

STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: T Watson

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

Tel 01963 364276.

Email: clerk@stalbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk

Approved minutes of The Town Council Meeting held at the above address on Wednesday 9th January 2013.

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

T Watson (Clerk)

In attendance

There were 4 members of the public in attendance.

1. Community open forum.

Jan Wardell advised members that the railway section from Blandford to Stourpaine is nearly finished and therefore it is an appropriate time to try to move forward with the Stalbridge to Sturminster Newton section. It is vital that the project has Town Council support and involvement in order for it to have a chance of being successful. It was noted that the railway received substantial support at the shaping Stalbridge event and had potential benefits to the Town in terms of Tourism and superfast broadband etc. Members were happy to offer support and to work with the Rangers and local landowners as required. T Bishop advised that the Community Interest Company may be able to offer some assistance with the project. G Carr-Jones thanked Jan for all her efforts and encouraged her to keep the TC up to date.

Tony Woods brought a set of Christmas tree lights for members review and received members questions and comments.

2. To receive apologies.

None.

3. Declarations of interest.

None.

4. To approve the minutes of the meetings – held on 5th December.

An amendment was put forward by J Cowley Item 6 line 3 replace cemetery with graveyard.

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

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

Date	From	Info	Action
07.12.12	Sturquest	Invitation to meeting 'Core strategy into Neighbourhood Plans' Weds 30 th Jan 7pm	T Bishop & R Knapp expressed interest in attending.
06.11.12	Mr Peak	Letter ref. Stalbridge hub project	Members were delighted to receive Such a positive congratulatory letter.

6. To approve the Library agreement between Stalbridge Town Council and Dorset County Council and give further instruction.

T Lee advised that the negotiations on the Library Service agreement with DCC are drawing to an end. Legal advice has been taken on the agreement, the cost of which has been shared with some of the other Community Library groups. It was noted the new VOIP telephone system has been installed which means that there will be no line rental charges. He drew members attention to clauses 14.3 & 15.2 which referred to the need for the TC to insure contents that belong to DCC due to DCC's high insurance excess of £1000.00.

STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: T Watson

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

Tel 01963 364276.

Email: clerk@stalbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk

There was further debate regarding this insurance at a cost of £210.00. Whilst some members felt that there must be a way to insure against the £1,000 risk others felt it was not worth jeopardising the project. It was generally felt that it would be best to insure the DCC contents for an initial period, to be reviewed at a later date. T Lee advised that he had asked DCC for a contribution towards £210.00 as a good will gesture.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by W Batty-Smith seconded by D Hine and all agreed to approve the draft Library agreement between Stalbridge Town Council and Dorset County Council as presented.

7. To appoint the Library Management Group as a sub-committee of the Town Council and approve the terms of reference for the sub-committee.

Members had received a draft copy of the terms of reference prior to the meeting. Some members had reservations regarding the detail of the document. The Clerk advised the sub-committee were subject to adherence to the TC's financial regulations and T Lee offered to provide a copy of the library management groups operating policies.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to appoint the Library Management Group as a sub-committee of the Town Council and the terms of reference for the sub-committee were approved accordingly.

8. To appoint a Town Council member as representative on the Library Management Group.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to appoint T Bishop as the Town Council member representative on the Library Management Group.

Post meeting note: Subsequent for further consideration T Bishop stepped down for the post due to other extensive TC commitments.

9. To consider the information presented regarding the Council's financial position for the first 9 months of 2012-13 and forecast position at the end of the financial year.

The Clerk presented a balance sheet to April – December 2012 which had been verified with the bank accounts by D Hine.

In addition to this a further forecast balance sheet to year end 31st March 2013 was provided.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to accept the figures as presented.

10. To consider the figures presented for the Budget period 13/14 in forecast income and give further instruction.

The Clerk presented both a forecast balance sheet and detail budget sheet for members review.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to accept the figures as presented Subject to further information to be provided by DCC with regard to the Government grant and subsequent effect on property band D council tax.

