

**MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
FULL TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a **Meeting** of the **Full Town Council** which was held on **Monday, 23 July 2018** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7pm

PRESENT	Councillor L. Farrell Councillor B. Castle Councillor Mrs P. Dow Councillor N. Fogg Councillor A. Ross Councillor N. Barrett-Morton Councillor M. Hall 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 Councillor S. Dobson Dr P. Hazelwood Inspector C. Martin Mr T. Millett Mr N. Goodwin Plus 2 members of the public	Town Clerk Administrator Wiltshire Councillor – Marlborough East Wiltshire Constabulary Marlborough.News Marlborough.News

The meeting was preceded by a presentation in the Court Room by the Police & Crime Commissioner, Angus Macpherson, at which Town Councillors asked Mr Macpherson questions about local policing issues.

On behalf of Marlborough Town Council, the Town Mayor presented a framed print of Marlborough to **Dr. Hazelwood** in appreciation for his long service to the town as Principal of St John's Academy and to mark his retirement.

PRAYERS

Cllr. Hall opened the meeting with prayers.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Jo Waltham, Resident – was concerned that Wiltshire Council's consultation on special schools appeared to favour the option for closing three special schools, including Rowdeford in Devizes, and replacing them with one new super special school in Trowbridge or Chippenham. The travel times for children in Marlborough would be severely affected by this. Due to multiple pickups they already experienced travel times over an hour each way, every day, and would have at least an additional 30 minutes to endure if their school was to be sited in Chippenham or Trowbridge. For children with special needs who experience anxiety and may have a sensory processing disorder, travel was particularly onerous. Would Marlborough Town Council request that Wiltshire Council consider this impact on our children when they were deciding about special schools provision in the county? The **Town Clerk** agreed to add an agenda item to the meeting on 10 September in order that the Town Council could consider this request.

Val Compton, Resident – asked whether the Town Council would consider improving signage for residents and visitors alike to mark various locations in the town such as Coopers Meadow, Rope Walk and Perrins Hill, as well as to consider adding finger post signs from the High Street to point out locations such as Priory Gardens and Coopers Meadow. The **Town Mayor** thanked **Mrs Compton** and agreed that signage could be improved.

CRIME AND DISORDER

Inspector Martin highlighted crime figures, including that the volume of reported crimes had been stable for the past two years, with March to May 2018 falling below average. He answered questions about availability of and deployment of police resources, anti-social behaviour, open drug taking in public spaces, and whether crimes were going unreported due to a public perception that no action would be taken if there wasn't a police presence in the town at the time of reporting. **Inspector Martin** encouraged everyone to report every crime as well as incidents of suspicious or anti-social behaviour. If trends indicated a spike in a particular area, resources could then be deployed accordingly - for example patrols had been increased in Priory Gardens since attention had been drawn to the site as a problem area for anti-social behaviour. He described the use of social media and other methods of engaging with young people, and answered questions about the potential development of social media as an alternative way to report incidents. The **Town Mayor** thanked the Inspector and asked that Coopers Meadow be included in regular foot patrols.

Inspector Martin left the meeting

QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS

In a previous meeting **Cllr. Fogg** had raised requests received from residents of the High Street north of St Peters Church about parking and access, which he hoped to take forward as a request to the Community Area Transport Group (CATG) and asked that now that this had been discussed by the Planning Committee, it be raised via the Issues Log in time for the next CATG meeting in September.

164/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Kirk Wilson and Loosmore.

165/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

166/18 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Town Mayor** expressed thanks to all involved in Marlborough in Bloom in the lead up to and on judging day, Marlborough St Mary's School for hosting the Town Council's recent consultation on plans for Coopers Meadow play area, Marlborough Cricket Club for hosting the recent Mayor's XI match and to Merlin Court for the invitation to attend the summer fête.

167/18 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Extraordinary Full Town Council held on Monday 16 July 2018 were approved as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor

168/18 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

169/18 COOPERS MEADOW PLAY AREA

Members considered the Town Clerk's report and feedback from children and adults who had attended a recent consultation at Marlborough St Mary's Primary School to view the proposed plans.

RESOLVED: (i) that following requests received in the consultation exercise, to add monkey bars to the play area at a cost of £897

RESOLVED: (ii) to extend the work of the Project Manager to cover oversight of the project build phase

RESOLVED: (iii) to delegate to the Town Clerk to work with the contractor to organise an opening event

Cllr. Dobson left the meeting

170/18

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

Members noted the Town Clerk's report and details about receipts and expenditure for CIL funds and, in line with transparency obligations, that these would be published. Projects listed in the Action Plan and priorities under the Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan should be considered for benefitting from unallocated funds of £45,029. (Any project allocated this funding would need to meet CIL criteria.) One qualifying project was the new Tennis Courts on The Common which met a community and recreational need for the town.

RESOLVED: (i) to allocate £10,000 towards the priority projects list for Marlborough Tennis Club for the new Tennis Courts at The Common

RESOLVED: (ii) to defer a decision on the remaining unallocated funds of £35,029.

171/18

CALL-IN

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 30, the resolution set out at Minute No. 150/18 (ii) of the Property Committee meeting held 9 July 2018 about the installation of a flagpole at the Marlborough Community & Youth Centre had been called in by **Cllr. Ross** and seconded by **Cllr. Kirk Wilson**. The resolution had been:

***“RESOLVED:** (ii) to reinstate a flagpole at the entrance to the Recreation Ground”*

Cllr. Ross was involved with plans for civic events during Armistice week, which this year would commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War. Part of this would take place at the Community & Youth Centre, and he felt it was proper to have a flag in-situ on or near the building in time for this event. He asked whether the resolution could be reconsidered in light of this, either to change the location to the building itself or to add a second flagpole. Points discussed included:

- That planning permission was likely to be needed for either location
- The Town Council already owned one flagpole, currently in storage
- Whether there were technical considerations surrounding height of a free-standing pole close to a building in order that a flag could actually fly, how the flag would be raised and lowered if sited on the roof or top of a wall, and whether an oblique angle or upright pole was preferable
- Support for the Salisbury Road location as the flag would be visible to many people passing by the Recreation Ground
- Whether to proceed with the resolution from the Property Committee and add a smaller flag at the St Margaret's Mead site
- Whether a temporary arrangement at St Margaret's Mead would be suitable to make provision for Armistice weekend
- Costs for a second flagpole had not yet been researched

RESOLVED: (i) to reinstate a flagpole at the entrance to the Recreation Ground

RESOLVED: (ii) to erect a pole at the appropriate height on the Marlborough Community & Youth Centre building in a position where it will be visible to the public, to a design suitable for a public building and to meet all health & safety requirements

172/18

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 SECTION 257 – WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 SECTION 53(a) (2): PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION

Members noted the Town Clerk's report and she read out the rationale received for the proposed diversion: points from this and the discussion included:

- That any objection raised, unless withdrawn, would delay building at the development for some time as the Order would have to be referred to the Secretary of State
- That the only test that an Inspector would have to apply for this Order (if objections were raised) was whether planning permission had been granted at the site – it had been
- The original application stated the footpath would be retained and widened
- No buildings were in line with the footpath
- Whether this section of the development had been clearly defined on the approved application
- The footpath would cut across a turning head and visitor's space in a car parking area if was not diverted
- The developer had asked for the diversion to ensure its development did not cause obstructions to the footpath
- Whether the diversion would put endangered species (dormice) at risk, which had been identified in this area
- Whether this diversion would cause further loss of wildlife habitat - the removal of trees outside the boundary of the site to the north and west had already reduced wildlife habitat significantly

RESOLVED: that Marlborough Town Council should object to this diversion on the grounds of destruction of wildlife habitat and lack of clarity in the original plans

173/18

MARLBOROUGH WELFARE TRUST

Members considered nominating Trustees to the Marlborough Welfare Trust on the completion of the four-year term for **Cllrs. Castle and Dow**.

RESOLVED: that Cllrs. Castle and Dow were nominated as trustees to the Marlborough Welfare Trust for 4 years until 2022.

174/18

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Members considered nominations to one remaining vacancy on the Property Committee.

RESOLVED: that **Cllr. Kirk Wilson** be elected to the Property Committee

175/18

LIAISON WITH OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. Cooper gave an update on liaison with the **Allotment Association**.

Cllr. Heath had earlier that day attended at event with Action for the River Kennet (**ARK**) and Year 6 pupils from Marlborough St Mary's School at Stonebridge Meadow where he and his wife had led a 'bird bingo' element as well as setting up new bird feeders.

Cllr. Cairns passed on an offer from Renata Malton (Wiltshire Council, Operational Flood Working Group) of arranging training for emergency planning/flood wardens for Councillors and community volunteers, and would discuss this at the next Emergency Planning Working Party meeting.

Cllr. Forbes had recently attended a very positive **Marlborough in Bloom** meeting. All were optimistic about the outcome following judging and were already making plans for 2019, the theme of which would be ladybirds. Roles had been clarified and someone was now on board to handle marketing activities.

176/18

COMMITTEE MINUTES

In accordance with para 3.1 of the Scheme of Delegation, Members noted the approved minutes of the following Committee meetings: **Planning – 18 June 2018; Amenities and Open Spaces – 30 April 2018 and Property – 9 April 2018.**

177/18

MEMBER’S QUESTION TIME

Cllr. Dow had submitted the following question:

“Can we consider a small allowance for the Deputy Mayor? I would like to recommend £500 a year”

Members discussed various costs that might be incurred and ways this had been covered in previous years. It was agreed to investigate how this was handled by other Town Councils and then revisit at a future meeting.

178/18

COMMON SEAL

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

RESOLVED: to authorise the fixing of the Common Seal of Marlborough Town Council to all documents necessary to give effect to the decisions of the meeting

179/18

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

All remaining members of the public and press left the meeting

180/18

LAND AT KELHAM GARDENS

Members considered a report and recommendations by the Town Clerk about the possible acquisition of a brownfield site at Kelham Gardens together with a professional valuation report and a pre-planning application.

RESOLVED: (i) that a Working Party comprising **Cllrs. Hall, Ross, Cairns** and the **Town Clerk** would meet to work on a final business case and risk analysis

RESOLVED: (ii) that it be delegated to the Town Clerk to begin formal negotiations with Wiltshire Council based on agreed conditions

RESOLVED: (iii) Members agreed an amount to be offered to Wiltshire Council to purchase the site

Mrs Whitehall left the meeting

181/18

STAFFING ISSUES

Members considered a recommendation by the Staffing Sub Committee.

RESOLVED: that increments be awarded to staff in line with satisfactory appraisals and the recent Staffing Review

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed: Date: