

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

FULL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Marlborough Town Council** held on **Monday 30th January 2006** in the **Council Chambers, Marlborough Town Hall at 7.00pm**

PRESENT

Councillor B. Castle	Deputy Town Mayor
Councillor S. Dobson	
Councillor W. B. Cavill	
Councillor G. Francis	
Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford	
Councillor Mrs P. Dow	
Councillor Mrs C. Jackson	
Councillor M. Curtis	
Councillor R. Allen	
Councillor P. Cossey	
Councillor A. Ross	

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs Pam Dobson	Town Clerk
Mrs L. Chapman	Civic Secretary
Councillor Skittrall	Kennet District Council
Councillor C. Humphries	
Rev. Father Philip Thomas	
Sergeant Mark Freeman	Wiltshire Constabulary
Mr Nigel Kerton	Wiltshire Gazette
Plus 7 Members of the Public	

PRAYERS

The Revd. Father Philip Thomas opened the meeting with prayers

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited members of the public to ask questions.

Ms Val Compton

Has the Town Council collected the information on the Residents Parking Scheme Survey?

Town Clerk

Yes the office staff has collated this information.

Mr Young, The Green

Can we move away from Councillors being elected on the basis of Political Party.

The Chairman

It is the democratic right of an individual and the Town Council cannot interfere with this. However, people who come into this town may not know the individual, but would be familiar with the principles of a political party, in addition it can be costly to stand for Council.

Mrs Young, The Green

I have been in consultation with Kennet District Council and everyone possible about the rubbish outside the Masonic Hall, which is being put out immediately after collection and therefore sits there for the next week. Kennet District Council collected the bag of rubbish and took it away to see if they could find out whom it belonged to but unfortunately there were no clues. With the new fortnightly collection this will be an even bigger problem.

The Chairman

The new waste collection scheme is being discussed on tonight's agenda. You must keep badgering Kennet District Council. The Councillors may wish to put this to the Kennet Councillors later.

CRIME AND DISORDER

Sergeant Mark Freeman introduced himself and stated that he is acting Inspector while Inspector Dawson is away. Very quiet generally no great detail on crime figures and will answer any questions

The following questions were asked –

- Young people do not have a problem with local police officers it is the police coming in from outside the area who seem to have an attitude towards certain youngsters. Would it be possible to refer this back to your colleagues?

There are times when a more robust attitude is necessary, but will take comments on board.

- On the road to Axford there is what appears to be an abandoned car can it be removed?

Will try and get it removed or I will speak to the relevant authority.

In response to the car being abandoned it was in an accident a young lad flipped his car just before Christmas it has not been dumped.

- There is a problem with Waitrose trolleys being left all over town and not being collected. Is there anyway we can put pressure on Waitrose to ask them if they could consider trolleys you need to pay to use. This would help to solve the problem.

Will look into possible fines for littering. Only Waitrose can make the decision to change to pay to use trolleys. Will update at next meeting.

TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS TO AND FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The following questions were asked and responded to –

- Would like District Councillors views on the proposed changes to the waste collection. There are now outbreaks of rats in Marlborough. People will be expected to hang on to rotting food even in the height of summer.

Councillor Humphries stated that there would still be weekly collections one week domestic and recyclables the following week. There will be penalties if we as a Council do not recycle more.

Councillor Skittrall added that he agreed with Councillor Humphries and that the European Community insists that we recycle a certain percentage. At the moment we recycle 26%, which needs to reach 36% within the next couple of years.

If you recycle properly wheelie bins will be adequate and places in Marlborough where they cannot be used black bags will continue to be supplied. In other parts of the country this scheme has proved to be very successful.

- Will black bags be collected weekly?

No they will be collected the same as the wheelie bins.

- The road in George Lane is in poor condition. The zebra crossing in particular appears to be collapsing on the Pharmacy side. There is also an issue with speeding cars.

Sergeant Freeman has looked at speeding and not found a problem despite checking at different times of the day will go back and take another look.

Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford agreed to look into the problem with the road and the zebra crossing straightaway.

413/05 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs H. A. Cripps, M. Gray, N. Fogg, D. Parker and M. Cooper

DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST

Agenda Item.10	Councillor M. Curtis – employee of Marlborough College.
Agenda Item 14	Councillor B. Castle – Candidate for Mayor and intends to withdraw. from the proceedings.

414/05 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman would like to send best wishes to our Mayor Councillor Mrs Hilary Cripps we all hope that she is comfortable and also send our best wishes to Mrs Adrienne Francis who has undergone surgery. She is now home and feeling very bored.

The Chairman would also like to say that he spent time at the riverbank in Manton on Sunday and would like to pay tribute to all the people who helped including A.R.K., the Environment Agency, M.A.D.T., Manton Residents and A.O.N.B. Representatives..

Congratulation to the Gazette and Herald on the brochure for Marlborough and Pewsey, which was written by Mr Nigel Kerton.

Just to remind all Councillors of the Civic Service at Christchurch on Sunday 5th February at 10.00am this will be the last Civic Service where the Revd. Sankey will be officiating before he leaves this summer and we would like to thank him for all his hard work.

415/05 MINUTES

Proposed by Councillor B. Castle, seconded by Councillor W. B. Cavill

RESOLVED: unanimously to receive and approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Marlborough Town Council held on the 12th December 2005 be taken as a true record subject to the following amendment – Councillor M. Curtis was present at the meeting although the minutes stated he was absent.

416/05 **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS – and to sign as a true record those minutes not previously received**

a) Proposed by Councillor Mrs P. Dow, seconded by Councillor M. Curtis and -

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the R & A Committee held on the 3rd January 2006 be Received with the following amendment Councillors R. Allen and A. Ross were present at the meeting although the minutes stated they were absent.

b) Proposed by Councillor S. Dobson, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and -

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy Review held on the 9th January 2006 be Received.

c) Proposed by Councillor P. Cossey, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and –

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 16th January 2006 be Received.

d) Proposed by Councillor A. Ross, seconded by Councillor S. Dobson and –

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the F & GP Committee held on 16th January 2006 be Received.

417/05 **TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS – and make Resolutions on the Recommendations therein where necessary –**

a) Recreation and Amenities Committee – 3rd January 2006.

Minute no. 376/05 – an acknowledgement had been received from W.C.C. and further clarification was awaited. It was stated that the Town Council regretted that the information given verbally to the previous Town Clerk had not been sought in writing at the time as it could have saved a great deal of work.

Minute no. 382/05 – Still awaiting response from Devizes and Pewsey, but have received information from Hungerford, Calne and Wootton Bassett on their expenditure. Also contacted the Spirit of Christmas who are willing to meet. Still awaiting a response from the Rotary Club. Councillor M. Curtis suggested that The Lions should be included. Following a discussion the following points were raised –

- Lights are not up to the standard we are used to hope that the Town Clerk can come back with some suggestions.

- Hopefully there will be a tree on the Green again this year. Need to take a look a figures before any decisions can be made.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford, seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Dow and –

RESOLVED: by a majority vote with one abstention that we go straight to F & GP.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs P. Dow, seconded by Councillor M. Curtis and –

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting on 3rd January 2006 be Received and Adopted.

- b) Finance and General Purposes Committee – 16th January 2006.

Minute no. 407/05 Cllr. Allen asked what the funding had been agreed for

It was stated that there is no money in this year's budget for projects under the Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act unless taken from contingency. However it was agreed a sum yet to be decided should be include in the estimates so there will be funds for 2007/08.

Proposed by Councillor A. Ross, seconded by Councillor Mrs C. Jackson and –

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 16th January 2006 be Received and Adopted.

418/05 **CLERKS REPORT – to receive information from the Town Clerk on the following and give consideration to make comment where necessary.**

- a) Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2006/07 – 2010-11 Consultation Responses

The County Council have supplied two copies of the full document, which are available at the office for members perusal, however the covering letter and first part of the document, which summarises the process so far, had been circulated. The second part of the document contains a summary of the comments received and is available in full on the County Council's website.

There were no comments received.

- b) Standards of Conduct in English Local Government – discussion paper reflecting the Government response to the Standards Board recommendations for amending the Code of Conduct.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has published a discussion paper, which reflects the Government's current views on the future of the conduct regime for local Government. The covering letter and the introduction contained in the first chapter of the document had been circulated. In addition 8 copies of the full document have been obtained to supply to Councillors on request so that all may have an opportunity to submit any comments they consider appropriate. The document is also available on the website.

The Town Clerk reported she had met with Maria Memoli regarding training, but as the new code is anticipated in the near future, it is suggested that this take place after this is received.

A discussion took place where the following comments were raised –

- Extremely concerned if the adjudication panel is disbanded
- The disbanding of the adjudication panel may only apply to the Code of Conduct for employees could clarification be sort on this

It was agreed that copies of the document be made available to Councillors and further consideration of comments be made at the Planning meeting to be held on 13th February 2006.

419/05 **TO RECEIVE MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING –**

- a) Minute no. 352/05 – To nominate 2 Councillors to represent the Town Council at MCASP and the Members Forum.

Proposed by Councillor P. Dow, seconded by Councillor G. Francis and –

Agreed by a majority that Councillor Mrs C. Jackson represents the Town Council at MCASP and the Members Forum.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford, seconded by Councillor M. Curtis and –

RESOLVED: by a majority that Councillor S. Dobson represents the Town Council at MCASP and the Members Forum.

- b) Minute no. 353/05 – To consider support for the funding of schemes proposed for preliminary design and consultation as part of the Marlborough Community Area Transport Study (document previously circulated).

Do we support the money being put to fund the schemes for Kingsbury Street, London Road/Salisbury Road/George Lane, - St. Martins and Herd Street.

Proposed by Councillor R. Allen, seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Dow and –

RESOLVED: by a majority with one against and one abstention (Councillor S. Dobson asked that it be noted that he had voted against the proposal) that – Marlborough Town Council approves the £50,000 for the investigation of schemes to solve identified traffic problem areas.

420/05 **DRAFT CAR PARKING STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

To discuss a Consultation prepared by Kennet District Council and to submit the Town Council's comments before the 13th February 2006.

There could also be an opportunity to discuss residents parking, as under Decriminalisation Kennet District Council will have power to create them however it is assumed these areas would be charged for.

A discussion took place on the strategy and questionnaire and the following points were raised –

- Councillors should be aware of the Page 8 - 3.5.2.
- Disagree most strongly with boxes 5 and 6
- Reinforce box 12 want them to look at residents parking in Marlborough
- Do not want to lose the free parking in The Parade (2hours), London Road (1hour) and Side of the High Street (½ hour).

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

RESOLVED: by a majority vote that -
Marlborough Town Council agree with all statements in the questionnaire except for boxes 5 and 6 where we disagree most strongly, and the comments made should be included.

Councillor M. Curtis Declared and Interest and left the room at 8.27pm

421/05 **A4 BATH ROAD/BRIDEWELL STREET, MARLBOROUGH – Assessment of Pedestrian Crossing Facilities.**

To discuss the assessment prepared by Wiltshire County Council prior to the Statutory Consultation on the recommendations therein and submit any comments necessary.

The Town had circulated copies provided Wiltshire County Council to everyone

The following comments were discussed –

- Four crossings in such a short distance will cause congestion problems during peak times
- Having two crossing near to the roundabout could be dangerous
- Unfair on people living in the west of the town trying to get to work.
- There are however desperately needed in Herd Street and The Common

Proposed by Councillor G. Francis, seconded by Councillor A. Ross that –
that Marlborough Town Council would consider the pedestrian crossing on the A4.

This proposal failed by 3 votes for with 5 against. (Councillor G. Francis would like it noted that he was in favour of the crossing on the A4).

Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford, seconded by Councillor P. Cossey and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Bridewell Street proposal was not supported.

The Town Clerk clarified that there was no support for either pedestrian crossing and this would be the view submitted to Wiltshire County Council.

422/05 **CHURCHILL COURT/RIVERSIDE WALK**

To receive a report from the Town Clerk and a letter from the Churchill Court Residents Association following a meeting with McCarthy and Stone regarding land transferred to the Town Council enabling the establishment of a Riverside Walk.

The Town Clerk stated that on her arrival at the Town Council, one of the items left for her attention was a letter from McCarthy and Stone in respect of the eastern end of Churchill Court development land as marked on the attached plan. In addition to the strip along the riverside set aside for a future river walk the area at the side of the pumping station was included in the transfer of land, so that access could be gained to the rest of the riverbank to extend the walk should circumstances ever permit. Due to illness of the Mayor the Town Clerk did not progress this until January when the Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk met with representatives of McCarthy and Stone who asked if the Town Council would consider a request for the small strip alongside the pumping station to be re-transferred. The Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk advised that although they felt that it was unlikely as the future development of the river walk would be compromised, they would consult the Full Town Council for their formal response. In addition the Town Clerk has now received a letter from Churchill Court Residents Association on this matter and this had been circulated.

The following comments were discussed –

- The land in question is not negotiable.
- Does the land definitely belong to Marlborough Town Council?
The Town Clerk and the Chairman confirmed to the Councillors that the land definitely belonged to the Town Council.

Proposed by Councillor S. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Dow and –

RECOMMENDED: unanimously that –

Marlborough Town Council whilst mindful of the residents and their security believe that in the interest of the whole of the town, we should continue to protect future access to the river.

423/05 **GOAL POSTS – Marlborough Common**

To discuss a request by the Residents of the Acres through Sarsen Housing Association meeting

The Town Clerk stated that the following must be considered before installation

Concerns that by installing a goal post are we implying that the area is safe to use? If so will we need a prepared surface (as there appears to be concrete under the grass), and regular inspections and records of routine maintenance, grass cutting, holes filling in etc, will be required. The area should be placed far enough away from the road and facing away so no conflict with cars. In addition there are concerns about crossing of the road. Should we be encouraging use of the existing goal posts and play area at Rabley Wood View where safe facilities already exist. If the Town Council decides to go ahead a full risk assessment will be needed to identify what will be required to ensure compliance with current legislation for the provision of recreational facilities. Funding will need to be identified and consideration be given to asking Sarsen to contribute. Will there be loss of income from circus, fair etc., if this takes away the usage in the centre to ensure no conflict with traffic. Will we be considering Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act?

The following comments were made –

- As this would be a new build it will have to conform with 2005/06 regulations
- Are risk assessments done for the Circus and Fair and are they insured.
- If goal posts are erected they will be the Town Councils responsibility
- There are goal posts in Rabley Wood View, which means that youngsters will not have to cross a busy main road.
- Youngsters and parents are concerned about children playing at the Rabley Wood play area, as it is fairly isolated.

Proposed by Councillor R. Allen, seconded by Councillor C. Jackson and

RESOLVED: by a majority vote that –

Marlborough Town Council agree in principle to the erection of a goal-post and go to the next stage of carrying out a risk assessment.

424/05 **PROPOSAL FOR ALTERATION TO HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION BY KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

To discuss the lack of information regarding the proposed changes to the waste collection service and concerns with the present system.

The Town Clerk spoke to Kennet District Council last week asking if they were willing for an Officer and elected member to come to Marlborough to make a presentation about proposals. This could be open to the general public and adjoining parishes could be invited to make a worthwhile evening.

The following comments and questions were raised –

- Roadside pickup recyclables does not include plastic and cardboard nor does the recycling point in Skurrays car park. Could there be a way to recycle these items?

At this time these items have no resale value but this facility will gradually build up to a full service by 2011.

- Can we ensure that every household will receive their wheelie bins on time.

Proposed by Councillor R. Allen, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and –

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should arrange for Councillor Twigger, and Officers of Environmental Health at Kennet District Council to give a presentation at the Town Hall on the proposals and invite members of the public, and local Parish Councils.

Councillor B. Castle withdrew from the proceedings at 9.10

425/05 **SELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR FOR THE MAYORAL YEAR 2006/07**

Proposed by Councillor G. Francis, seconded by Councillor W. B. Cavill that – Councillor S.R Dobson take the Chair.

Councillor B. Castle was asked to return to the room at 9.11pm.

The nomination had been previously received in writing Proposed by Councillor D. Parker, seconded by Councillor G. Francis

In the absence of Councillor D. Parker, Councillor G. Francis spoke in favour of Councillor B. Castle and made the following speech –

I am pleased to second the nomination of Councillor Bryan Castle for Mayor for the coming year.

I know that he will carry out his Civic duties conscientiously with decorum and dignity and will represent the town with his usual charm and statesman like manner – he has already had opportunities to practice this during madam Mayors unfortunate absence.

But there are two Civic aspects to the role of Mayor and I believe that the second one – that of leading a disparate group of Councillors, of summarising a debate and of conducting a meeting of the Parish or Special meeting of the public is not easy. Ask any past Mayor what they found most trying and they will all give you the same response – Chairing Full Town Council meetings.

Now I am only mentioning this, not because I do not feel that Councillor Castle can handle it but I want those of you who are aspiring to undertake this office in the future to take advantage of the opportunity to practice these skills by offering your services as Chair of a Committee. I think that our Standing Orders are not sufficiently firm about this, giving the option of “preferably having served as Chairman” rather than “must have served as Chairman”. Having said all that I assure Councillor Castle that he will have my undivided loyalty if his nomination is confirmed.

Recommended by 9 votes for with 1 abstention that –

Councillor S. Dobson stated that it was his great pleasure to announce Councillor B. Castle as the new Mayor Elect and he felt that he would make a splendid Mayor, which he has already demonstrated during the sad absence of the Mayor.

Councillor Castle made the following speech –

I am very honoured to be nominated and then elected (by my fellow Councillors) as Marlborough’s next Mayor. My priority will be to consolidate on the excellent start that we have already made in house towards Quality Status Council. I have confidence that with the support of all Councillors and guided by the experience of our new Town Clerk we will reach this goal.

I must not let this occasion pass without sending our love, prayers and best wishes to our present Mayor, Councillor Mrs Hilary Cripps. The Mayor remains indisposed but we look forward to having her back with us, after a period of convalescence. In the meantime, I will endeavour to fulfil her duties as required by the Council and our Community. Thank you.

426/05 **SEALING OF THE DOCUMENTS**

Proposed by Councillor S. Dobson, seconded by Councillor W. B. Cavill and –

RESOLVED: That the Common Seal of the Marlborough Town Council be affixed to all documents necessary to give effect to the decisions of the meetings of this Council.

427/05 **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM ELECTED MEMBERS WHO ARE REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES.**

Elected Members had nothing to report.

428/05 **MEMBERS QUESTION TIME – provided questions have been submitted to the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.**

No questions were submitted and no comments made

Meeting closed at 9.19pm