11. To consider the figures presented for the Budget period 13/14 in forecast expenditure and give further instruction with regard to the 13/14 precept request. Subject to further information to be provided by DCC with regard to the Government grant and subsequent effect on property band D council tax.

The Clerk explained that the TC are not in a position to finalise the precept demand at this stage due to the Council tax base calculation needing to reflect localised council tax benefit.

STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: T Watson

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

Tel 01963 364276.

Email: clerk@stalbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk

Members considered a forecast balance sheet and detail budget sheet. The forecast expenditure for the period totalled £266,268.24 (£166,239.00 capital expenditure)

Applications for charitable funding had been made by Victim support & Dorset Blind Association.

Members agreed that it was not felt to be appropriate to make charitable donations with public money.

Applications for grant funding had been received from St Marys PCC for £4000 for churchyard maintenance and the Youth Club for a sum of £2,500.00 to subsidize the running of the club. Members felt it was appropriate to have a general grant fund.

There was further discussion regarding the future running of the station Road car park

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to accept the figure presented for expenditure and the precept figure was agreed in principal pending further information from NDDC.

12. Finance:

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

Vale Fire Safety (J Skinner)	Annual fire extinguisher & equipment inspection	£26.50
Blanchards Bailey Solicitors	Library service agreement review & report	£300.00
R Sharp	Grass cutting STC & NDDC 05.09-28.09.12	£621.00
NDDC	Annual rent land adjacent to Pond Close	£12.00
Gillingham Town Council	Street Cleaning November 2012	£1,685.59
Gillingham Town Council	Street Cleaning December 2012	£1,685.59
HM Revenue & customs	Tax & NI November	£133.25
Tracey Watson	Salary January inc. 10 hours OT paid ref mtg. 05.12.12	£845.59
Tracey Watson	Clerks mileage 09.10.12-02.01.13	£37.48

The Clerk advised that to date a total of £107.16 had been received from 3 other Community libraries to share the cost of the legal advice on the Library Transfer agreement.

A further request was made by T Lee for a temporary loan of £1000 pending the grant from DCC.

RESOLVED: Proposed by W Batty-Smith, seconded by D Hine and agreed that approval of invoices as presented be made including the loan to the library management group.

13. Clerks report on matters arising.

Pension: The Clerk advised that there was no alternative to enrolment in the LGPS.

Town Orderly: There will be a meeting next week to review how things are going.

PCC grant in principal for WC's at the church: The Clerk will be sending a letter to the PCC regarding the terms of the grant.

14. To receive Town Councillors reports.

P Ashcroft- Attended the lights group meeting. Reminder regarding the damaged pump on The Ring. The Planning advisory group looked at the tree in the Springfield hedge, further consultation required before a decision is made.

J Smith – Has received requests for more grit bins, the Clerk requested details for mapping. Updated members on Community Office hours. Had received comments from people who offered help at the Shaping Stalbridge day that they had not been contacted. The Clerk requested details. Progressed the war memorial works, the Clerk advised in hand.

STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: T Watson

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

Tel 01963 364276.

Email: clerk@stalbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk

T Bishop – Work on the Travel Exchange is progressing, May have access for some grant funding from Sewing Seeds for Community Office furniture for the hub building. Attending a meeting with representatives of the Youth Club and the Hall. Attending a Community Partnership set up meeting.

J Cowley – reported a pot hole at the junction of Jarvis Way and Station Road. J Smith Suggested reporting via the Community Office. Expressed concerns that the TC has had very little contact with the County Councillor this year. G Carr – Jones & W Batty-Smith agree to raise at District Council.

W Batty-Smith – Home Watch report of three breaking and entry incidents at the Gibbs Marsh trading estate.

K Garland – Progressed letter to DCC Highways regarding Duck Lane – Clerk agreed to do ASAP.

15. To receive North Dorset District Councillors reports.

None.

16. To receive the Dorset County Councillors report.

None.

17. Date of the Next meeting - The next Town Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 6th February**. All items for inclusion on the agenda must be received by the Clerk by 9.00am on Tuesday 29th January 2013.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Date...06/02/13

Signed.....
Chairman