

**MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
FULL TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a **Meeting** of the **Full Town Council** which was held on **Monday 10 September 2018** in the
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough at 7.00 pm

PRESENT	Councillor L. Farrell Councillor B. Castle Councillor Mrs P. Dow Councillor A. Ross Councillor G. Loosmore Councillor N. Barrett-Morton Councillor M. Hall Councillor M. Cooper Councillor H. Forbes Councillor S. Price Councillor A. Wilson Councillor D. Heath	Town Mayor
ALSO PRESENT	Mrs S. Parker Mrs C. Harris Mrs D. Whitehall Rev. Canon A. Studdert-Kennedy Rev. Dr J. Blokland Sgt P. Foster Mr N. Goodwin Plus 10 members of the public	Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk Administrator Team Rector Mayor's Chaplain Wiltshire Police Marlborough.News

The meeting was preceded at 6.30pm by a presentation from Debbie Bassett representing CHAMPs (Cherhill Historic Ancient Monument Protectors) about The Lansdowne Monument. Members agreed to support the campaign and to add it to a future meeting agenda.

At the start of the meeting, the **Town Mayor** presented a painting by local artist Colin Palmer of St Mary's Church to **Rev. Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy** as a mark of the appreciation of the Town Council and the community for all he had done during his time in Marlborough. There would be a farewell reception on 22 September, and **Rev. Studdert-Kennedy** would take his final service on Sunday, 23 September.

PRAYERS

Rev. Dr. Blokland opened the meeting with prayers.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A number of residents (represented by questions from **Donna Kirby** and **Claudia and Paul Argent**) asked whether the Town Council was aware of the impact that Wiltshire Council's preferred option for special schools would have on children from Marlborough and the surrounding villages, particularly the mental and physical effects of undertaking such long journeys of up to 2 hours twice a day. Members were asked, if they shared these concerns, to support children and parents by raising the issues with Wiltshire Council. The **Town Mayor** thanked everyone for their questions. Their concerns would be taken into account during discussions at agenda item 6 – Special Schools.

Ruth Bordiss – on behalf of a number of residents present, referred to an enquiry into the felling of willow trees along the River Kennet adjacent to Bridge Garage and asked whether

the Town Council would appeal Wiltshire Council's response to the enquiry. This would be discussed at agenda item 14 – Enforcement Issue.

CRIME AND DISORDER

Sergeant Peter Foster introduced himself to Members. He had been newly appointed to act as deputy to Inspector Chris Martin for the Devizes, Marlborough and Pewsey region. A report had been provided and Sgt Foster elaborated on the content, providing updated statistics where available.

In response to reports of anti-social behaviour in Coopers Meadow and Priory Gardens, approximately 50 patrols had been carried out at various times of day since the beginning of August. There had been occasional incidents of littering, some noise and one case of damage to a bench but, the majority of the young people had engaged positively with officers. Whilst an increase in noisy behaviour was to be expected during summer holidays, this period had now passed. It was important that any incidents of anti-social behaviour be reported so that officers could continue to take appropriate action.

Sgt Foster answered questions about thefts, which had mainly been from shops, and the deployment of Police Community Support Officers.

Members thanked Sgt Foster for his update and welcomed him to Marlborough.

Sgt Foster left the meeting

QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS

There were no Wiltshire Councillors present but the **Town Clerk** would pass on any questions from Members.

The **Town Mayor** asked for the overgrown vegetation bordering the footpath to St Mary's School to be cut back, which had been raised at previous meetings but, still had not been addressed.

217/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Fogg, Kirk Wilson, Cairns and Northeast.

218/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Cllrs. Ross and **Hall** – agenda item 12 – Merchant's House Trust – non-pecuniary.

219/18 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Town Mayor** welcomed **Clare Harris**, the new Assistant Town Clerk, to the meeting and to Marlborough Town Council.

Although she had been unable to attend in person, the **Town Mayor** hoped the previous weekend's Marlborough Rising Festival had been a successful event.

