

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 6th August commencing after the planning meeting.

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

T Watson (Clerk)

In attendance

There was 1 member of the public in attendance.

Pauline Batstone (Dorset County Councillor) was present.

Welcome to members of the public and introductions.

1. Community open forum.

No comments received.

2. To receive apologies.

Apologies had been received in advance of the meeting from G Carr-Jones.

3. Declarations of interest.

None.

4. To approve the minutes of the following meetings - held on 2nd July.

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
21.07.14	Sturminster Newton High School	Invitation to community open Morning 25.09.14	P Ashcroft agreed to attend.
01.08.14	NDDC	Consultation on the local plan 2011-2026 pre-submission changes deadline 12.09.14	It was noted that the changes are based on the removal of the Blandford Crown Meadows site in favour of the larger St Mary's Hill site. J Wardell will be attending the exhibition of the plan and will report back.

6. To approve the External Auditor's recommendation on the valuation of the Hub building and amend section 9 of the account statement for 13/14 accordingly.

The Clerk advised that the External Auditor recommends that The Hub building is valued at the build cost.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by W Batty-Smith, seconded by R Knapp and agreed to amend the fixed asset register and section 9 of the annual return in conjunction with the External Auditor's recommendation.

7. To review the annual inventory inspection and give further instruction.

It was noted that during this year the Clerk will bring the following to Council for consideration: repair to the bus shelter, removal / size reduction of tree in the Springfield hedge, works associated with the playground inspection reports. The posts at The Cross will be reported to

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DDC highways and members agreed not to do any remedial works to the Stalbridge Weston notice board and bus shelter as both are disused. C Moore gave a report on The Playing Fields and pavilion. It was noted that there is an ongoing problem with animal fouling on the sports fields and that there are plans to extend and refurbish the pavilion. The mower used to cut the Jubilee Play Area is out of action and may not be repairable. It may be necessary to dispose of it and write it off the fixed asset list.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement that the review had been comprehensive and that works will be brought to Council during the year.

8. To receive a grant funding application from the Playing Fields Management Committee for pavilion refurbishment and give further instruction.

C Moore explained that The Playing Fields Management Committee have commenced a project to extend and refurbish the pavilion. Preliminary plans have been drawn up and the next stage is to have formal plans drawn for a planning application. The total cost of the project is estimated at between £100,000 and £125,000 and funding has been identified from various sources, through the Sports Clubs. The proposed works will provide larger and better showering facilities and more storage for equipment, meaning the metal container can be removed. Preliminary discussion has taken place with the Landowner which has been positive. Members noted that the current lease on the land stands for another 7 years and it was considered whether it may be prudent to negotiate a new lease prior to the works. It was noted that the capital funds stand at £60,229.63.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to set aside a capital grant sum of £25,000.00 for pavilion refurbishment.

9. To receive notice of the Christmas lights events.

It was noted that the lights switch on is on the 1st December and the late night shopping is on the 5th.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to note the dates and permit the events.

10. To receive members wish list for 15/16 precept.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement that Members wished to see provision of funds in the 15/16 precept for the following:

Skate Park, replacement play equipment for Jubilee Play area, the Trailway extension to connect Stalbridge with Sturminster Newton and the visibility splay at the South end of The Ring.

11. To approve the Local Government Pension Scheme employer's discretionary policy.

The Clerk explained that this was mandatory for an LGPS scheme and that she had used the District Councils' policy as a template. D Hine agreed to review the document.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to approve the Local Government Pension Scheme employer's discretionary policy subject to the review by D Hine.

12. Finance.

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

HMRC	Tax & NI August	£62.24
T Watson	Salary August	£793.24
T Watson	In Lieu of stamps Purchased	£14.88
T Watson	Shaftesbury car parking RFO mtg	£1.20

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Direct Office Supplies	Copier paper	£16.80
Prodigy PC	ESET anti-virus 3 yr.	£261.32
Prodigy PC	Silver BS 5 units & back up June	£109.20
Buzz networks Ltd	DD VOIP phones June	£28.27
Local World	Library works advert	£66.24
Total Gas & Power	DD Gas Hub 31/05/14-30.06.14	£6.75
BT	DD Line rent and diversion charges 364177 01.07-31.07.14	£43.99
BT	DD Line rent and diversion charges 364276 01.07.-31.07.14	£106.88
DCC	Hub & town bins 06-08/14	£419.13
IK Services	Hub cleaning 1st - 31st July	£54.00
IK Services	Street & WC cleaning June	£1,552.00
IK Services	Install bin at Jubilee play area	£34.10
IK Services	Install bin at Dikes path	£34.10
IK Services	White lining for hub parking	£19.96
J Harris	New WC flush & float valve Station Rd WC's	£75.00
North Dorset Electrical Services	Move EL switch in library	£72.00
N Power	Electricity Hub 22.04.14-08.07.14	£167.79
T Watson	In lieu of flip chart stand purchase from Blandford Office Supplies	£46.80
R Sharp	Grass cutting STC, NDDC Inc. Jarvis Field & Jubilee Play area 03.07-05.08.14	£1,684.00
St Marys PCC	Grant churchyard grass cutting ref EM 29.01.14	£2,000.00
Stalbridge Youth Club	Grant hall rent ref EM 29.01.14	£1,500.00

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

b) To receive the quarterly financial report April – June 2014

Members had been provided with the figures prior to the meeting. The bank statements had been signed and verified by K Garland. The bank balance at the end June stood at £143,854.71. A forecast balance sheet to year end March 2015 was provided.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to accept the figures for the quarterly financial report April – June 2014 as presented.

13. Clerks report on matters arising.

First Dorset Credit Union – Friday 15th August will be the last session at the Hub due to lack of footfall.

Online backup charges increase – As of 1st September increase of £5.00 to £20.00 per month plus VAT.

Bier House – To be used for storage for some of the Lights Group games.

Hearing loop – A third company have visited site and will be providing a quote.

14. To receive Town Councillors reports.

P Ashcroft – Lights Group Sunday Fun day raised approx. £800.00. Queried when the overnight street lights switch off was commencing. P Batstone advised this is being rolled out in stages across the County. Water leak in the Road outside the Forge. (Post meeting note the road is marked blue so Wessex Water are aware.) Bush with brambles at The Pound needs attention. J Wardell agreed to take a look.

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J Smith – Received a request for a narrow road sign at the brow of Barrow Hill.

J Wardell – Vegetation causing bulges in the wall at Church Walk. Clerk to report to land owner.

T Bishop- Attended CEPEND Chairs meeting, may have secured some funding for Stalbridge for clerical assistance. Update on meeting with Community Partnerships regarding the future of the Rural Enterprise Partnership. Queried if TC members are attending surgeries on Saturday mornings at The Hub.

J Cowley – Query if the leylandi trees on Station Road had been cut. The Clerk advised that the report ref: 1020420 had been closed on the 'Dorset For Your' web site, so she presumed that the matter had been resolved.

D Hine – Said that the Church carrillon had not been working for some time. Members who live close to the Church confirmed it was now working. Requirement for a drop kerb to be installed at the Pound Close end of the Dikes path. Clerk to confirm ownership and responsibility for land.

15. To receive North Dorset District Councillors reports.

None.

16. To receive the Dorset County Councillors report.

P Batstone advised that there is a delay with the Road traffic regulation orders for Stalbridge and they may not happen until March / April 2015. Members were very disappointed to receive this news, with the High Street traders particularly in mind over the Christmas period. P Batstone agreed to take this up with DCC Highways up and report back.

17. Date of the Next meeting - The next Town Council meeting will be held on Wednesday **3rd September 2014**. All items for inclusion on the agenda must be received by the Clerk by 9.00am on Tuesday 26th August 2014.

The meeting closed at 8.28 pm

Date...03/09/14

Signed.....
Chairman