

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

FULL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Full Town Council** held on **Monday 20th February, 2012** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT	Councillor A Kirk Wilson 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 Mrs E. Fogg Councillor A. Spranger Councillor Mrs M. Rose Councillor R. Notton Councillor G. Loosmore Councillor R. Pitts Councillor N. Barrett-Morton	Town Mayor
ALSO PRESENT	Mr. Derek Wolfe Mrs Sue Fry Mrs. V. Compton Mr. N. Kerton Mr. G. Isaaman Canon A. Studdert-Kennedy Richard Ayland Simon Evans Plus 7 Members of the Public	Town Clerk Office Manager Advisor Wiltshire Gazette & Herald Marlborough News Online Thames Water Thames Water

PRAYERS

Revd Andrew Studdert-Kennedy opened the meeting with prayers.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mrs V. Compton - asked if Marlborough Town Council would bring pressure to bear on developers and on the Local Planning Authority to insist upon the use of water saving devices in relation to new housing and other developments.

S. Page – because of the lack of support for the Farmer’s Market on a Saturday in the Town Hall we would like to consider holding it in the High Street on a Sunday morning, would Councillors support this?

Councillor R. Notton – as parking is at a premium in the High Street perhaps an alternative location could be found.

Councillor Mrs P. Dow – could the wide part of the pavement from Lloyds Bank up not be used?

The Mayor - the use of the High Street for the market falls under Wiltshire Council, they would make a charge for this. The Mayor stated that he would support the idea of the Farmers Market being held in the High Street.

Mr. M. Exeter - given that the footpaths 39 (& 40) have been completely blocked, particularly at the West End of Manton, what action will be taken by the Council to have them reopened?

There have been significant changes made to the 2008 Working Copy showing Footpath 39 over the earlier 1980 version. Why did the Council not notify the residents that they had made a significant change to the route of footpath 39 and without any consultation with those residents affected? It is not good enough for the Council to say that an error of interpretation was made by them on the 1980's working copy as this has been relied upon for a number of years for searches and other enquiries until updated by the 2008 working copy?

Is the Council considering putting the matter before a Government Inspector to resolve the apparent deadlock between affected residents and Wiltshire Council over the position of Footpath 39?

The Mayor – replied that most of the answers sought fall outside the remit of this Council.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the issues raised related to Wiltshire Council's statutory responsibilities, but welcomed the fact that members of the public wished to raise these via the Town Council.

Councillor R. Pitts - at the westerly end of footpath 39 where footpath 39 and 40 split, approximately a week ago fencing and private keep out notices were put up. This is on top of the removal of the stile and blocking of the footpath in the middle of the route and the breaking down of fences and re-routing of the footpath.

Councillor G. Francis – the improvements that have been carried out at the Castle and Ball have been done to a very high standard. Would this Council write to Greene King congratulating them on the works?

The Mayor – replied that he would write to Greene King.

CRIME AND DISORDER

There was no representative from the Wiltshire Constabulary present.

Councillor Mrs P. Dow – stated that during the last two weeks she had received bogus phone calls requesting her bank details. Would the press please report on

this so that members of the public are aware?

TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.

Councillor N. Fogg – stated that there is a website where bank scams can be reported.

He added that Wiltshire's Core Strategy has now been published.

Councillor Fogg stated that he would take up the issue relating to footpaths 39 & 40 at Manton with officers from Wiltshire Council.

Councillor Mrs P. Dow – reported that following issues raised at a previous meeting she could report that the lights at the Zebra Crossing on London Road have now been repaired and that it will be repainted once the roads no longer required gritting. St. Margaret's Mead has been resurfaced although there are still some issues regarding drains, these will be addressed and the yellow lines at Vicarage Close will be done within the next 8 to 10 weeks.

Councillor B. Castle – reported that two Marlborough Town Council Councillors' had been appointed to become 'Advisory Members on the Council of Partners for the AONB. Councillor Castle as a 'Community and Parish Councils' representative and Councillor N. Fogg as a representative for the 'Historical Environment'

PRESENTATION – REPRESENTATIVE THAMES WATER

The Council received a short presentation from Richard Aylard of Thames Water concerning water usage in the Marlborough area.

