

STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: T Watson

TheHub@Stalbridge,

Station Road, 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 October 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.

T Watson (Clerk)

In attendance

There were 7 members of the public in attendance

1. Community Open Forum.

T Lee requested members consider the appointment of a group to manage The Hub building and members agreed this was important.

J Wardell expressed concerns at the visibility of the exit of footpath 39 at Spire Hill on to the A357 and members suggested that she make contact with Pauline Batstone (County Cllr.)

T Wood made a plea to TC to retain the grass area adjacent to The Hub. It was noted that the land belongs to NDDC.

2. To receive apologies.

Apologies had been received in advance of the meeting from J Smith and C Moore may be late.

3. Declarations of interest.

None.

4. To approve the minutes of the meetings - held on 4th September

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

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

| Date | From | Info | Action |
|----------|------------------|---|--|
| 24/09/13 | DAPTC | Code of conduct training updates | declined |
| 23/09/13 | DAPTC | New publication 'local Councils explained' | Agreed not to purchase. |
| 11/09/13 | HACC | Meeting 16 th October | Info Passed to R Knapp. If he is unable to attend he will advise so that another TC member can attend on behalf of Stalbridge. |
| 11/09/13 | Tree council | Bulletin | P Ashcroft agreed to take the information as TC Tree Officer. |
| 11/09/13 | NDDC | Report S106 schemes / projects | Noted |
| 06/10/13 | Clean Stalbridge | Town Orderly report | Members agreed that Ian was doing an excellent job and agreed that the purchase of CCTV cameras may help with the problem of fly tipping at Station Road car park. |
| | C Cameron | Resident Letter opposed to Skate Park at Grosvenor Rd | The Clerk read out this letter and the 2 below and the comments noted. |
| | Mr KR | Resident Letter | See above |

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| | Smith | opposed to Skate Park at Grosvenor Rd | |
| | Mr & Mrs Woolley | Resident Letter opposed to Skate Park at Grosvenor Rd | See above |

6. To consider the offer from NDDC to transfer the freehold of the land currently used as allotment gardens and the mature trees in conjunction with the proposed new development at Pond Walk and give further instruction.

The tree officers report in conjunction with the outline planning application was considered. It was noted that the offer may include 6 previously pollarded mature Horse Chestnut trees of a moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years. There were some recommendations of tree works which may include the crowns being reduced due to cavities/decay at the previous pollarding points. Members agreed further investigation into the costs of maintaining the trees was required. A query was raised with regard the ownership of the hedge and some members hoped to gain some additional allotment land as part of the development. In general members felt that the freehold acquisition of the allotment gardens was a good thing for the Town.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to delegate the negotiation to G Carr-jones and the Clerk to get the best possible outcome for the Town.

7. Proposal that the Town Council write to the owner of the large leylandii trees on Jarvis Way which overhang the pavement on the east side and request that they are trimmed. **G Carr-Jones**

Members understood that the trees have been trimmed but were still overhanging at a higher level. Residents have reported this to DCC Highways.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to write to the land owner to thank them for trimming the trees and to ask for a more thorough cut to reduce the height and depth of the trees.

8. Proposal that the Town Council facilitates a Hub@stalbridge web site which incorporates the TC, Sub-Committees and community web sites. **G Carr-Jones**

Members reviewed the prototype site.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to move forward with the project and T Bishop offered to help.

9. Proposal that the TC remove the large tree in the Springfield hedge. **J Cowley**

Members recalled that this had been previously brought to Council by a resident. J Cowley advised that as a fast growing tree, planted in the wrong place this Ash may be very costly to remove in the future. Some members were reluctant to remove a healthy tree.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to consult the residents adjacent on the removal of the tree.

Items 10 and 11 were taken together.

10. To receive an application for funding for churchyard grass cutting from St Marys PCC and give further instruction.

11. Proposal that the TC finance the grass cutting of St Marys Churchyard and appoint the preferred contractor in conjunction with the PCC. **D Hine**

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D Hine explained the she felt that the TC should take on the responsibility for funding the grass cutting rather than the yearly current grant applications made by the PCC. Some members felt that the Churchyard could be cut less to allow for wild flowers and others felt that the present arrangement should remain. It was noted that the RBL is now looking after the laurel bushes. It was noted that there is a charge made for burials and that the Churchyard is open to all.

RESOLVED: The proposal that the TC finance the grass cutting of St Marys Churchyard and appoint the preferred contractor in conjunction with the PCC failed in voting and it was agreed to make a grant £2000 for Churchyard grass cutting for this financial year. In addition to this it was agreed to further investigate the costs for grass cutting at the Churchyard.

12. Proposal that the TC purchase a fridge, and equipment to facilitate serving hot drinks at The Hub. K Garland

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to purchase a fridge, and equipment to facilitate serving hot drinks at The Hub.

13. Proposal to form a sub-committee to work on the terms of hire, charges and arrangements for the letting of The Hub. K Garland

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to keep the printing cost the same as those in the library and not to charge for public PC use at this stage. The following members were appointed to the sub-Committee: K Garland, D Hine & T Bishop.

14. To receive a report on the Jarvis field play area hedge / fencing and give further instruction.

The Clerk advised that she had attended site with Westree who advised there is a lot more damage than initially presumed. They suggested that repairs should be carried out in winter to save money and patching of the fencing as it stands would be approx. £8-900. However, as there are so many holes or damaged pieces of fence the following options may be advisable. Laying the hedge along the rear of the field to thicken the hedge and enable easier maintenance in the future. Once re-established regular trims will prevent dogs and persons getting through and it will also be easier to fix the fence if still required as a secondary measure. To the right side as viewed from Cale Close it was suggested to plant a hedge of hawthorn or similar to discourage persons from shortcutting and damaging the fence at a cost of £600-£700 for planting and £600 P/A for trimming if carried out every year. If access is available for a tractor flail cutting would be approx. £200.00 P/A. Other options for fencing the play area would be Metal Palisade or Metal Railings, these would be extremely expensive but would require no further maintenance if galvanised and would be virtually vandal/tamper proof.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to investigate further prior to taking any remedial action.

15. To receive a report on DC highways position on the Duck Lane parking problem.

It was recommended at the narrow section and near the bend there could be a 'no parking' double yellow line section to keep access clear for fire appliances, refuse collections etc. The following options were offered by DCC Highways:

1. Allow parking only at certain times to include the school start/finish times. Allow parking at evenings and weekends as a complete full time restriction may cause problems for residents and their visitors. Possible times could be 'No parking Mon-Fri 9.30am to 2.30pm'. This still allows evenings and weekends and allows school drop off/pick up, but stops all day parking.

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2. Ban parking at a certain hour in the day to stop the all-day parking? e.g. 'No parking Mon-Fri 1pm to 2pm'

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to go for option 1.

16. To receive a request from the Library Management Group Sub-committee to replace the double yellow lines outside the library with single yellow lines and a parking restriction 6pm - 8am and give further instruction.

T Lee advised that the double yellow lines presented a significant problem for Library volunteers who were unable to park. He also felt that they were detrimental to the aim of reversing the national decline in book issues. GCJ advised the previous lines had been covered up when the road was resurfaced as part of the building of Stapleford Court and NDDC had now reinstated them. An adjacent resident was strongly opposed the removal of the lines as they facilitate adequate access to her drive. Residents of Stapleford Court present also agreed that the lines should be retained. Members of the Library Management Sub-Committee felt that the car park was busier and that 2 spaces had been lost when The Hub was built. Further consideration was given to all day parking and scope for the provision of additional spaces.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to carry out a survey of the car park including the use of the disabled spaces and report back at a future meeting.

17. Finance.

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

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| HMRC | Tax & NI October | £83.52 |
| T Watson | Salary October | £775.00 |
| T Watson | in lieu of open day refreshments | £8.63 |
| T Watson | In Lieu of Stamps | £14.40 |
| BT | Internet services | £130.92 |
| BT | Line 364177 | £29.35 |
| BT | Line 364276 | £29.85 |
| K Garland | in lieu of open day and civic refreshments | £24.46 |
| C Moore | in lieu of open day BBQ | £145.45 |
| Direct office supplies | Stationary | £19.27 |
| Direct office supplies | Printer Toner | £394.12 |
| J Rabbetts | Taxi to transport meeting Sherborne | £10.00 |
| Dike & Son | Civic catering | £92.00 |
| Midwest Office | Printer cartridges Clerk | £47.51 |
| Total Gas & Power | Gas Library 31.07-31.08.13 | £8.02 |
| Total Gas & Power | Gas Library 31.05-30.06.13 | £8.05 |
| V McMannus | In lieu of bunting | £52.90 |
| T Watson | In lieu of Key Cutting HUB | £12.24 |
| IK Services | In Lieu of purchase of barrier tape | £10.27 |
| Cutting Edge Technologies | Reception PC points | £177.36 |
| Inwood Estate | Rent playing fields 1/2 yearly 2nd instalment 2013/14 | £1,670.00 |
| Harrier Garden Services J Ayres | Jarvis field mowing 3rd of 4 instalments | £516.15 |
| Bartlett Carpets | Library flooring | £2,345.02 |
| Westree | Repair Jarvis field fence | £54.00 |
| Custom security | Auto door openers | £6,364.80 |
| Williams Florist | lavender for the Hub | £143.72 |

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| AD Wood | 2 x Stalbridge flags | £83.00 |
| IK Services | Street & WC cleaning September | £1,552.00 |
| Wessex water | Water & sewerage services WC's 21.03-18/09/13 | £200.79 |
| Zurich | Additional buildings ins premium | £93.62 |
| Wernick | Portacabin 01.08-21.09.2013 | £274.28 |
| IK Services | In lieu purchase coat rack | £19.98 |
| R Sharp | Grass cutting NDDC & STC 09.08-05.10.13 | £1,260.00 |

RESOLVED: Proposed by D Hine, seconded by G Carr-Jones and agreed that approval of the invoices as presented be made.

18. Clerks report on matters arising.

Council Tax support Grant: Advice from DAPTC: Increasingly uncertain whether District Councils will pass on the Council Tax support Grant in either full or part for the forthcoming financial year. DAPTC therefore suggests that Parish and Town Councils delay setting the precept for 2014/2015 until information about the payment of the grant has been received from your District Council. Members agreed to join with the other North Dorset Towns in a letter to NDDC requesting the grant for 14/15 is passed to Towns.

The Cutting junction: Whilst in Stalbridge DCC Highways had looked at this and as a matter of policy will not erect a mirror.

The Hub at the late night shopping event – Members agreed to offer the Hall Committee an opportunity to use the building on the night.

19. To receive Town Councillors reports.

G Carr-Jones – Thanks to Councillors who had helped with the opening events.

W Batty-Smith – Received a request for more dog bins on The Trailway.

D Hine – Library Management Committee meeting 17th October.

T Bishop – Hall Management Committee meeting. Committee will come back to TC for grant for renewing windows. DAPTC & CEPEND bookings for The Hub.

20. To receive North Dorset District Councillors reports.

None.

21. To receive the Dorset County Councillors report.

None.

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

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Date...06/11/13

Signed.....
Chairman