

**MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
FULL TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a **Meeting** of the **Full Town Council** which was held on **Monday, 4th September 2017** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7.00 pm

PRESENT	Councillor M. Hall Councillor B. Castle Councillor Mrs P. Dow Councillor N. Fogg Councillor A. Ross Councillor A. Kirk Wilson Councillor G. Loosmore Councillor L. Farrell Councillor N. Barrett-Morton Councillor P. Cairns Councillor M. Cooper Councillor H. Forbes Councillor E. Northeast Councillor S. Price Councillor A. Wilson Councillor D. Heath	Town Mayor
ALSO PRESENT	Mrs S. Parker Mrs D. Whitehall Rev. H. Cooper Councillor S. Dobson Mr N. Goodwin Plus 1 member of the public	Town Clerk Administrator Mayor's Chaplain Unitary Councillor – Marlborough East Marlborough.News

PRAYERS

Rev. Cooper opened the meeting with prayers.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

CRIME AND DISORDER

No officer was available to attend the meeting but a written report had been made available. Wiltshire Police would have a presence at the forthcoming Area Board meeting. **Cllrs. Castle** and **Farrell** expressed dismay at the news that, in line with the Wiltshire Police & Crime Commissioner's (PCC) strategy, Marlborough Police Station was to be closed without any prior public consultation. There was concern that less of a police presence in the town was already leading to an increase in crime, litter, drug taking and anti-social behaviour. **Cllr. Dobson** had spoken to Angus McPherson (PCC) who was hopeful the police station would remain open until a suitable alternative could be found. **The Mayor** would take these points at agenda item 7 where a suggestion about an alternative police Touchdown point would be discussed.

TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS

The Mayor asked **Cllr. Dobson** whether there was any progress towards completing the cycle path to link the Old Railway Path with Marlborough Business Park. **Cllr. Dobson** believed a survey was due to take place to check ground levels, and had left a message for an officer at Wiltshire Council. He would provide an update as soon as he heard back.

Cllr. Dobson urged the Town Council to consider making budget provision to purchase a Speed Indicator Device (SID). Wiltshire Council's preference to discourage speeding drivers was to place white gates at the approach to villages and small towns: Cllr. Dobson believed SIDs were more effective, and noted that Ramsbury Parish Council had purchased a SID. The **Town Clerk** referred to an earlier offer from Wiltshire Council for the transfer of a SID now surplus to requirements, but this had not been followed up by Highways.

Cllr. Fogg referred to the recent Proms season, noting several artists had taken part who had appeared at the Marlborough Jazz Festival in recent years. Congratulations were expressed in particular to guitarist Ben Cipolla - a former St John's student and Marlborough Fireman - who had sung a solo at the Royal Albert Hall on Friday, 1st September. **Cllr. Fogg** also referred to the former St Peter's School building, originally the Marlborough Grammar School. A C Steadman's book, A History of Marlborough Grammar School published in 1945 referred to the original ownership of the site, and wondered whether any special covenants had been attached which might still apply.

232/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

Rev. Cooper left the meeting

233/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were no declarations.

234/17 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reminded all Councillors about the preview evening at the new Marlborough St. Mary's Primary School on Tuesday, 5th September where he would also be handing over the cheque for £2,244 for the grant for IT equipment agreed at the meeting on 24th July.

The 'Big Picnic' would be held at Stonebridge Meadow on Saturday, 9th September from 1pm onwards, organised by Action for the River Kennet (ARK) and supported by the Town Council. There would be lots going on with river and pond dipping, a wildlife walk and more.

The next Area Board was to take place on Tuesday, 12th September at the Town Hall at 7pm.

Town tours had been arranged for Councillors for the forthcoming Friday, Monday and Tuesday evenings starting at 6pm. An itinerary had been circulated.

235/17 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Monday, 31st July 2017 were approved and signed as a true record by the Town Mayor

236/17 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Members noted the report. **Cllr. Kirk Wilson** noted that Major York (St Peter's Trust) had congratulated the Town Council on flying the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day on Sunday, 3rd September.

237/17 FORWARD PROJECT PLAN: 2017-2021

Members noted a report from the Town Clerk and considered a draft Forward Project Plan drawn together at a Councillors Workshop held 31st July 2017. Discussion points included:

- Whether to include involvement in the annual September 'Heritage Week'

- Whether to include a forum for disabled people. The Town Clerk and former Cllr. Allen had been involved in this under the old council (known as Making changes) and it was now being taking forward by the Area Board with Town Council representation so need not be included in the Project Plan
- Whether to confirm the deletion of the proposal of a Business Improvement District. Although the local MP was keen to see this carried forward, there appeared to be little appetite from local traders who believed the initiative was more suitable for larger towns and felt that further charges alongside business rates would not be well received
- Whether the Emergency Plan Working Party could be formed soon

RESOLVED: (i) to accept the draft project list with no changes

RESOLVED: (ii) that this information should be compiled as a Forward/Strategic Plan for public consultation prior to its adoption, and that the draft be presented to the next meeting of the Full Council on 6th November, followed by public consultation and then final ratification at the meeting on 11th December 2017

