

## MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

### FULL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Full Town Council** held on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2009** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7.00 pm.

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<b>PRESENT</b>	Councillor N. Fogg Councillor S.R. Dobson Councillor G. Francis Councillor B. Castle Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson Councillor Mrs P. Dow Councillor A. Ross Councillor A. Kirk Wilson Councillor Mrs E. Fogg Councillor Mrs M. Rose Councillor A. Spranger Councillor G. Loosmore Councillor S. Radnedge Councillor R. Pitts	Mayor
<b>ALSO PRESENT</b>	Mrs Sue Fry Mr. G. Adams Acting Sergeant Dean Wright Carol Southall Plus 2 Members of the Public	Office Manager Adviser Wiltshire Constabulary Rural Housing Enabler

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**NOTICE OF MEETING – Public Notice of the Meeting has been given in accordance with Schedule 12, paragraph 10 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972.**

Carol Southall, the Rural Housing Enabler for Wiltshire and Swindon gave a short talk on affordable housing, then answered questions raised by Councillors.

#### **PRAYERS**

The Mayor open the meeting with Prayers and asked Councillors to remember Councillor R. Notton and pray for his speedy recovery.

#### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**Val Compton** – asked if she could once again thank Councillors for their continued support over the last two years for the campaign Community Action for Savernake Hospital. Could she also let Councillors know that the Judicial Review will take place in the High Court, London on June 30<sup>th</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

So many supporters of the campaign, including Town Councillors, had once again expressed an interest in attending the Judicial Review, the Friends of Savernake Hospital are organising a daily coach to and from London. This will be advertised in the Wiltshire Gazette – anyone wishing to book a seat will be asked to phone Janet Louth.

**The Mayor** – wished Mrs Compton every success and said that she had the support of the Council.

**R. Allen** – would the Council try to achieve a Town Plan or at least a “wish list” this year and engage with the local people when doing so.

**The Mayor** – replied that he would take up this issue.

**Councillor R. Pitts** – reported that the Area Plan is also up for review this year.

### **CRIME AND DISORDER**

**Sergeant Wright** – reported that an incident that happened in the town today was a national operation and not Wiltshire based.

**Councillor Ross** – asked how personnel are now deployed in this area.

**Sergeant Wright** – there has been an amalgamation of resources which means that Devizes and Marlborough are covered by one team. This has been in operation since April, it is working but needs to be worked at.

**Councillor Mrs Hannaford-Dobson** – asked if we still have a Community Team in Marlborough.

**Sergeant Wright** – replied that there is still a Community Team based in Marlborough and that we have a new PCSO Mark Wright who is based here. John Bordiss has now joined the Rural Crime Team.

**Councillor Loosmore** – although Marlborough has a low crime rate if officers spend more time in Devizes because their crime rate is higher does this not make Marlborough an easy target, how can we assure that there is a balance.

**Sergeant Wright** – replied that this is one of the concerns that has been raised and the situation will be monitored.

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

**Councillor Mrs E.M. Dobson-Hannaford** – gave answers to questions previously raised.

Wiltshire County Council are expecting their first payment back in July/August and are expecting to recover approximately 80% of the money that was invested in the Icelandic Banks.

A letter has been written regarding the road to the north of St. Peter's Church has been sent but to date no reply has been received.

The one-way system in operation on this same road was only put in place for 2 years while building works were being carried out.

The new sticky signs that have been used by Wiltshire Council will be replaced as part of a rolling programme.

The lighting on the A4 to Manton was carried out for safety reasons, the old concrete lamp post which were deteriorating had to be replaced with metal ones.

**Councillor G. Loosmore** – the paving slabs that have been removed outside of Henry George should be replaced, although this work has been carried out by Utilities they should be required to replace them, this does not appear to be the case.

**Councillor S. Radnedge** – the replacement of this slabs should have been part of the original agreement.

#### **17/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R. Notton.

#### **18/09 DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST**

There were no Declaration(s) of Interest

#### **19/09 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### **1. Chamber of Commerce Business Breakfast invite for 20th May 2009.**

Could I request that those who wish to attend, please tell Cllr Pitts after this meeting they wish attend and give him a cheque at the same time in advance (£7.50 per head) made payable to the Castle and Ball.

##### **2. New Business of the Year**

The Marlborough and District Chamber of Commerce is looking for at least four new businesses set up since 25 September 2008 to compete for the Marlborough Chamber event on 13 October and the winner would progress to the county final on 12 November.

The Town Council is very pleased to support this event and entry forms will be available by contacting the Town Council office.

3. The Station Officer at Marlborough Fire Station has requested to use the Town Hall on one of their practice nights (mainly the cellar area).

4. Jennings' Fun Fair have made a late request to use the Common for a fair from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> June (they will pull on to the Common on the 29<sup>th</sup> May and leave on the 6<sup>th</sup> June after closing)

5. The Mayor informed members that the Annual Evensong at St. Peter's Church will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> June, at 6.30 pm. Notification will be sent to all Councillors.