220/18 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held 23 July 2018 were approved as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor

221/18 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Members noted the Town Clerk's report. Additional S106 funding had been confirmed towards the new play equipment at Cooper's Meadow and notices would be going up at the site in the following week.

222/18

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Members considered a response to Wiltshire Council's proposals for special school provision in the county. In doing so they gave careful consideration to the consultation itself, representations received from parents and a report from the Head Teacher of Rowdeford School proposing that the school should be part of the final solution.

During a suspension of standing orders, **Jo Waltham** read out a statement on behalf of local parents outlining why Wiltshire Council's proposals were not in the interests of Marlborough's children and listing a number of concerns:

- An increase of 20-30 minutes to a twice daily journey time which was already 45-90 minutes each way for some children
- The effect on children's mental and physical wellbeing of long minibus journeys
- The reduction in parental choice
- Loss of outdoor resources currently available at Rowdeford
- Greater difficulty for parents to provide support to the school
- Potential staff recruitment issues
- Whether large schools were a suitable environment for children with differing special or complex educational needs
- Whether fundraising by a charitable trust could save Rowdeford school

There was strong support from Members for keeping Rowdeford School open. Reasons put forward included:

- Support for and agreement with the concerns expressed by parents
- The report in response to the consultation submitted by Rowdeford School to Wiltshire Council's Cabinet set out solid arguments demonstrating that it could meet the needs of additional school places required in future
- The excellent reputation of Rowdeford School
- Limitations for mainstream schools to meet all complex or special needs
- Concerns raised at a recent Mencap committee meeting
- Whether the size of the county of Wiltshire rendered centralisation impractical
- Whether local parishes could join together to raise concerns
- The likely impact on the whole family in needing to have children ready to leave for school half an hour earlier each morning
- Whether the proposals put the need to save money above the need to provide suitable education
- The importance of working with the Head Teacher of Rowdeford School in order to support local parents.

It was noted that the consultation was now closed but, there was still an opportunity to make representations to Wiltshire Council ahead of the Cabinet meeting where the proposals were to be discussed.

RESOLVED: that Marlborough Town Council writes to the Portfolio Holder at Wiltshire Council to express concerns about the proposals for a single special school and make representations in support of local parents against the proposed closure of Rowdeford School.

A number of members of the public left the meeting

223/18

WRITTEN MOTION

In accordance with Standing Order 10, **Cllr. N. Barrett-Morton** had submitted a Written Motion for consideration:

“In view of some concerns about use of our open spaces, in particular Priory Gardens, a meeting is arranged in the spirit of co-operation to discuss these concerns and associated issues with the new Headteacher at St John’s, Marlborough”

Cllr. Barrett-Morton who was speaking on behalf of residents at Cromwell Mews, Cromwell Court and the Priory gave background to his motion listing concerns about various issues of anti-social behaviour and flouting of rules taking place at Priory Gardens.

Discussion around this centred on the nature of the anti-social incidents (litter, loud music, etc.) and when they took place, the outcome of additional police patrols (as reported before the meeting by Sgt Foster) and the possible perpetrators. Suggested solutions included the installation of CCTV and changes to opening and locking-up times at the gardens.

Cllr. Forbes seconded **Cllr. Barrett-Morton’s** motion and proposed adding an amendment:

That the gates to Priory Gardens should be locked at 3pm during weekdays in school term time.

This amendment was seconded by **Cllr. Barrett–Morton** and a named vote was requested.

For: Cllrs. Forbes and Barrett-Morton

Against: The Town Mayor and Cllrs. Castle, Dow, Ross, Loosmore, Hall, Cooper, Price, Wilson and Heath

This amended proposal was not carried.

RESOLVED: that in view of some concerns about use of our open spaces, in particular Priory Gardens, a meeting is arranged in the spirit of co-operation to discuss these concerns and associated issues with the new Head Teacher at St John’s Academy.

