



Stalbridge Town Council Meetings

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Approved minutes of Video Conference meeting held via Microsoft teams of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th August 2020 commencing 7.00 p.m.

Councillors present at the meeting:

K Garland (Chair), D Andrews, J Convoy, M Dimmer, H Hatcher, R Lovell, B Penfold, M Robinson, R Roden & S Waite.

Clerk for the meeting:

T Watson (Clerk)

In attendance:

- No members of the public had requested access to the VC meeting.
- G Carr-Jones (Dorset Cllr) was present

1. Open Forum

No comments

2. To receive apologies

S Waite was not present until 19.33 due to technical difficulties. M Robinson left the meeting after item 13.

3. To receive declarations of interest & Requests for dispensations (Please notify the Town Clerk prior to the meeting)

The Clerk explained that a dispensation from the 6 month attendance rule would prevent members from being disqualified as a councillor during the Covid-19 pandemic if they are unable to attend VC meetings at no fault of their own.

RESOLVED: That all members of Council receive a dispensation in relation to Section 85 of the Local Government Act (6 month attendance rule) for the period up to and including 6 May 2021 for the reason that not all members may be able to attend a virtual Council meetings during the C19 pandemic period. Subject to members completion of dispensation forms.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2020

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting having previously been circulated to Councillors were approved to be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

5. Town Clerks report & Correspondence: As detailed in annex 1a.

Report

Water standing charge - applied for credit during lockdown for the closure of the hub & the public WC's.

Web site compliance – Home page is 96% compliant ongoing work on rest of web site. See report in papers.

Play area remedial works in conjunction with the annual inspection – Works order placed

Jarvis field play area fence repair – Works order placed

Annual accounts – Submitted to the external auditor

Signed allotment lease – Posted to battens

Hub rates – made enquiry regarding rate relief for part opening in relation to the library

Rent on the land at the rear of The Corn Store – has been paid

Vacuum cleaner - purchased

Rear garden – awaiting 2 quotes for works

Cross planters – Mr & Mrs Brown are giving up looking after these at the end of august.

Porch at Laburnum House – Residents have been informed by DC planning that they can commence construction of a porch in conjunction with application 2/1997/0344

Fly tipping at the top of Barrow Hill – Large amount of what appears to be industrial materials plastic & wiring

Wall between the playing fields & Park Grove – has been vandalised

Correspondence

Date 03.08.20 From H Smith Dorset Council Planning Officer

Subject Reply to the Town Councils letter regarding the lack of re-consultation on the amended plans reference planning application number 2/2020/0123/HOUSE at Knole Grove Lane

Action: Noted

Date 30.06.20 From The Society of Local Council Clerks

Subject Letter sent to Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government on behalf of members reiterating the need for financial support to secure the financial viability of town and parish councils in England.

Action : Agreed to write supporting letter

No Date From Dorset Council Highways Department

Subject Duck Lane temporary closure 09:30, 27th August 2020 until 15:30, 1st September 2020.

Action : Noted

Date 13.07.20 From the National association of Local Councils

Subject Chief executive's bulletin

Action: Noted

Date 14.08.20 From the National association of Local Councils

Subject Chief executive's bulletin

Action: Response to Consultation 'Changes to the Current Planning System' delegated to the interim planning group

Date 10.08.20 From DAPTC

Subject NALC devolution consultation survey amended deadline 25.09.20

Action: Response to devolution consultation survey delegated to M Robinson & S Waite

6. To receive Town Councillors reports.

M Robinson - Update on the progress regarding a Stalbridge Festival.

B Lovell- Construction of the boules court at the Stalbridge Hall in nearly complete.

J Convoy – Had attended the Stalbridge Hall AGM. Planned re-opening date 5th September.

K Garland – The youth club are looking to re-open in October

Post meeting note: S Waite – Appointed as Vice Chairman of Area North DAPTC

7. To receive the Dorset Councillors report.

G Carr Jones advised that that the Thornhill road application reserved matters go to the Area North Planning Committee and asked which Town Council member would be attending. He is working to accommodate the increase in local people needing social housing arising from the austerity of Covid 19. He has been liaising between the Dorset Council planning & Enforcement Officers and the neighbours of the part completed building behind the dentists. Whilst this is a source of frustration to the residents of the neighbouring property unfortunately at present the officers do not consider there is any action open to them as the amenity of the area is not being adversely effected to an extent that action is justified. Enquired on the progress of The Hub extension.