Following the presentation the following points were raised –

Councillor Mrs P. Dow – if the proposed Crown Estates development goes ahead what additional strain will be put on Thames Water.

Richard Aylard – we would have to look carefully at different ways to source the supply.

Councillor Mrs P. Dow – how much water is extracted and pumped to Swindon.

Richard Aylard - reported that 6 million litres a day are pumped to Swindon it is hoped to reduce this to 3 million. It is hoped that within the next 4 to 5 years a pipeline will be built to serve south Swindon, this will be at a cost of approximately £10 million.

Councillor Mrs M. Rose – the River Kennet has suffered badly in the past years can Thames Water look at targeting schools and help to make them aware of their usage.

Mrs C. Hitchmough - reported that ARK are working with the schools.

Councillor G. Loosmore – if there is a continued drought in the area what would be the fall back plan ?

Richard Ayland - Thames Water are obliged to supply water to households, so the current network would have to be looked at and a drought order put in place.

Councillor R. Notton – could the water that is pumped to Swindon, not be brought back for usage in Marlborough.

Richard Ayland – at present there are no pipes in place to do this as it would be too costly.

465/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs C. Jackson.

466/11 DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

467/11 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor congratulated KVAT on the very successful film show that was held on Friday 17th February.

On behalf of Mr. A.V. Gray past Mayor and Councillor of Marlborough Town Council, Councillor S. Dobson made a presentation of a plaque to be affixed to an embroidered picture that had been presented to Mr. Gray by Mr. V. Cook during his time as Mayor. Councillor Dobson explained that Mr. Cook who was a CQMS had embroidered this picture during the time that he served in India.

Councillor Notton reported that he had pictures of Mr Cook which he was quite happy to copy and place with the picture and plaque.

The Mayor undertook to write to Mr Gray to thank him for his thoughtful generosity.

468/11 MINUTES

RESOLVED: unanimously to receive, approve and sign as a true record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 9th January, 2012.

RESOLVED: unanimously to receive, approve and sign as a true record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 16th January, 2012.

RESOLVED: unanimously to receive, approve and sign as a true record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 23rd January, 2012.

469/11 TOWN MAYOR

As only one nomination had been received it was –

RESOLVED: that Councillor Mrs E. Fogg be nominated by the Town Council as it's Town Mayor for the forthcoming year 2012/2013.

470/11 DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

There were 2 nominations received for the position of Deputy Mayor 2012/2013, namely Councillors' G. Loosmore and Mrs M. Rose therefore a paper ballot would take need to take place.

Councillor S. Dobson – raised a point of order and asserted that in a document in his possession, which he cited as Appendix D of the Council's Standing Orders, it clearly stated that the nomination for Deputy Mayor will be offered to the next most senior member who has not already served as Mayor unless that member wishes to defer or decline that year.

He considered that Councillor Mrs M. Rose was second only to Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson in the seniority of Councillors who have not yet been Mayor. As Councillor Mrs Hannaford-Dobson has chosen to defer her place this year, he considered that under Standing Orders Councillor Mrs M. Rose was the only candidate that could be nominated for Deputy Mayor. He asserted that Appendix D had been agreed by Council as a way of ensuring fairness and giving every Councillor in their order of seniority the opportunity to serve as Mayor.

Councillor Mrs Dow as a point of order drew attention to a statement just made to Councillor Loosmore that as his election to the Council had been uncontested he had a lesser mandate than other councillors.

However, the Town Clerk advised that as far as he was aware there was no mention of Appendix D within the Council's Standing Orders, which had been approved by the Town Council on the 22nd November 2010, therefore superseding the previously approved Standing Orders which presumably had made reference to the document which Councillor Dobson had cited as Appendix D and which he had pointed out predated the current edition of Standing Orders. Councillor Mrs Hannaford-Dobson commented that she was certain that the Council's Standing Orders did make reference to Appendix D. The Town Clerk advised that although he could find no reference this evening to this appendix within Standing Orders, he would need to look through them more thoroughly to be certain.

RESOLVED: that this item be deferred until the Town Clerk has had time to research this issue and that a Special Town Council meeting be then called.

471/11 PAYMENT SCHEDULE

RESOLVED: that the payment schedule for January, 2012 be approved.

472/11 STATEMENT OF BALANCES

RESOLVED: that the statement of balances as at 31st January, 2012 be received and noted.

473/11 CIVIC SERVICES

The Council discussed the frequency of Civic Services.

RESOLVED: that the 'status quo' remain regarding the holding of Civic Services.

A point was raised regarding the Civic Service held at St. Mary's. Over the years this had been held along side other events in the Church whereas Councillors' felt that it should be a stand alone service. The Mayor agreed to speak to the rector. The Deputy Mayor reported that due to the great success of the service held on the 6th February to celebrate the Queen's Accession, the Civic Service generally held in May at St. Mary's may well be held over the Jubilee weekend.

474/11 TOWN HALL CONSULTATION PROCESS – Min No. 364/11 Refers

Following discussion it was –

RESOLVED: unanimously that the following be adopted –

That the responses would be collated and analysed by Town Council staff who are independent officers of the council.

That valid returns would be limited to town residents.

That all returns should contain a valid name and address

That the original forms would be kept for a period of time after the results have been published.

That the information set out within the submitted forms would only be accessible on request in a redacted form to preserve data confidentiality. The Data Protection Act 1998 prevented the council from disclosing personal details contained in the forms.

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson asked for an assurance that the Town Clerk will provide numeration clarification of the responses returned. The Town Clerk assured Councillor Hannaford-Dobson that he would enumerate the responses received in relation to each of the questions.

475/11 MEMBER'S QUESTION TIME

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson – I would like to know the exact figure and full breakdown of all money expended on the Town Hall project to enable it to be presented at the consultation. Total cost to include the following –

All Architects fees

All Professional fees

All Artist Illustration fees

All Printing and Publishing costs

All Leaflet Distribution costs

I would also like to know what percentage of the population returned their consultation forms.

The Mayor - the figures will be collated and form part of the report. He added that he would respond to Councillor Mrs Hannaford-Dobson in writing.

Councillor S. Dobson – does this Council believe that a fresh application for Quality Status can be made without finally resolving the issue of great concern to the electorate, I refer of course to the system whereby certain Councillors are allowed to sit and vote on two or even three Committees when three Councillors are prevented from serving on any Committee ? This despite all Councillors being considered to have equal rights in the eyes of the electorate and the law. How can we hope to appear as an open and transparent Council when even our latest Councillor has still not been given a Committee some four months after being elected?

The Mayor – replied that Committee selection is carried out as per our Standing Orders.

Councillor S. Dobson – asked the Mayor to put his response in writing

Councillor S. Dobson – in view of the fact that with our new Town Clerk's qualifications we will now be able to re-apply for Quality Town Council Status, will the Council now be given the opportunity to discuss and vote on reverting to The Greyhound Newsletter being printed and delivered as an individual stand alone newsletter and not just included as a single page article in a free advertising magazine?

The Mayor - replied that the current arrangement will be allowed to run for at least a year and then can be reviewed after that period.

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson – could the Mayor explain why there had been TalkTalk banners along the railings at the side of the Town Hall and also why an advertisement had appeared on the Town Council page in the Town and Country Magazine.

Officers advised that this had been part of an agreed arrangement whereby the Town Council had obtained sponsorship funding.

476/11 DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

It was noted that the next ordinary meeting of Marlborough Town Council is scheduled for Monday 21st May, 2012 at 7.00 pm.

477/11 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Proposed by Councillor S Dobson, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and –

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

The Town Clerk reported that at future Town Council meetings a schedule will be available of all documents that have been Sealed since the last meeting.