

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 9th April 2014

Present Councillors: G Carr-Jones (Chair), W Batty-Smith, T Bishop, J Cowley, K Garland, D Hine, C Moore.

Absent Councillors: R Knapp

T Watson (Clerk)

In attendance

There were 17 members of the public in attendance.

Welcome to members of the public and introductions.

1. Community Open Forum.

Enquiry regarding the trailway link between Stalbridge and Sturminster Newton. G Carr-Jones advised that the TC are very much aware of and in support of the local desire to achieve this.

2. To receive apologies.

Apologies had been received in advance of the meeting from J Smith and P Ashcroft.

3. Declarations of interest.

None.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting - held on 5th March 2014

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

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

Date	From	Info	Action
	Stalbridge Youth Club	Letter & Thank you card for grant	Members were very pleased to receive the letter and card.
25/03/14	LG Boundary Commission	Final recommendations on the North Dorset Electoral Boundary review	Noted
02/04/14	T Wood	Letter regarding Heritage Centre	It was understood that the History Group may have some similar aspirations and that a museum was on the list at 'Shaping Stalbridge'. The Clerk was instructed to thank Mr Wood and advise that members will keep this in mind.

6. To receive a recommendation from the Skate Park Task Group on the preferred location for the park and give further instruction.

K Garland gave an update on behalf of the Task Group. The group had met twice and attended site visits. From the investigations it appeared that the only viable option for the location is the Playing Fields. It was understood that the land owner would view the plans and take advice from his land agent. D Hine had attended a preliminary site meeting with representatives from the Cricket and Football Clubs. The feeling expressed was that a great deal of consideration needs to be given to the current uses of the area and negotiation with the current users is imperative. Some members had concerns regarding the suitability of the site in terms of a police monitoring and felt that more police advice was required in conjunction

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with a commitment to management. Concerns was expressed by adjacent residents regarding late night noise and litter / broken glass, which have been problems previously and there was a feeling that the park would have to be very finely managed. The terms of letting of the tennis courts were queried and a suggestion was received for a basketball hoop. It was noted that the Skate Park Group had agreed to take ownership of the area and assist with its management. Members felt that as the TC provides this leisure area for the whole community it would be a good site for the skate park, that the extensive use of the area would facilitate monitoring and that there was no reason to think that provision of the skate park would cause any additional issues to those that have previously occurred.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to go forward with the Skate Park project based on a site at The Jubilee Playing Fields and to dissolve the Task Group for phase 1 of the project.

7. To receive an update on the Duck Lane parking and give further instruction.

A response had been received from DCC Highways on the 18th March that they will be starting on the Stalbridge review in the next couple of weeks. The TC will be consulted on the proposals prior to the formal public consultation process. Whilst members appreciated that residents had been waiting for a long time the TC have no influence on the timeliness of the review.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to ask P Batstone (County Cllr.) to progress the matter.

8. To consider the on street parking options for the High Street from DCC Highways and give further instruction.

DCC Highways requested members views on various options of spaces and waiting times. There was general discussion on the options offered and the appropriate waiting time to facilitate stop and shop opportunities.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to suggest standard waiting times of 30 mins 8am – 6pm Mon – Sat for 4 or 6 spaces on the High Street.

9. To consider the cost for the Neighbourhood Plan press notice and give further instruction.

The Clerk advised that the cost of the advert in the BVM was £198 plus VAT for a box 12cm x 3 columns. The publicity budget for 14.15 is £70.00. G Carr-Jones advised that NDDC will not be offering any assistance with neighbourhood plans until the District wide plan is adopted.

DEFERRED: To a future date when R Knapp is in attendance.

10. To receive a response from DCC regarding the Library fire alarm and give further instruction.

The letter received for DCC was read out declining assistance with cost. A test had been carried out using a domestic battery alarm, which was found to be ineffective.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement that 2 more quotes would be sought with the assistance of Cllrs. Hine and Garland.

11. To receive a report on the grass cutting at Jarvis Field Play area and give further instruction.

The Clerk advised that the 3 year contract had ended. Previously there had been multiple complaints about the grass being too long and the Clerk had never been able to establish the reason for this, given the 2 weekly cut during the growing season. It therefore seemed prudent to have a gap year so that the area can be brought up to a good level and will then be a known quantity for contractors to tender on. As the TC has a good working relationship with R

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Sharp it seem prudent to ask him to help with this and he had already made a start. The Clerk will monitor the costs and it may be necessary to use some general maintenance funds for the initial tidy up. P Ashcroft had commented that the initial cuts had caused a mess and that some trees had been damaged. The Clerk had liaised with R Sharp regarding the trees, but they may have not been easy to see as the grass was so long. Over time and cutting the area will improve and be more suitable for play. It was suggested that the work is publicised in the June newsletter.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to appoint R Sharp on a 1 year contract to bring the Jarvis Field play Area up to standard.