8. To facilitate the annual inventory inspections.

RESOLVED: The inspections were delegated to S Waite, M Dimmer, K Garland & M Robinson. To be completed before the next meeting

9. Review to Town Councils operations in relation to Covid19 and give further instruction in relation to:

K Garland

a. Meetings (full council and sub-committees)

Papers had been provided with advice from NALC and DC prior to the meeting. The Clerk advised that a one meter social distancing the number attending is limited to seven in the main room.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that Full Council meetings remain via Microsoft teams whilst smaller sub groups may meet in person

b. Services & expenditure

It was noted that Street cleaning and grass cutting services have remain unaffected. A budget sheet showing expenditure of £1,207.49 to date was reviewed with pending future expenditure for a library welcome poster and the works at the public WC's estimated £2,500

c. Buildings & land (playgrounds, public WC's & Hub including the community library)

It was understood that the community library would like to re- open for two three hour sessions per week on Wednesdays and Saturdays and the Hub building risk assessment including the Community Library was reviewed. The Clerk had made enquiries regarding partial building opening rate relief. The possibility of applying for Discretionary Business Grant was considered.

RESOLVED: No objection to the library re-opening agreed to apply for a Discretionary Business Grant

d. Community support

It was noted that the Stalbridge Helpers scheme was closed on the 7th August. However several volunteers have agreed to re-form if it is necessary in the future.

RESOLVED: To write a letter of thanks to the Stalbridge Community Volunteer Car Scheme for their help in administering to the helpers scheme.

e. Appointment of a Vice Chairman and a co-option of a new member.

It was understood that the regulations state that the co-option should be carried out, 'as soon as practicable'. In the current circumstances Dorset Council understand that this might cause some issue, depending upon how co-option is carried out. Dorset Council have told all parishes/towns that as long as the Council remains quorate and are able to undertake their statutory functions they will not be pressing anyone to appoint if they do not feel they have the resources to do so.

RESOLVED: Not to commence with co-option at the moment and to appoint a vice chairman at the next meeting.

10. Finance.

a. To receive a list of payments made under the scheme of delegation in relation to covid

RESOLVED: list of payments made under the scheme of delegation in relation to covid 19 was noted

b. To receive the quarterly financial report ending 31.06.20

Members received information prior to the meeting. The cash book had been verified against the current and deposit account statements to be signed at a later date.

RESOLVED: To accept the quarterly financial report ending 30.06.20 as presented

11. To respond the consultation Government white paper Planning For the Future.

The deadline 11:45pm on 29 October 2020 was noted and the idea from Shaftesbury Town Council of a North Dorset the collaborative response. Whilst this idea of a North Dorset collaborative response was valued welcomed members felt that they needed to work alone initially.

RESOLVED: To delegate consideration to the interim planning group to bring back suggested response to Full council

12. For the Town Council write to Simon Hoare MP to ask him to request that future housing developments are built in an eco-friendly sustainable way, so that we are building for a greener future.
K Garland

It was noted that the Town Council had not received a reply to their letter of the 6th February to the MP concerning the same subject.

RESOLVED: To write to Simon Hoare MP to ask him to request that future housing developments are built in an eco-friendly sustainable way, so that we are building for a greener future.

13. To extend the period that the TC engage a planning consultant to support the Town Council comments on major applications in Stalbridge in excess of 10 units outside the development boundary on applications arising up to and including 6 May 2021. K Garland

RESOLVED: To extend the period that the TC engage a planning consultant to support the Town Council comments on major applications in Stalbridge in excess of 10 units outside the development boundary on applications arising up to and including 6 May 2021.

14. To receive members input for the 2021/22 precept draft budget.

The Clerk advised that in the light of any future austerity arising from Covid 19 the office would be looking to be as cost efficient as possible. The following suggestions were made: Enhance the Hub grounds, Welcome signs at the entrances to the town, Bus shelter, Community re-building post covid 19.

15. To agree the next meeting date

RESOLVED: Wednesday 16th September and thereafter 14th October, 11th November & 9th December pending review.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.36 pm