Cllr. Ross joined the meeting

238/17

MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE

Members noted the Town Clerk's report and considered recommendations about taking the project forward. Main points included:

- Building work had begun (4th September)
- A community event would take place on Sunday, 24th September, to include face painting, a barbecue and possibly fairground rides. More information would be available after a planning meeting taking place on Thursday, 7th September
- An application for funding from the PCC Community Fund had been unsuccessful (the fund had been oversubscribed by nearly 500%). The Town Clerk updated members on other funding applications under way and explained there was a relatively high (20%) contingency applied to the project to ensure later, and as yet unknown, costs could be covered such as upgrading/replacing car park lighting, heras fencing, furniture and equipment, etc.
- Whether St Margaret's Mead was an appropriate location for a police Touchdown point (members suggested more central locations such as the Library, Fire Station or Leisure Centre)
- A need to understand what a Touchdown point would include – was it an office base for local officers or a facility available to members of the public?
- Whether a police presence would have an impact on attendance at Youth Clubs to be held at the centre
- Whether a police presence at the site would deter anti-social behaviour in the Recreation Ground
- Whether youths would move to another, less safe, area of the town if there was a police presence at the site
- That a Touchdown point would provide a steady income stream for the Town Council
- An expectation that recent incidents of anti-social behaviour would reduce once the building came back into regular use and CCTV was installed
- It was likely that closing the car park by installing a gate would add to existing parking problems for local people

RESOLVED: (i) Members noted the breakdown of figures and agreed the contingency element

RESOLVED: (ii) that the Town Clerk should continue to pursue external grant funding and the Working Party works with local media to fund raise

RESOLVED: (iii) that the Town Clerk and Mayor would hold initial discussions with the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office concerning a possible 'Touchdown' site and then discuss at a future Full Town Council

RESOLVED: (iv) not to revisit a request for a gate or signage for the site at this time

Cllr. Dobson left the meeting

239/17

THE GREAT WEST WAY

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk about a recent stakeholder meeting with VisitWiltshire, and considered a recommendation about continued support for the project, which was targeted primarily at international visitors but also likely to benefit domestic tourism. There was general enthusiasm for this project and members discussed:

- Marlborough had a lot to offer, but had been under-promoted as a tourist destination in the past when compared to other similar sized towns
- The town would need to be properly prepared for an increase in visitors to the town – for example car parking provision, public toilets, hotel accommodation and Tourist Information provision
- Members put forward many unique points that could attract visitors, such as The Merchant's House, the blue plaque trail, St Peter's Church, The Polly Tearooms, heritage interest, restaurants, shops and more
- That a number of the projects in the Forward Plan would help improve the experience for visitors to the town

RESOLVED: (i) that the report and Mayor's observations were noted

RESOLVED: (ii) that the Town Council will continue to be involved, and supports the Great West Way project

RESOLVED: (iii) that the current working party considering phase 2 of the George Lane toilets project would be expanded to cover this project. Cllrs. Wilson, Cairns and Forbes volunteered to join the group and members of the community could also be invited to take part, e.g. Marlborough Area Development Trust

240/17

DOG FOULING – POSTER CAMPAIGN

Members considered designs for a poster campaign to help alleviate dog-fouling in Town Council owned open spaces which had been undertaken in collaboration with a local vet surgery. They approved a poster with two changes. It was agreed that no sponsorship charge should be made.

RESOLVED: to thank the local vet surgery for its support and to go forward with a poster campaign with two small changes to their preferred design and that the scheme be reviewed after 1 year.

241/17

TOWN AND PARISH CLERKS MEETING

RESOLVED: to waive Town Hall fees for the Society of Local Council Clerks branch meeting to be hosted by Marlborough in September 2018

242/17

COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: that in accordance with para. 3.1 of the Scheme of Delegation the approved minutes of the following Committee meetings were noted: **Planning – 17th and 7th August**

243/17 LIAISON WITH OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no updates.

244/17 MEMBER’S QUESTION TIME

No questions had been submitted.

245/17 FIXING OF THE COMMON SEAL

Proposed by Cllr. Castle and seconded by Cllr. Dow and

RESOLVED: that the Common Seal of Marlborough Town Council be affixed to all documents necessary to give effect to the decisions of the Council

246/17 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

Mr Millett and a member of the public left the meeting

247/17 LEGAL ADVICE RELATING TO TOWN COUNCIL-OWNED LAND

Members considered legal advice received about land owned by the Town Council.

RESOLVED: (i) to ask further questions of the Town Council’s legal Counsel

RESOLVED: (ii) that the A&OS Committee would consider additional access points to the land at the next meeting

Mrs Whitehall left the meeting

248/17 STAFFING MATTERS

Members considered a recommendation from the Staffing Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED: that 4 Councillors plus a reserve be nominated to form a Staffing Panel.

The Meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: