

STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: T Watson

8 Ring Street, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 2LZ.

Tel 01963 364276.

Email: clerk@stalbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk

Approved minutes of extraordinary meeting of the Town Council to resolve the 2010/2011 precept held in the Town Council Office on Wednesday 9th December 2009 commencing after the planning meeting.

Present Councillors: G Carr-Jones (Chair), K Garland, J Cox, J Cowley, P Ashcroft, J Wardell, J Smith & B Alexandre.

In attendance

There were no members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies.

Apologies had been received in advance of the meeting from W Batty-Smith.

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Finance.

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

Tracey Watson	Salary December	£515.51
HM Revenue & customs	Tax & NI November	£0.00
NDDC	Rent land at Pond Close	£11.50
T Watson	In lieu for payment for stamps	£9.36
Blackmore Vale Internet	web site hosting & maintenance	£364.50
Ray Sharp	Grass cutting TC & NCCD from 14.10-01.12.09	£316.60
SLCC	Subscription 2010	£106.00
Gillingham TC	WC & Street cleaning November 2009	£1,685.59
J West	Opening evening refreshments	£13.41
Stalbridge Lights Group	Donation 2009	£500.00

RESOLVED: In accordance with S O No.40 it was proposed by B Alexandre and seconded by J Wardell that the above cheques be signed.

b) To approve arrangements for immediately necessary payments arising in the interim period between this meeting and the next full Council meeting 20th January 2010.

The Clerk asked members if they wished to make arrangements for immediately necessary payments due to possible late payment charges, arising from the extended period to the next full Council meeting.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement that J Wardell & J Cox will Sign cheques which will be reported at the January Council meeting.

4. To review the level of information provided for the meeting and specify future presentation of information.

Members agreed the information was clear and would like to see this format in the future presentation of quarterly breakdown of accounts.

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Minutes of Town Council Meeting held in the Town Council Office
On Wednesday 21st January 2009 commencing 7-15 p.m.

Present Councillors P Ashcroft, W Batty-Smith, J Cowley, J Cox, K Garland
D Grimes, J Wardell and G Carr-Jones, Chairman, D J Hine (Clerk)

In attendance C Cllr D Fox part way through the meeting.

To receive apologies Cllrs. B Alexandre, R Penfold and J Smith

Declarations of Interest None

Minutes of last meeting

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

Re. Retaining wall by Dog Bin in Park Grove. As nothing has been done J Cowley asked that a letter be sent to DCC Chief Executive with a copy of the correspondence, copy to be sent to C Cllr D Fox (see further comments later) Agreed.

Clerk to write

Re. Missing Post Box, Thornhill (Stalbridge Common) Clerk to check with the Post Office regarding replacement

Clerk to check

Re. Hole in road, top of Copse House Hill. Letter to be sent to A Ackerman, DCC
Clerk to write

Proposed Expenditure

In accordance with S O No. 40 it was proposed by W Batty-Smith and seconded by J Cox that the following expenditure be approved

Stalbridge Youth Club	£500.00
Playing Fields, Mowing Play Area	300.00

Sign Cheques

In accordance with S O No.40 it was proposed by W Batty-Smith and seconded by J Cox that the following cheques be signed

S Electric (signed on 7th Jan)	£218.32
Gillingham TC	3,273.00
D J Hine	535.64
Direct Office	123.46
Youth Club	500.00
Playing Fields	300.00

B Gas	201.29
B Telecom	155.25

Make Precept

The Clerk confirmed that there is still a balance of some £1,000 from the amount put aside for the Trailway, the reason for the confusion is that this balance and the Awards for All grant had been held over from previous years. The "Health Walks" finance had been put under "footpaths" as there was nowhere else to record it. The Clerk will adjust the "balance" figures at the end of March.

J Cowley queried whether or not further quotes should be obtained with regard to the maintenance contract as the amount spent on maintenance is over £1,000. However, it is difficult to estimate how much is likely to be spent on this apart from the periodic inspections (Clerk's note; which amount to £725). It was agreed to leave this in abeyance for the time being.