Rev. Dr. Blokland left the meeting

224/18

TOWN HALL BASEMENT – PUBLIC TOILET

Members considered a report and recommendation by the Town Clerk about proposals for the re-installation of a public toilet in the basement of the Town Hall. It was noted that under Para. 11.d of Financial Regulations and where there were valid reasons to do so, Members were able to waive financial regulations relating to contracts being entered into without competition and the current proposal met those criteria.

RESOLVED: (i) to accept the quote from Healthmatic to reinstate a public toilet in the basement of the Town Hall at the cost of £23,752.00.

RESOLVED: (ii) that financial regulations are waived so that the refurbishment is undertaken by the same provider of the existing Town Council-owned public toilets and the maintenance contract is extended to include this additional facility.

225/18

WORKSHOP

Members considered recommendations by the Property and Amenities & Open Spaces Committees about a potential site for the Grounds Team Workshop. Discussion points included:

- The proposed location between the new tennis courts and Golf Club greens shed was on land known as ‘The Piggeries’ and owned by the Golf Club
- The current workshop was too small and not fit for purpose, particularly with expected extra workload to be devolved by Wiltshire Council

- Whether it was practical or more financially viable to extend on the current workshop location at The Recreation ground
- That the proposed new location would replace the current workshop location, the site of which could then be put to other use for the benefit of the community
- The new site presented an excellent opportunity to work with Marlborough Golf Club and even potentially share resources
- The new site was closer to areas where the Grounds Team spent a lot of time, particularly The Common and The Cemetery

RESOLVED: (i) to appoint a Project Manager to draw up a specification for the new workshop and ancillary works (excavation), liaising with the Town Clerk and Grounds Manager to seek preliminary costings

RESOLVED: (ii) to seek pre-planning application advice

RESOLVED: (iii) to enter into more detailed discussions with Marlborough Golf Club

226/18

TOURISM AND THE GREAT WEST WAY

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk about the forthcoming event on 19 September centred on the Great West Way tourism route. The **Town Mayor** and **Town Clerk** encouraged those Members who had not already done so to book a place using the online booking system and to spread the word to potentially interested parties.

227/18

MARLBOROUGH PARKRUN

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk and the Traffic Management Plan for the Marlborough Parkrun. A low key trial run was booked for Saturday, 15 September.

RESOLVED: that Marlborough Town Council notes the measures listed in the Traffic Management Plan and welcomes the introduction of Marlborough Parkrun to The Common

Cllrs. Ross and Hall left the room for the following item

228/18

MERCHANT'S HOUSE TRUST

Members considered a request from the Merchant's House Trust to assist with the purchase of a new item for the Town Museum. It was an original Victorian uniform of the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry Cavalry, which had links with the town. The **Town Clerk** confirmed that funds were available from the Heritage Budget.

RESOLVED: to contribute £1,000 to the Merchant's House Trust towards the purchase of a new item for the Town Museum

Cllrs. Ross and Hall returned to the meeting

229/19

REVIEW OF THE CIVIC AWARD SCHEME

Members considered whether to adopt a draft Civic Award Policy for a reviewed scheme to be entitled 'The Mayor's Community Award' and noted the Town Clerk's concerns that it may be unlawful as decision making cannot be delegated to any individual councillor. (*Section 101(1) of the Local Government Act 1972*). Main points discussed included:

- The **Town Mayor** preferred to retain the Citizen of the Year format for the current year, introducing a new scheme in 2019/20
- If the presentation was to be made at the Christmas Lights Switch-on in November, whether there was enough time to agree a robust new scheme for the current year
- General support for a refreshed scheme
- Whether to approach local community/charity groups to seek nominations for their volunteers

- Whether multiple awards could be considered, e.g. 'best business', 'up and coming business'
- Whether the updated award should go to groups rather than individuals

The proposed draft policy gained broad support and appeared to be more balanced but, Members recognised that more consideration was required into how the scheme might work.

Cllr. Forbes proposed and **Cllr. Barrett-Morton** seconded a motion that the Town Council should adopt the draft Mayor's Community Awards Policy for 2018.

