date of the Next meeting - The next Town Council meeting will be held via Microsoft teams on Wednesday 6th January 2021. All items for inclusion on the agenda must be received by the Clerk by 9.00am on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.**

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy Christmas

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.38 pm

Approved 06/01/21

Signed.....

Chairman

Date