It was proposed by W Batty-Smith and seconded by D Grimes that the Precept for 2009-10 be £67,000. All agreed

Future of Bier House

J Smith is arranging for the rubbish to be cleared and it was agreed that the Bier House will be left as it is and used as storage for any Town Council items for the foreseeable future.

Condition of "Snapshot of Stalbridge" books

Concern had been expressed that the books had been removed from the display cabinet and placed on the shelves in the Library, this has resulted in some damage to the books. It was agreed that K Garland would liaise with the Librarian as to how the books should be protected.

Councillors' Reports/Questions

W Batty-Smith advised that the planning dispute in respect of Hallett's Farm is going to an Enquiry and that he has offered to speak at this, if required.

J Cox advised that the Jarvis Field Fence has now been completed together with the Churchyard extension fence.

J Cowley queried the "correct procedure for reporting highway problems" as produced by the Clerk at the last meeting. During the discussion which followed, which included C Cllr D Fox, it appeared that the trouble is that having reported the problem in the correct manner, there is no system in place for the Highways Dept. to advise the "reportee" what is going to happen about the problem or what status of emergency it is classed as. D Fox advised that he is visiting the area with one of the DCC Highways' staff on Friday and he was given the list of items reported which he will have a look at.

P Ashcroft reported that someone had complained that they could not understand some of the wording of the minutes.

J Wardell asked that a letter be sent to the Rights of Way Officer requesting that the pathway from Jarvis Way to the Bridleway which runs along the north side of Jarvis Field Play Area, the land belongs to the Town Council, is declared a Public Bridleway. This will not cost the T C anything but a contribution towards the Department's expenses with regard to adverts etc., would be appreciated. This was agreed.

Clerk to write

The Clerk advised, with regard to the water supply to the Allotment Gardens, that all the Water Board had to do was connect the supply, a new Water Main is not required. Their quote for this is £380.65. Two quotes for laying the pipe to the Allotment Gardens have been requested by the Clerk. Hopefully this will prove to be cheaper than anticipated.

With regard to the two applications to fell trees at The Cottage, Church Hill, there is no problem with felling the Pine Tree, but the other is an Ash tree which is very close the J Smith's property. The Clerk will check with him as to what he feels about the proposal.

J Cowley reported that the cover and frame on the water hydrant on the edge of The Ring had been removed and subsequently replaced by J Smith. Clerk to report (Clerk's note. Reported to Wessex Water on 22.01.09. Tel. No. 08456004600. The site will be visited within 5 working days. Reported to Claudine ref. No. 12922764001)

Correspondence

Partnership Security. Service and Maintenance Contract. It was agreed to accept the offer of this contract.

NDDC. Scrutiny Officer. Details of Budget Scrutiny Meeting. Letter passed to J Smith, who had attended the previous meeting.

DAPTC C. Exec. Circular 01/09

Life Education Dorset. Request for Grant

Details of CPEND Community Project Grants. Send to Mrs J Strowger re. JFPA refurbishment.

Matt Mellor Employer and Community Engagement Officer re. Possible Courses in Stalbridge. Pass to the Stalbridge Hall Committee.

Westree Company. Copy of their letter to Tree Officer NDDC, complaining about lack of action from the department.

A Archibald. Details of Workshops on Ageing Well in Dorset

DAPTC Minutes of Northern Area Meeting held 27th Nov. 2008

Mr D Knight. Further letter re. siting of Re-Cycling Bins advising that he is dealing direct with NDDC

DCC Highways, Draft Structural Maintenance Programme 2009-10

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8-35 p.m.

**Minutes of Town Council Meeting held in the Town Council Office
On Wednesday 18th March 2009 commencing 7-40 p.m.**

Present Councillors W Batty-Smith, J Cowley, J Cox, K Garland, D Grimes, J Smith
J Wardell and G Carr-Jones, Chairman D J Hine (Clerk)

In attendance C Cllr D Fox and 4 electors

To receive apologies P Ashcroft, B Alexandre, and R Penfold

Declarations of Interest None

Minutes of last meeting

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

Proposed Expenditure

In accordance with S O No. 40 it was proposed by W Batty-Smith and seconded by J Cowley that the following expenditure be approved

Four County Services. Computer protection Licence	£103.50
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Sign Cheques

In accordance with S O No.40 it was proposed by W Batty-Smith and seconded by J Cowley that the following cheques be signed

D J Hine, Salary £535.64 and Postage £43.86	£579.50
Four County Services	103.50
Gillingham T C	1,560.88
Westree	391.00
Direct Office	17.58
Wessex Water (6 months on meter)	32.76
Stalbridge Land Settlement	1,670.00

Proposed footpath Pound Close to Dike's Car Park

The Clerk advised that a letter has been received from Spectrum Housing stating the amount payable for them to grant a wayleave over the land. However, our Solicitor is in communication with them regarding the granting of a Licence to use the land which should be cheaper. Will be placed on another Agenda.

Replacement street lighting

The cost of different types of lighting standards that the Town Council may want to have installed in special places had not been received. The Clerk will progress. J Cowley also suggested that Councillors check to see if there are any inadequately lit areas at present in order that these can be pointed out to the Contractors. To be discussed at the next planning meeting.

Water supply to Allotment Gardens

The Clerk advised that in spite of requesting other quotations, only one had been received, for the provision of a water supply from the extended Pond Walk Development to the Allotment Gardens. As it is important that this work is carried out in the near future, it was proposed by W Batty-Smith and seconded by D Grimes that the quotation from Mead Digger Hire be accepted. All agreed.

Councillors' Reports/Questions

G Carr-Jones reported that the newly surfaced FP1 was suffering from dog fouling, but he had reported this to the Dog Warden and signs had been put up. Councillors might also like to consider purchasing additional Dog Warden hours.

W Batty-Smith reported that two very bad pot holes in Copse House Lane, which had been reported to the DCC have still not been dealt with. D Fox noted this.

J Cox reported the surface water drains blocked in Lower Road, below the Stalbridge Arms.

J Wardell asked if Councillors would object, if a proposal was put forward to move the bridleway from Station Road to the Wessex Water track, a few yards in an easterly direction, so that it did not run down Pinesway, but on the other side of the fence and to the rear of The Sidings until it meets up with the Trailway and then rejoins the original route by the side of Jarvis Field Play Area. There were no objections.

J Smith advised that the major work of removing the rubbish from the Bier House has been completed, there were a few bits and pieces left. He also asked if anything had happened about the loose stop tap cover on The Ring. The Clerk replied that our Maintenance man had been asked to deal with this.

D Grimes advised that he had contacted Wessex Water regarding a leak in Waterlake but nothing appeared to have been done.

Correspondence

Scouts. Invitation to St. George's Day Parade

DCC R of Way. Re. JFPA proposed Footpath. Confirming that they are taking the matter forward. Letter also received from our Solicitor, J Foster-Pegg, advising that we should contact the original owners of the land to ask them to transfer the small area at the start of the path from Jarvis Way, which appears to still be in their ownership.

Clerk to write

E-mail from S Williams, Community Worker re. Youth Shelter and improvements to Children's play area at J F P A

Letter from Environment Agency re. Groundwater Flood Watch

Details of A350 closure and diversion for 4 days from 6th April

J Rabbetts Public Transport Liaison, asking if the TC would support a request for an additional Bus Stop near Wards Hill. Clerk to reply in the affirmative.

DAPTC Chief Exec. Circular 03/09

Notification that the mobile breast screening unit will be in the Car Park from 4th April to 20th June.

NDDC Planning Policy Officer giving details of web site for accessing the Strategic Housing Land availability assessment

Copy of letter from S Hill NDDC to Messrs Butler and Nash of DCC re. Developer Contributions. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8-45 p.m.

Minutes of Town Council Meeting held in the Town Council Office On Wednesday 18th February 2009 commencing 7-00 p.m.

Present Councillors B Alexandre, P Ashcroft, J Cowley, J Cox, K Garland, R Penfold, J Smith, J Wardell and G Carr-Jones Chairman, D J Hine (Clerk)

In attendance 1 elector

To receive apologies C Cllr D Fox, Cllrs. W Batty-Smith and D Grimes

Declarations of Interest None

Minutes of last meeting

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

Matters arising

Pot hole Copse House Lane. Still not rectified.

Clerk to progress

Clearing of Bier House. J Smith advised that the snow had delayed this but it should be

mainly carried out within the next few days.

Clerk to progress with D Fox regarding the lack of procedures to up-date the Council on reported road defects.

Clerk

The minutes of the Planning Meeting of 4th February having previously been circulated to Councillors were approved and signed by the Chairman

With regard to the trees, P Ashcroft and J Wardell had made site visits and felt with regard to the Ash Tree that they were happy for the Tree Officer to make the decision on felling this tree. With regard to the Old Rectory Trees they could see no reason to object to the work proposed. The Clerk confirmed that these comments had been passed on to the Tree Officer.

Proposed Expenditure

In accordance with S O No. 40 it was proposed by J Cox and seconded by J Cowley that the following expenditure be approved

N Smith The Ring	£280.00
Williams Nursery. Tree stakes P Ashcroft	41.48

Sign Cheques

In accordance with S O No.40 it was proposed by J Cox and seconded by J Cowley that the following cheques be signed

D J Hine	£535.64
N Smith	280.00
Westree JFPA & Churchyard	3,919.20
Gillingham T C	1,636.50
Williams Nursery	41.48
S. Electric. Toilets	30.08

Water supply to Allotment Gardens

One quote received to lay the water pipe from the end of the development site, however, the Developers have said they will also quote. Clerk will progress. It is hoped to get this done before the car parking area is completed.

Snapshot of Stalbridge books

J Cox expressed her concern that these extremely important books (which are Town Council property) had been removed from the specially constructed display cabinet and placed on the Library shelves without asking the Council's permission. The reason for the display cabinet was to protect them from the damage which has now occurred. It was agreed that K Garland would collect the books and bring them to the T C Office and

also discover the whereabouts of the display cabinet. Various methods of displaying the information were further discussed. The Clerk will contact Mr K Butt and Mr D Neal to enquire if they have a CD of the entries.

Also on the subject of the Library, the Friends of the Library have sent the Town Council a cheque of £400 to help defray the cost of additional hours that have been bought by the Council from the County Council to keep the Library open for the same hours.

Review of Internal Audit

The Clerk explained that in accordance with the Local Council Briefing received from the Auditors BDO Stoy Hayward, the procedure for Internal Audit should be reviewed and the review minuted. The requirements were gone through in detail and it was agreed that the only action that needed to be taken was that a written report should be requested from the Internal Auditor at the end of the Financial Year. It was also confirmed that the Clerk acts as the Responsible Financial Officer. The Fidelity Guarantee to be increased on renewal of Insurance.

Councillors' Reports/Questions

R Penfold advised that the Community Development Worker is carrying out a review of the requirements etc., for a Youth Shelter.

P Ashcroft reported litter on the path from Thornhill Road to Lower Road
Clerk to report

With regard to the Churchyard extension hedge, quote in the sum of £340 from Westree to supply and plant suitable hedge. It was proposed by B Alexandre and seconded by K Garland that this be accepted. Carried on a vote of 5 in favour, 2 against 2 abstentions. Clerk will arrange and ask for a few plants of additional varieties to be included. It was also agreed to write to the PCC and advise them of progress in this respect. Clerk will report on the state of the existing hedge after a site visit with a hedging expert.

B Alexandre advised that she would be unable to attend the March meetings and probably the first meeting in April.

J Wardell advised regarding letter from DCC Rights of Way Officer in respect of request to dedicate path alongside JFPA, which suggested that the path is not wide enough for a bridleway and could perhaps become a public footpath with permissive cycle/bridleway rights, that she would be meeting with the R o W team the following day and would discuss the matter with them and report back.