12. A proposal that the Town Council to adopt the Stalbridge flag. G Carr- Jones

G Carr-Jones advised that he had received support from the traders for the project to fly the Stalbridge flag. The Lights Group have committed to working with the TC on the project if the flag is adopted.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to adopt the Stalbridge flag.

13. Finance.

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

	Grant for printing Town History Trail (LGA 1972, s.144) 2 cheques £679.60 J Fieldhouse & £20.40 T Lee	£700.00
Stalbridge History Group		
Wessex Water	DD Water WC's 19.09.13-13.03.14	£184.78
Wessex Water	DD Water Hub 19.09.13-13.03.14	£75.97
IK Services	Street & WC cleaning March	£1,552.00
IK Services	Hub cleaning 1st- 29th March	£46.00
T Watson	In Lieu of open day exp	£23.69
T Moore	In Lieu of open day exp	£9.09
Total gas & Power	DD Gas Hub 31.01-28.02.14	£75.65
BT	DD Line & divert 364276	£76.35
BT	DD Line & divert 364177	£34.92
BT	DD Internet 01.03-31.05.14	£100.80
Wessex Fire & security	Contract end	£26.40
Buzz Connect	DD VOIP phones February	£29.62
T Watson	Salary April	£793.24
HMRC	Tax & NI April	£59.24
IK Services	Materials & labour to Fix bin at layby on A357	£60.77
Inwood Estate	1st instalment 1/2 yr. rent playing fields	£1,670.00
Direct Office	Copier paper	£16.80
Direct Office	Stationary	£5.68
BT	DD Line & diverts 364177 04.03-28.03	£44.50
Wessex Water	DD Water allotments 20.09.13-14.03.14	£15.91
T Watson	In Lieu of clock purchase for Hub	£16.99
R Sharp	NDDC & STC grass in Jarvis Field PA	£1,269.00
BT	DD Line & diverts 364276 04.03-01.04.13	£62.95
Buzz Direct	DD VOIP phones March	£29.06

RESOLVED: Proposed by W Batty-Smith seconded by D Hine and agreed that approval of the invoices as presented be made.

b. To approve the appointment of the internal auditor for 2013/2014 accounting period and review the terms of reference and schedule for the internal audit.

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The Clerk advised that Mr Bedford was happy to carry out the internal audit at a charge of £75.00. Members were happy to use the previous terms of reference and schedule for the internal audit.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to appoint Mr O Bedford as the internal auditor for the accounting period 13.14. The terms of reference and schedule for the internal audit were approved accordingly.

c. To receive the quarterly financial update ending March 2014.

The Clerk advised that the following receipts were outstanding: NDDC grass cutting £485.00 VAT re-claim up to year end £11,287.22. K Garland agreed to verify and sign the bank statements, excluding the Library and lights accounts which will be done at the meeting closing the finance for the year.

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

14. Clerks report on matters arising.

Feed in Tariff payment received - £326.16 for the period 24.07.13-17.03.14

Allotments fallen tee - As previously advised there is no formal agreement with the allotments society. Agreed that the TC deal with the tree and ask the allotment society to repair the compost heap.

At the Hub - April: Community Web Site consultation events. May: The History Trail Launch and Charity art exhibition.

The U3A - Members were not willing to offer any additional discount on the letting charges.

Co-option of members - The Chairman had received a letter of resignation from A Dike. A letter has been prepared in acknowledgement of his resignation and thanks for his efforts as a Town Council member. A notice has been posted that a casual vacancy has arisen. In the absence of a request for an election the vacancy will be filled by co-option. Persons wishing to fill the vacancy should express interest to the Clerk in writing after the 1st May.

Street Cleaning contract with NDDC - Signatures and witnesses were requested.

15. To receive Town Councillors reports.

K Garland - request from Vi Mowlam for Tombola prizes.

J Cowley - Query on the future of NDDC

W Batty-Smith - Report made regarding lorry parking on the pavement in Pound Close.

C Moore - Informal voluntary litter pick on Station Rd produced 16 bags of litter.

T Bishop - Thanks to the Clerk for assistance with collation of stats for the Travel Exchange report. The setting up of a local Action Group covering North and East Dorset and Sherborne, to access European funding and support economic growth.

16. To receive North Dorset District Councillors reports.

None.

17. To receive the Dorset County Councillors report.

None.

18. Date of the Next meeting - The next Town Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 7th May 2014**. All items for inclusion on the agenda must be received by the Clerk by 9.00am on Tuesday 29th April 2014.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Date...07/05/14

Signed.....
Chairman