

## MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

### FULL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Full Town Council** held on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2011** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7.00 pm.

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**PRESENT** Councillor Mrs E. Fogg Deputy Town Mayor  
Councillor S.R. Dobson  
Councillor G. Francis  
Councillor B. Castle  
Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson  
Councillor N. Fogg  
Councillor A. Ross  
Councillor Mrs P. Dow  
Councillor A. Spranger  
Councillor Mrs M. Rose  
Councillor G. Loosmore  
Councillor R. Pitts  
Councillor Mrs C. Jackson

**ALSO PRESENT** Mr. Liam Costello Town Clerk  
Mrs Sue Fry Office Manager  
Mr. G. Adams Advisor  
Mr. G. Isaaman Marlborough News Online  
Revd. T. Seago  
9 Members of the Public

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#### PRAYERS

Revd T. Seago opened the meeting with prayers.

#### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

**Mrs V. Compton** – reported that she has carried out surveys regarding residents parking schemes in Marlborough over the last 7 months as it has now reached the stage where printing and postage costs will be incurred would the Town Council cover these.

**The Deputy Mayor** – thanked Mrs Compton for all her hard work and stated that her request would be considered at the next F & P meeting.

#### CRIME AND DISORDER

There was no representative from the Wiltshire Constabulary present.

## **TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

**Councillor N. Fogg** – following a petition to save the Marlborough to Bath bus he was glad to report that this service will continue to run but not quite as frequently.

**Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson** – would the Wiltshire Councillors request that yellow lines are put on the 'chicane' at Hyde Lane/Frees Avenue as when people park here it makes it very dangerous.

### **183/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from the Mayor, Councillor A. Kirk Wilson.

### **182/11 DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST**

Councillor R Pitts declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 5 as the footpath bordered his property.

Councillors' A. Ross, Mrs P. Dow, G. Loosmore and Mrs E. Fogg declared a prejudicial interest in agenda Item 5 as they were close associates of Cllr R Pitts

### **183/11 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman asked all present to join her in a short silence in memory of Mrs Lois Delyle-Turner a former Mayor of Marlborough.

Notice of Election for the vacancy on the West Ward will be posted on the 8<sup>th</sup> September, nomination packs have to be returned to the returning officer by no later than noon on the 16<sup>th</sup> September.

A letter has been received from Wiltshire Council regarding meetings being held to discuss Car Parking Redemption Schemes. These are taking place on the 21<sup>st</sup> September at Monkton Park, Chippenham in the morning and Browfort, Devizes in the afternoon. The Town Clerk indicated that he will be attending one of these meetings any other Councillors wishing to attend should let the Town Clerk know.

Marlborough Litfest will be using the Common for parking on the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> September. The Common will be marshalled at all times and provision has been made for litter picking. A bond of £200 will be deposited in the office against possible re-instatement.

The print by Colin Palmer depicting the Freedom Day is now available for people to order copies of. It was agreed that this should be put in to Town and Country and also Mr. Isaaman was asked to put it on Marlborough News Online.

I would like to remind all Councillors that a memorial service for Lois Delyle Turner is being held at St. Mary's Church on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30 pm. Robing will take place in the Town Hall at 1.45 pm.

This service will be followed by refreshments in the Assembly Room, can you please inform the office whether or not you are able to attend as seats will then be reserved for you.

The Civic Dinner will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> November, Councillors will be ask to host a table for this event.

The Sports Forum Bowls match on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended.

There will be a Transition Town meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall it is hoped that as many Councillors as possible will attend.

**184/11 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** by 9 votes for with 2 abstentions and 2 against (Cllrs' S Dobson and Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson voting against) to receive, approve and sign as a true record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2011.

Cllrs. R. Pitts, A. Ross, Mrs E. Fogg, Mrs P. Dow and G. Loosmore left the room at 7.28 pm.

Councillor G. Francis took the Chair for the next item.

**185/11 PROPOSED DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH 39 IN MANTON.**

The Council considered proposals to divert part of footpath 39 Marlborough.

**RESOLVED:** by 6 votes for with 2 abstentions (Cllrs. S. Dobson and Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson abstaining) that Wiltshire Council be ask to appoint an Inspector to look in to this, whilst this Council are happy to support a compromise for this diversion it has to be one that would not entail impeding in to other peoples gardens and be the least disruptive route for all involved.

Cllrs' R. Pitts, A. Ross, Mrs E. Fogg, Mrs P. Dow and G. Loosmore returned to the room at 7.40 pm.

Councillor Mrs E. Fogg resumed the Chair at 7.40 pm.

**186/11 REPLACEMENT MEMBER OF PROPERTY COMMITTEE.**

There being only one nomination to replace Cllr. Houlden following his resignation from the Property Committee it was –

**RESOLVED:** unanimously that Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson be elected to serve on the Property Committee for 2011/2012.