6. The Mayor thanked members for their support at the Annual Town Council Meeting. The Mayor requested that Councillors speak only once on each issue at meetings of the Full Town Council. It would be good to start a new year with a greater sense of self discipline.

## **20/09 MINUTES**

Proposed by Councillor A. Ross , seconded by Councillor S. Radnedge  
and –

**RESOLVED:** unanimously to receive, approve and sign as a true record the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on the 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2009.

## **21/09 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES.**

Council representatives to Outside Bodies are as per attached sheet.

Councillor S. Dobson stated that he was sure that it has been discussed at Council in the past, although he was not sure that it was in Standing Orders that no Councillor could be a representative to an outside body for more than 3 years.

It was agreed that this item be deferred until the next Full Town Council meeting to allow time for this to be investigated.

Councillor Castle stated that he felt that as there were vacancies at the moment these should be addressed immediately, but after discussion it was agreed that all appointments should be considered at the same time.

## **22/09 CIVIC INSIGNIA**

The Council considered the purchase of a replacement case for the Mayoral Chain.

It was agreed that this item should be referred to the next meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee and that quotations should be sought from local tradesmen.

## **23/09 REFINEMENT OF STANDING ORDERS**

Any Councillor referring to law in the future should quote the detailed law, paragraph/sub-section and how it has a bearing on their argument, without that detail Council may refuse to discuss the Councillors quoted law. Councillor R. Pitts feels that it is not acceptable to quote the entire act, for example, Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

It was agreed that this should be submitted as a formal proposal and discussed at the next Full Town Council meeting.

**24/09 NOTICE OF CONSTITUTION OF A POLITICAL GROUP**

The Council received a signed form and request from Councillor S.R. Dobson stating that he and four fellow Marlborough Town Councillors wish to be treated as a political group.

The Mayor reported that a motion will have to be proposed to amend Standing Orders and that this Council would have to agree as a body to become a political council.

If Councillor Dobson wishes to take this forward he should bring a resolution to the next Full Town Council.

**25/09 SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS**

a) March, 2009.

Proposed by Councillor A. Ross, seconded by Councillor G. Loomore and –

**RESOLVED:** by 13 votes for with 1 against that the Schedule of Accounts for March, 2009 in the sum of £31,867.89 be received and signed by the Chairman.

b) April, 2009.

Proposed by Councillor A. Ross, seconded by Councillor G. Loosmore and –

**RESOLVED:** by 13 votes for with 1 against that the Schedule of Accounts for April, 2009 in the sum of £31,165.60 be received and signed by the Chairman.

**Councillor S.R. Dobson asked that he be named as voting against these schedules as he is unhappy about the cheques paid in relation to employment advice taken as he feels that some of these expenses were incurred without the permission of the Council, therefore these expenses are not in the ownership of the Council.**

It was agreed that this matter be referred to the next Finance and Policy committee meeting.

**26/09 TOWN COUNCIL BALANCES**

Proposed by Councillor A. Ross, seconded by Councillor R. Pitts and –

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Council balances as at the 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2009.

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson requested an explanation as to why the balance for April, 2009 was less than that of April, 2008.

Councillor Hannaford-Dobson was informed that this was due to the late payment by Wiltshire Council of the precept (paid at the beginning of May instead of the end of April as is usual)

**27/09 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.**

a) Marlborough Chamber of Commerce Minutes of meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2009.

- b) Marlborough and Villages Community Area Partnership Minutes of the meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2009.
- c) Marlborough Christmas Lights Association Minutes of meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2009.
- d) NHS Wiltshire – Update May 2009.
- e) Report on Town Council Surgery 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2009.
- f) Bobby Van News – 2009 Newsletter
- g) WSYP Newsletter – Wiltshire Services for Young People

28/09

## SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

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

**RESOLVED:** unanimously 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.

29/09

## MEMBER'S QUESTION TIME

**Councillor S R. Dobson** – Will this Council make a formal request to Councillors Pitts and Ross that in view of the unresolved issue of the Town Clerk's rent that they give this Council a full and detailed account of all the discussions that took place between themselves and the Town Clerk regarding the matter and the dates that these discussions took place? (In making this request, I accept that all or part of the statement they make may have to be considered under Part 2).

**The Mayor** - replied that it is important that this Council do not prejudice its own interest. This matter should be imparted to the appropriate body of this Council which is the disciplinary committee, which will disclose all such information to Councillors during the disciplinary process that it follows.

**Councillor S. R. Dobson** – In the light of the justified public concern over allowances and expenses claimed by Members of Parliament, will this Council now take the opportunity to review its own system of expenses and allowances paid to its members. Are we sure that all Councillors' claims are accompanied by relevant receipts and should we reconsider the generous allowances we pay to our Mayors in the present economic climate?

**The Mayor** – stated that he felt this request was slightly out of context considering the very few claims from Councillors that this Council receive for expenses. Any paperwork relating to these claims can be inspected in the Council Offices.

**Councillor S.R. Dobson** – stated that Councillors questions should be referred automatically to the appropriate Committee.

**The Mayor** – did not respond.

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The meeting closed at 8.28 pm