There were 3 votes for the proposal with 6 against and 1 abstention, therefore the motion was not carried.

RESOLVED: to retain the Citizen of the Year awards format for 2018 and that the Town Council should consider an amended awards scheme early in 2018/19

230/18

ENFORCEMENT ISSUE

As requested by the Planning Committee at its meeting of 20 August 2018, Members considered a response received from Wiltshire Council about tree works on the banks of the River Kennet adjacent to Bridge Garage. The **Town Clerk** had provided a report setting out the background.

Cllr. Heath (Tree Warden for Marlborough Town Council) outlined his and local residents' concerns. Discussion included:

- A planning application for pollarding work had been approved and the work carried out in accordance with conditions
- Subsequent to the above, more work had been undertaken resulting in the felling of the pollarded trees without a further tree works application being submitted, so in breach of Section 211 – 213 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- Wiltshire Council's enquiry had concluded that the trees were immature (less than 3" in diameter), and therefore exempt from planning conditions. However, there was evidence that some of the trees were around 20 years old, mature, and larger than 3" in diameter
- Whether, in line with legislation, remedial action should be sought to replace the felled trees with suitable new specimens.

RESOLVED: that although the Town Council has no powers in terms of enforcing planning legislation, Marlborough Town Council requests that Wiltshire Council's Enforcement team provide further clarification on how mature willow trees in a Conservation Area were given permission to be pollarded and then later, without permission, felled. Also that clarification of how this was not in breach of relevant sections of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 be provided by Wiltshire Council

231/18

COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

A suggestion had been put forward by a Member at the Full Town Council meeting held 23 July 2018 that Members consider setting aside a budget for an allowance for the Deputy Mayor. Members noted research into how allowances were made by other Wiltshire city and town councils.

Cllr. Dow was satisfied that based on the research conducted she wished to withdraw her suggestion.

RESOLVED: that no budget should be set aside for a separate allowance for the Deputy Mayor.

232/18

POSSIBLE TWINNING BETWEEN MARLBOROUGH AND ST DENIS D’ANJOU

As part of his own holiday arrangements, **Cllr. Loosmore** had recently visit St Denis D’Anjou and gave a verbal update. Main points included that:

- The town was considerably smaller than Marlborough
- He had been warmly welcomed and there was a strong sense of community with links to surrounding settlements
- Culturally, the two towns might be a good fit especially if widened to include Marlborough’s surrounding parishes
- Whether to look at a potential association between communities, e.g. schools, as a starting point
- France was a lot closer to home than other places where Marlborough already had links (New Zealand, the USA, The Gambia) and so presented easier opportunities for exchange visits

Cllr Loosmore agreed to provide a report for the Full Town Council meeting on 5th November.

233/18

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WILTSHIRE: WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

Members noted the dates of the Electoral Review of Wiltshire which runs to 5 November 2018, and considered how to respond to the Local Government Boundary Commission.

RESOLVED: (i) to defer a response on the review until after a full discussion on the issue and consultation with Marlborough Area Board and others

RESOLVED: (ii) to call an Extraordinary Full Town Council prior to 5 November to deal with the issue

234/18

LIAISON WITH OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllrs. Cooper and **Castle** along with the **Town Clerk, Office Manager** and **Grounds Manager** had attended a positive meeting with the Allotment Association. Items discussed included a review of the standard Allotment Agreement and a clearer definition of roles and responsibilities for all parties along with a change of date for annual renewals.

Cllr. Heath had attended a number of successful events with Action for the River Kennet (ARK) at Stonebridge Meadow including River Schools, with more events planned.

235/18

COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: that in accordance with para. 3.1 of the Scheme of Delegation, Members noted the approved minutes of the following Committee meetings: **Planning – 30th July and 20th August**

236/18

MEMBER’S QUESTION TIME

No questions had been submitted.

237/18

COMMON SEAL

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

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

The meeting closed at 8.48 pm

Signed: Date:
Town Mayor