



Stalbridge Town Council Meetings

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Approved minutes of a meeting of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th April 2025.
(Held at The Hub Commencing at 7 p.m.)

Councillors present at the meeting:

K Garland (Chairman), P Hancock & J Wardell.

Clerk for the meeting:

T Watson. Admin Officer P Channon was also present

J Vitali (Dorset Council Ward member). Was present

There were 4 members of the public present.

Open forum.

No comments.

1. To receive apologies

S Carden.

2. To receive declarations of interest and requests for dispensations (Please notify the Town Clerk prior to the meeting)

K Garland – pecuniary item 14.a. in relation to the payment to IK Services.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2025

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

4. To receive the Dorset Councillors report.

J Vitali gave an update on the Blackmore Meadows Vistry works. He advised that Sovereign Homes had committed to remedial works on the water and algae at the entrance to Poind Walk. He offered members the opportunity to join him in a meeting with the developers of the land adjacent to Pond Walk as works are due to commence soon. (P Hancock & J Wardell to attend).

He offered to assist with the project of providing addition allotment land in the town. (Clerk to provide allotment society Chairman's contact details). He committed to asking the Leader of Dorset Council if he is interested in the 'New Start' project which is a research piece commissioned by

Dorset Council to explore devolution of functions to Towns and Parishes. Advised of a meeting with P Hancock, Dorset Highways and Planners regarding highways infrastructure and traffic management in relation to the Station Rd sites.

5. Planning

a. To respond to Dorset Council planning consultations.

- i) **P/HOU/2025/01599 Erect single storey extension. Ash House Track To Priors Down Stalbridge DT10 2RS. Mr & Mrs A Griffin.**

Whilst it was noted that the footprint of the dwelling would increase in general, no members had reason to object to the proposal.

RESOLVED: Unanimously support the application.

- ii) **P/VOC/2025/00995 Conversion & extension of barn to create 1no. dwelling (with variation of conditions 2 & 3 of planning permission P/FUL/2021/01541 to amend approved plans & window/door details). The Forge Ring Street Stalbridge DT10 2NE. Mrs A Jagers.**

It was noted that the conservation officer does not support the proposal. Members felt that the application was substantially different to that previously approved and should be a new application rather than a variation of condition.

RESOLVED: To strongly object on the grounds that it is in conservation area and not in keeping with surrounding buildings. It is also a complete demolition and new build contrary to the original approved plans.

- iii) **P/HOU/2025/01808 Erect single storey extensions. Chestnut Cottage Cooks Lane To Kingsmill Road Across Stalbridge Common - Road Stalbridge DT10 2SH. K & S Graham.**

In general members saw no reason to object to the proposal.

RESOLVED: To support the application.

b. Recent planning decisions of Dorset Council

P/LBC/2025/00737 & P/HOU/2025/00736. Installation of a new sewage treatment plant and associated drainage. Lower Farm Cottage Pile Lane To Lower Farm - Lane Stalbridge Weston DT10 2LA. Granted 26.3.25

P/FUL/2024/07294. Remove existing cabin and erect hunting lodge. Land At E 374017 N 115929 Cooks Lane Thornhill Stalbridge DT10 2SH. Granted 24.3.25

P/OUT/2025/00063. Erection of 2no. dwellings (outline application with all matters reserved). Land south of Lower Road Stalbridge DT10 2PQ. Granted 18.3.25

P/RES/2023/05768. Erect 130 No. dwellings, form public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS). (Reserved matters application to determine appearance, landscaping, layout and scale; following the grant of Outline Planning Permission No. PP/D1265/W/21/3284485

c. Report on responses to planning consultations

None.

d. Appeals and matters of report from previous applications

None.

e. Members planning matters of report

J Wardell updated members on her attendance and presentation of Town Councils views on application P/RES/2023/05768 at the of the area North Planning Committee meeting.

6. To appoint a TC member representative to the Playingfields Management Committee.

The Clerk advised that the in conjunction with clause 2 of the lease with the Inwood Estate the Town Council is listed as a trustee of the Playingfields Fields and as such should have membership of the management committee.

RESOLVED: To appoint J Wardell as the TC representative to the Playingfields Management Committee.

7. To receive the Annual inventory review 24/25.

A detailed inspection report with prioritised actions was presented. A suggestion was made that the millennium stone should be jet washed.

RESOLVED: Annual inventory review comments and actions noted.

8. Future Town Vision Project: To receive members portfolio proposals.

a. To award the contract for the Town Council tree survey 2025. J Wardell (Open Spaces)

A project plan and copies of quotes had been provided with the meeting papers via e mail. It was noted from the previous tree survey in 2019 that there are 38 individual trees and 27 in groups identified. Four companies had been approached to quote, two of which had provided quotations. Whist the costs of the survey quotations varied it was felt that NB Tree Management quotation was more detailed, giving a clear explanation of what was included. In addition, it was felt that it would give more long-term detail facilitating and longer period of planned maintenance, thus meaning less frequent future surveys would be required.

RESOLVED: Unanimously to award the contract for the Town Council tree survey 2025 to NB Tree management.

b. To consider funding for an art installation at the entrance to the Trailway off Station Road and give further instruction. J Wardell (Open spaces)

J Wardell advised that some narrow-gauge wheels had been donated, and she had been in some preliminary talks with a local designer / metal worker who had suggested a sunflower design. It

was suggested that the public art required to be provided on the Blackmore Meadows estate may be relocated to this site and J Vitali offered to approach Vistry.

RESOLVED: To proceed in principle to source funding for an art installation at the entrance to the Trailway off Station Road.

- c. To implement a phased public waste bin replacement/re-siting programme, in conjunction with the provision of public information. J Wardell (Open Spaces)**

Following the report made at the March meeting J Wardell outlined the reasons for the proposal, which included Town Orderly involvement in phased implementation of amalgamation, or replacement bins as required. She also highlighted the importance of improved public information on bin locations and appropriate use.

RESOLVED: To implement a phased public waste bin replacement/re-siting programme, in conjunction with the provision of public information.

- d. That the Town Council produce a short film promoting awareness of our work to residents and to recruit new members. K Garland (Neighbourhood)**

K Garland advised the costs estimated at £500.00. The Clerk advised that there was an amount of £2,850 in the budget for the Future Town Vision project.

RESOLVED: To produce a short film promoting awareness of the TC's work to residents and to recruit new members.

Item 9 was taken last.

RESOLVED: Press and public were excluded in conjunction with standing order 3d.

- 9. To receive a report on the annual car park review.**

RESOLVED: Clerk instructed to act.

- 10. To receive an update on the archive facility set up costs and give further instruction regarding IT.**

A quotation for PC hardware, backups and data transfer was considered and it was understood that there would be an additional ongoing monthly charge for backups.

RESOLVED: To place the order for the PC hardware, backups and data transfer querying a back up charge equal to the TC billing.

- 11. To approve the April 2025 issue of the Town Council newsletter**

RESOLVED: Approved pending content for S Carden.

- 12. To Receive a draft list of meeting dates for 25/26**

RESOLVED: Draft list of meeting dates for 25/26 received agreed, no meeting to be held in August.

13. Future Town Vision Project: To receive members portfolio reports.

Neighbourhood

K Garland advised members of a most generous donation to the Youth Club by the Community Shop. Advised that she would be attending a teams meeting with P Hancock regarding improving mobile phone signal in the town. Advised that she had offered to open the public WC's during the sponsored 12 hour walk by Martin Harris.

Infrastructure

P Hancock gave an update on communications with DC Highways and planners after the area North Planning Committee meeting regarding traffic management plans and ongoing highways safety in conjunction with the Station Rd developments, resulting in a meeting of all parties with the Ward Member.

Open spaces

J Wardell confirmed that the tree works on the site adjacent to Pond Walk were in accordance with the permission. Ongoing involvement with the North Dorset Tourism Group. Stones placed in the mud on FPN51/2 to Basil Bridge has been reported as a trip hazard.

14. Finance.

a. To receive a list of payments & receipts.

RESOLVED: List of payments & receipts received.

K Garland abstained from the vote on the payment to IK Services.

In the absence of a quorum the payment to IK Services had previously been approved in total on acceptance of the SLA.

15. Town Clerks report & Correspondence:

[Link to Town Clerks report](#)

Correspondence

DAPTC Fresh Start project- Meeting invitation. ACTION: P Hancock to attend

DC housing strategy team resident engagement. ACTION: Agreed to publicise

CAB energy team. ACTION: Agreed to publicise.

St Marys PCC re Churchyard maintenance / rewilding project. ACTION: Clerk instructed to reply. J Wardell would like to be involved.

Stalbridge History Society pole heads display. ACTION: Arrange meeting with history society to discuss.

16. The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council will be on Wednesday 14th May 2025. This will be the annual Town council meeting.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.58 pm.

Signed.....

Chairman