**187/11 PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS – FINANCIAL YEAR 2010/2011**

The Council received a presentation from the Chairman of the Finance and Policy Committee on the accounts of the Council for the financial year 2010/2011.

Councillor Ross circulated a schedule detailing income and expenditure, reserves, annual precept , and town hall income and expenditure from the year 2000 onwards and elaborated thereon.

Cllr Ross answered questions from members of the accounts and schedule.

**188/11 PAYMENT SCHEDULES**

a) June 2011.

It was agreed that the Schedule of Accounts for June 2011 be received and signed by the Chairman.

b) July 2011

It was agreed that the Schedule of Accounts for July 2011 be received and signed by the Chairman.

**189/11 BALANCES**

It was agreed that the Town Council balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2011 be received and signed by the Chairman.

**190/11 NHS MEETING**

It was agreed that Councillor G. Francis be this Councils representative and attend the AGM of NHS Wiltshire.

**191/11 MOP FAIR OPENING**

Councillors' Mrs M. Rose and R. Notton along with their partners will attend the opening of the Mop Fair on the 8<sup>th</sup> October followed by a reception in the Town Hall.

Councillor R. Pitts will be reserve should either of the above Councillors be unable to attend.

**192/11 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.**

There were no reports from Councillors.

**193/11 MEMBER'S QUESTION TIME**

**Councillor G. Francis to the Deputy Mayor** – during my year as Mayor in 2004 I initiated a Christmas Tree on The Green. This was provided free by Lord Cardigan and was much admired by everyone who passed by. Each year since then we have

had a tree on The Green and this has become established as the norm.

I understand that we may not be having a tree this year owing to cost but I have scoured the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee and can find no mention of this. Can the Deputy Mayor please confirm that we shall be having a Christmas Tree on The Green this year?

**The Deputy Mayor replied** – that this would be taken to the meeting of the A & OS Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> September for discussion.

**Councillor S. Dobson to the Deputy Mayor** – I notice that the certificate awarding this Council Quality Council Status expired on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

Have we applied to have this status awarded for a further four years and if so are we confident that we meet all the necessary laid down criteria to be awarded such status, especially with regard to this current Council's practice of excluding some Councillors from serving on any Committee to the detriment of the people they represent?

**The Deputy Mayor replied** – that Councillor Dobson is correct and that the Quality Status is in abeyance, the Town Clerk can give an update on this issue.

**The Town Clerk** – The Council's quality council status has lapsed and an application for re-accreditation would be made in due course.

**The Deputy Mayor** – in response to the second part of the question stated that when committees are chosen anyone may put their name forward, Councillors then vote by secret ballot according to their own considered judgments, this is democracy.

**Councillor S. Dobson to Deputy Town Mayor** – In view of the fact that through Council mistakes the Leaf Bequest Charity has been removed by the Charity Commissioners on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2009, what progress if any has been made in having such an important Town charity re-instated and is there a legal requirement as to where this charity money is deposited while discussions with the Charity Commission take place?

**The Deputy Mayor replied** - the responsibility for the administration of the Leaf Bequest Charity rests with its trustees and not with Marlborough Town Council.

**The Town Clerk** – informed the Council that work on re-establishing this Charity was ongoing. The funds of this charity were found to be held in a dormant account at the Nationwide B.S. David Parker, as the only known trustee of the charity, obtained the funds from Nationwide B.S. which have now been temporarily deposited in the Marlborough Town Councils' accounts. I am not aware of any specific legal requirements as to where charity money is deposited.

**Councillor Mrs M. Rose** – I feel that more notice should be given for any meeting which is not able to be held on a Monday evening which we all keep clear for Council business, I like other Councillors have other commitments in my life and am unable to change my diary around or cancel at such short notice.

**The Deputy Mayor replied** – that Councillor Rose had made a very valid point and that it has been noted.

**Councillor R. Pitts to the Deputy Mayor** - Would you agree with me that despite letters in the local paper last week to the contrary Marlborough Town Council is not a high spending Council and with a neutral precept this year provides good value to its Council Tax payers.

**The Deputy Mayor replied** – in terms of the Precept ours is not in the highest category as against other comparable towns. We had a neutral precept this year and last year it was below inflation. I would say that we are a high income generating Council in the last 3 years Marlborough Town Council have been successful in securing external funding in the order of ¼ million pounds for the benefit of the community.

**194/11 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** unanimously that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, if it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

**195/11 CALL IN POLICY – MINUTE 165/11 REVIEW OF SALARIES**

The Council considered the Review of Salaries re Minute No. 165/11 called in by Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson and S. Dobson.

**196/11 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

Proposed by Councillor S Dobson, seconded by Councillor G Francis and –

**RESOLVED:** unanimously that the Common Seal of Marlborough Town Council be affixed to all documents necessary to give effect to the decision of the Council.

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The meeting closed at 9.15 pm