

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 8th July 2015 commencing at 7pm.

Present Councillors: G Carr-Jones (Chair), T Bishop, J Cowley, K Garland, R Knapp, C Moore, B Penfold & J Wardell.

T Watson (Clerk)

In attendance

P Batstone (Dorset County Cllr.) was in attendance and apologies had been received from W Batty-Smith (North Dorset Dist. Cllr.)

There was one member of the public in attendance.

Welcome to members of the public and introductions.

1. Community Open Forum.

J Turnbull invited members to make up a team for the hall quiz night.

2. To receive apologies.

P Ashcroft, P Brember & D Hine

3. Declarations of interest.

K Garland declared a pecuniary interest item 15a (IK services) and stated that she would abstain from the vote on that payment.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting - held on 10th June 2015.

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

5. To receive Town Councillors reports.

B Penfold – Apologised for missing the Emergency Planning meeting. Attended Planning training at Blandford at which the acoustics in room were not good.

K Garland – Advised that Paul Wells had an alternative idea of solid ground material at the Western end of The Ring rather than posts up to the edge.

G Carr-Jones - Requested a written update on The Hall electrical remedial works.

J Cowley – Enquired as to whether a reply had been received from DCC Highways regarding the TC's request that Station Rd be re-surfaced. The Clerk advised no reply as yet.

T Bishop-Attended a beneficial meeting of CEPEND and West Dorset Community Partnerships. Attended the Northern District Local Action Group meeting, at which the Shadow Executive was appointed.

C Moore – Rob Selway has cut the grass on the land adjacent to Pond Walk and a letter of thanks has been sent.

J Wardell - Attended informative and useful Planning training at Marnhull, would have liked more information on permitted development. Report that a footpath through Stalbridge Park is obstructed by a locked gate. This was due to livestock being released though a gate left open, working with the land owner to resolve. Suggested an item in a future TC newsletter regarding considerate use of footpaths over land where livestock is being kept.

6. Clerks report on matters arising.

There is a possibility of a weekly mobile library that will visit Stalbridge at Station Rd car Park. The Clerk asked members to consider the Library fire alarm extension quotes in the light of DCC's decline to contribute to costs. It was suggested that advice is taken from the Fire Officer prior to proceeding. There was a further query in terms of the book insurance.

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Post meeting note: Book stock insured by the TC

7. To receive Dorset District Councillors reports.

G Carr-Jones advised that NDCC are working of the Station Road car park transfer to Stalbridge Town Council. J Cowley enquired if NDDC gets a grant for providing the car park. Both P Batstone and G Carr-Jones did not think this was current arrangement. The Ring finger post is being refurbished by a local volunteer. Disappointed at the high cost of new letters from DCC. Attended meeting with South Somerset District Council 'South West Powerhouse' forum.

8. To receive the Dorset County Councillors report.

Pauline had attended the Northern District Local Action Group meeting and hoped that in the future this group would help to enable funds for small business support. She had also attended regulatory committee training and had involvement in the County Councils 'Forward Together' transformation programme, which has identified potential savings for the financial year 15/16.

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

Date	From	Info	Action
	Brian Scott	E mail ref Park Wall repairs	Reported to land owner
08.07.15	DCC	Highways TV programme	Noted

10. To receive a report from the working group appointed to consider the Playing Fields Management Committees request that dogs be banned from the Playing Fields and give further instruction.

And extensive report was received from C Moore. It was noted that as the land is privately owned and therefore a public space protection order may not be the way forward, though as the TC has possession under the lease it does have a controlling legal interest. A suggestion was made to seek advice from the dog warden, though as the role is contracted out members were unsure as to whether advice would be available. Colin Moore advised that locking the gates at night may be a possible part solution, however finding someone to commit to do this may be difficult. It was noted that it was difficult to enforce the on lead rule and it was apparent that some dog walkers were not adhering to this, taking photos of offenders was suggested. Further publicity and the installation of CCTV cameras were discussed.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to support to phase one of the project and subject to submission of costs to commit funds to facilitate publicity, signage and equipment.

11. To receive a report concerning the Playing Fields Trust finances and give further instruction.

C Moore

C Moore advised that the Playing Fields Committee accounts show a downward trend in funds and there is little opportunity for income generation other than cub fees. It was noted that the TC pay the annual rent on the land and in previous years there had been an annual grant made for running expenses. Members suggested that the Playing Fields Trust make the clubs aware of the situation and it was noted that there was a proposed rise in club fees. It was suggested that if the clubs use the area for major fundraising such as the football tournament the Playing Fields Trust should have some share in the income, particularly from parking on the land. C Moore agreed to make a stabilising grant fund application to the TC and the relevant paperwork was supplied.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that press and public be excluded for item 12 in accordance with standing order 1c. as a matter personal to a Council employee.

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12. Following interviews on the 2nd July to receive a recommendation from the appointed working group on the appointment of the Assistant Clerk and give further instruction.
K Garland

RESOLVED: The appointment of the assistant Clerk was resolved. Suggested start date 3rd August.

J Cowley abstained from the vote.

13. To receive feedback on 'Solar Farm Community benefit' briefing and give further instruction.
J Wardell

J Wardell and the Clerk had attended the briefing hosted by the DCC Renewable Energy Development Officer, the aim of which was to support Town and Parish Councils to successfully negotiate, set up and manage community benefit funds arising from solar farms in their area.

The definition of a Community benefit' is "a voluntary commitment on behalf of a developer to put money into a fund which is made available to any community project that is agreed locally."

There were fifteen representatives of Dorset Parish and Town Councils present who were in the process of or had already benefited from community benefit contributions.

The DCC solicitor present advised that provision of community financial benefit is voluntary and is not a material consideration in determining renewable energy planning applications. Further to this any arrangement of receiving a community benefit is not incumbent on support of any planning application.

It was understood that there is no national guidance on solar farm community benefits and the amount of contribution can vary from a yearly index linked contribution rate per MW over a fixed number of years to a one off lump sum.

J Wardell advised that the site of the solar farm is leased from the land owner by a developer. It is advisable to approach the developer at the earliest opportunity in order to achieve a signed agreement with both the land owner and the leaseholder to ensure that the agreement remains valid should the lease be sold on after installation.

Whilst J Cowley expressed concerns that receipt of a community benefit would set a precedent for further installations in the area, other members did not share this concern.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement that three TC representatives and the Clerk initiate Community benefit negotiations with British Solar Renewables.

14. To receive an estimate from DCC Highways for the installation of a dropped kerb at the Path Dikes to Pound Close and give further instruction. D Hine

The Clerk advised that a quote had been received to a value of £488.68 for the works.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to instruct DCC Highways to commence with the works for the installation of a dropped kerb at the Path Dikes to Pound Close.

15. Finance.

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

HMRC	Tax & NI July	£169.64
Dorset County Pension fund	emp & emp'y pension cont. July	██████████
T Watson	Salary July	██████████
T Watson	In lieu stamps purchased	£7.56
T Watson	In lieu of Vat on PN 50	£3.99
T Watson	In lieu of purchase of desk fans	£33.98
T Watson	In lieu of purchase of socket covers	£7.47
T Watson	In lieu of purchase magnetic door lock	£6.09

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T Watson	In lieu of purchase safety signs	£19.27
Blandford Office Supplies	Filing cabinet for archive TCM 04.02.15	£130.80
total gas & Power	Gas hub 30.05-30.05.15	£31.93
DD Prodigy PC	Silver service June	£139.20
Tesco mobile	Mobile phone	£11.50
BT	Broadband 01.06-31.08.15	£123.20
IK Services	Street cleaning June	£1,682.52
DAPTC	Annual subs 2015/2016	£717.45
J Rabbetts	Taxi to transport mtg	£10.00
DD Buzz Networks	VOIP phones July	£28.04
Direct Office Supplies	Paper and copier toner	£165.78
Custom Fire & Security	Emergency lighting service	£192.00
DD BT	Line & re-directs 364177 01-31.07.15	£58.90
DD BT	Line & re-directs 364276 01-31.07.15	£121.37
R Sharp	STC & NDDC Grass cutting	£1,097.50
Mb Electrical	Pat Testing	£310.00
DD Total gas & power	Hub gas 31.05-30.06.15	£6.70

RESOLVED: Proposed by J Wardell seconded by T Bishop and agreed that approval of the invoices as presented be made.

K Garland abstained from the vote on the approval of the payment to IK services

b. To receive the quarterly financial report ending June 2014

DEFERRED: To the next meeting as the June bank statements have not arrived.

The Clerk made a request for a transfer between the Deposit and instant access accounts of £20,000.00 to cover day to day running expenses.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to make the transfer as requested.

16. Date of the Next meeting - The next Town Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th August 2015. All items for inclusion on the agenda must be received by the Clerk by 9.00am on Tuesday 28th July 2015.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Date 19.08.15

Signed.....
Chairman