J Cowley reported that he and J Wardell had attended the DAPTC meeting at which he had brought up the problem of being unable to contact NDDC Officers by telephone. G Carr-Jones explained that the phone lines are very busy but that a new Officer is being appointed to deal with this problem. J Cowley also advised that D Cllr Webb appeared determined to keep the Blandford Leisure Centre open

It was reported that the Jarvis Way Dog Bins appear to be getting full very quickly and people were leaving heaps of plastic bags around them. The Chairman pointed out that it is the responsibility of the dog owner to not only pick up the mess, but to dispose of it properly and that if the dog bin was full up it should be taken to the next litter/dog bin or taken home.

J Cox advised that the Youth & Community Hall is used by the Youth Club on Monday and Wednesdays, on Tuesday afternoons by a young baby group and on Thursdays by the "Gateway Club" which is especially for young people with disabilities and is run by a local person. It costs the Youth Club on Mondays £15 for the YC Hall plus £15 for the Community Hall and on Wednesday £15 for the YC Hall and £5 per hour for the Community Hall. It was suggested that the question of grants to various organisations should be gone into further.

The Clerk asked if Councillors would agree to the publishing of the TC Minutes in The Ring before they had been approved. It was agreed that this should not take place but it was suggested that the dates of the meetings for the following month should be advertised in The Ring. The Clerk also advised that she had been asked by the tenant of the flat if he could sub-let the Garage, However, it was felt that this would not be permissible.

The question of the traffic calming works in Station Road that should have been completed before any occupancy of the new properties off the Car Park was brought up. The Clerk advised that problem was getting the County Council to agree as to what should be done. Matter to be passed to C Cllr D Fox to see he can get some action.

Correspondence

DCC Highways. Re. wall by dog bin, Park Grove. This is categorised as non-urgent but will be monitored to ensure it does not cause a danger.

Friends of Stalbridge Library. Enclosing cheque for £400 towards additional hours.

Invite from NDDC to attend Community Partnership Presentation Evening.

NDDC Choice Based Letting - Revised Housing Policy

Dorset Strategic Partnership Newsletter

NDDC Report on Meeting of Policy Review Cttee

DAPTC C Exec. Circular 02/09 and Newsletter

S Hill NDDC re. Developer Contributions External Scrutiny Role

DCC re. Youth Opportunity Fund. Copy sent to Youth Club

NDDC Proposed new Disabled Parking Bays in Car Park. After some discussion it was proposed by P Ashcroft and seconded by J Cox that there be no objections to these. The motion was carried on a vote of 5 in favour and 1 against

Various letters re. JFPA Footpath condition. It was agreed to take no further action on this

DCC re. Copse House Lane – Entrance to Keeper's Cottage. Noted that action will be taken.

DCC Notice of various road closures in area

D Fox enclosing Statement of DCC Policy on road gritting etc.
DAPTC notification of Rural Roads Roadshows
DCC Notification of Dorset Waste Forum meeting. 27th March
NDDC Notification of DCC and European Parliamentary Elections on 4th June
Standards Board Survey on Advice and Guidance
Portland TC Invitation to Dance 14th March
N Dorset Scout Council. Invitation to St George's Day Parade 26th April
Blandford TC Invitation to Mayor's Bash on 14th March

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8-50 p.m.

**Minutes of Town Council Meeting held in the Town Council Office
On Wednesday 15th April 2009**

Present Councillors P Ashcroft, J Cowley, J Cox, K Garland, D Grimes, R Penfold
J Wardell and G Carr-Jones, Chairman D J Hine (Clerk)

In attendance 1 elector and Ms L Hinks, Funeral Director

To receive apologies D Cllr D Fox, Cllrs B Alexandre, W Batty-Smith, and J Smith

Declarations of Interest None

Minutes of last meeting

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

Arising

J Wardell asked if a sign could be put up indicating a Permissive Bridleway on the path from Jarvis Way to the Trailway. However, this has not yet been granted. She also asked if a reply had been sent to the letter from the Rights of Way Dept., regarding the complaint about damage to the surface of the Trailway where the JFPA fence had been erected. No reply had been sent as no-one else felt there was a problem.

Proposed Expenditure In accordance with S O No. 40 it was proposed by J Cox and seconded by J Wardell that the following expenditure be approved

Hammond Builders. Repairs to Toilet door	128.36
Williams Nursery. Replace tree on The Ring	60.95
Remove iron fence – Churchyard	150.00

Sign Cheques

In accordance with S O No.40 it was proposed by J Cox and seconded by J Wardell that the following cheques be signed

D J Hine Salary	554.26
Hammond Builders	128.36
Mead Digger Hire. Allotment water supply	943.00
B Telecom	156.95
Williams Nursery	60.95
Gillingham Town Council;	1636.50
DAPTC Subscription	623.36
NDDC Business Rates	1142.38
Remove iron fence in Churchyard	150.00

Churchyard extension

With regard to the land adjacent to the Churchyard acquired by the TC as an additional burial area, the Chairman invited Ms Hinks to explain the difference between a Churchyard and a Cemetery. Ms Hinks advised that a Churchyard is consecrated ground and a fee of £190 is payable for someone to be buried therein. A cemetery is not consecrated ground and a plot of land may be purchased and then a fee is payable on this plot being used. The Town Council felt that the land should be used as an extension to the Churchyard and it was decided to meet with the Church Wardens to discuss this. Enquiries will be made as to whether or not it is permissible for the Town Council to lease the land to the Church for this purpose at a "peppercorn" rent. (Clerk's note. Have discussed this point with DAPTC who do not see a problem with this) With regard to the footpath across the area (for use by the residents in Stalbridge Park only) it was agreed that this should run across the top of the area and down the side where the ditch is at present. Enquiries to be made as to the cost of filling in this ditch with the "spoil" from the already excavated graves in the existing Churchyard. It was also agreed to pay the quoted price of £150 for the existing iron railing fence to be removed. The Chairman thanked Ms Hinks for attending the meeting.

Street Lighting.

It was agreed not to proceed further with additional decorative lamp columns. It was reported that Light No.29 in Thornhill Road was permanently on.

Pound Close to Dike's Car Park – Footpath

Notification received from our Solicitors that Signpost are willing to either grant a Licence to use the area at an approximate total cost of £650 or a Wayleave which would cost approximately £1,000. The difference being that a Licence could be revoked at some stage. However it was proposed by J Wardell and seconded by J Cox that a Licence should be requested. All agreed.

Councillors' Reports/Questions

J Cowley requested that a quote be obtained for permanently fixing the manhole cover and surround on The Ring.

Clerk to obtain

He also advised that the deep hole at the top of Copse House Hill had been filled at last, but several others in the vicinity had not.

D Grimes reported two holes in the road at the entrance to Waterlake.

P Ashcroft advised that Mr N Brown had asked what was happening about the "damage" to the surface of the Trailway. She had replied that no-one else agreed with his comments. Mr Brown also asked who had taken away the old posts alongside the Wessex Water track. This had been done by the Town Council.

The Lighting Group had asked if there was anything in the Budget regarding the Christmas Lights. The Clerk advised that there is £500, and if they wanted some in 2010 they must apply before December 2009.

With regard to the Churchyard extension, there is a problem with horses in the adjoining field trying to eat the new hedge.

J Wardell asked if the stone stile which had been removed to allow the development in Pond Close, is going to be re-sited. (Clerk's note. The stile has now been re-sited)

R Penfold advised re. the problems at The Stalbridge Hall, that the Police are being kept informed regarding bookings on Friday/Saturday evenings and they have promised to attend especially if they feel there could be trouble.

J Cox gave her apologies for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Town Council Meeting.

G Carr-Jones suggested that a notice should be put up advising of the times the Public Toilets are open.

Correspondence

NDDC Local Development Scheme

E-mail from D Mumford SEC suggesting meeting regarding alternative lamp columns

Portland TC invitation to Civic Service 26th April - No

Report from Sherborne CAB

DAPTC C. Exec Circular 04/09

DAPTC Minutes of Larger Councils meeting with particular reference to the Dorset Credit Union

E-mail from M Brownbridge NDDC re. funding for Play Equipment – Ask Sarah Pickering to attend a meeting.

E-mail from Steve Shaw re. Sustainable Communities Act

Henstridge Airfield CC Interim report and summary statistics

Hugh de Iongh. Re, Market Towns dealing with current recession

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9-15 p.m.