

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** which was held on **Monday 22nd April, 2013** in the Assembly Room, Town Hall, Marlborough at 7.00 pm.

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| PRESENT | Councillor Mrs E. Fogg | Town Mayor |
| | Councillor A. Ross | Chairman – Finance and Policy |
| | Councillor G. Loosmore | Chairman – Property |
| | Councillor G. Francis | Vice Chairman – Planning |
| | Councillor Mrs P. Dow | Chairman – Staffing |
| | Councillor R. Pitts | Chairman – Amenities and Open Spaces |
| | Mrs. S. Parker | Town Clerk |
| | Mrs S. Fry | Office Manager |
| | Ms. A. Mauremootoo | Wiltshire Gazette & Herald |
| | Mr. T. Millett | Marlborough News Online |
| | Mrs. S. Pryor | Advisor |

Plus 63 Members of the Public including Councillors

Refreshment were served prior to the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Spranger and Mrs M. Rose.

2. **MINUTES**

That the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on the 23rd April, 2012 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor Councillor Mrs E. Fogg.

3. **PRESENTATION OF MAYOR'S CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION**

The Mayor explained that she had chosen the Prospect Hospice as her charity for the year following the death of a close friend and neighbour who had received care there. During the year, aided by her fundraising committee she had managed to raise just under £8,000 pounds.

Those present from her fundraising committee received their commendation certificates.

During the autumn, as Deputy Mayor the Mayor planned and coordinated the Town's Jubilee Celebrations as they would take place in her mayoral year. This was achieved with the assistance of a voluntary committee.

Those present from the organising committee were presented with their commendation certificates.

4. ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES ON BEHALF OF MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL.

The Mayor Councillor Mrs E. Fogg presented her Annual Report (copy attached)

Councillor A. Ross, Chairman of the Finance and Policy Committee presented his report (copy attached). In addition he reported that during the last year 11 grants totalling £6,800 had been awarded to local organisations.

Councillor G. Loosmore, Chairman of the Property Committee presented his report (copy attached)

Councillor G. Francis, Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee presented the report on behalf of the Chairman as she was unable to be present (copy attached)

The Mayor Councillor Mrs Edwina Fogg left the meeting, Councillor G. Loosmore, Deputy Mayor took the chair.

Councillor R. Pitts, Chairman of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee gave a power point presentation highlighting the works carried out during the year and the future aspirations of the committee. (copy of written report attached)

Councillor Mrs P. Dow, Chairman of the Staffing Committee submitted a written report (copy attached) and stated that she was happy to answer any questions arising from this report.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mrs J. Chandler – I would like to share my concerns about the safety of pedestrians in the George Lane Car Park. There are three walkways –

The River walk made by the Town Council many years ago – well used but very muddy when it rains and made difficult by overhanging brambles.

A self made bumpy path on the bank behind the cars

A marked walkway in front of the parked cars.

As a user with a pushchair I do not find any of the three very safe or easy to use. The route is used regularly by mothers with children on their way to school and the elderly on their way to the Surgery. It would be appreciated if the Town Council could look at this problem.

Councillor G. Loosmore – thank you for your question about the safety of pedestrians in the George Lane Car Park with regards to walkways. There may be some issues around ownership. We will be discussing the points you have raised with our Head Gardener and also Highways Officers at Wiltshire Council. We will send you a written response.

Mr. D. Chandler – what progress is the Town Council making towards the setting up of a Tourist Information Centre in Marlborough? This has been talked about, with little action, over several years now. I thought the proposed changes to the Town Hall, with the Council Offices incorporating a Tourist Information Centre moving across to the Town Hall were inspirational but I think my views are a minority one.

Councillor G. Loosmore - the issues of the Tourist Information Centre has not yet been resolved. However, to make sure that our visitors have information in 2013/2014 about Marlborough, the Town Council has bought, as a one off 20,000 leaflets for distribution in the town and further a field. These will be available in the next few days.

Along with other organisations in the town, we are also working with Visit Wiltshire and Hidden Britain to improve our offer to tourists and visitors. Hidden Britain has been in Marlborough for a workshop and we will soon be receiving a 'secret shopper's' verdict. Once we have an evidence based on material, we should be able to identify the gaps and look at how to make improvements. It's not clear yet if this will include a Tourist Information Centre. We know that many feel that there should be one – after all Marlborough is the 10th best place in the UK to live!.

Mr. D Chandler – what has happened to the blue 'Borough Signs' on the approaches in to the town.

Town Clerk – will look in to this and report back.

Councillor Mrs P. Dow – reported that the walkway behind the cars in the car park at George Lane had been installed by Wiltshire Council following requests from users of pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Councillor B. Castle – stated that it is hoped that an established footpath can be made that will go through the Priory and out at the back of the Kitchen shop in Hilliers Yard.

Councillor R. Pitts – reported that the Town Council only own the path on the Priory side of the river.

Councillor G. Loosmore – acknowledged that the Town Council have a responsibility to the town but there were grey areas concerning ownership of certain pieces of land.

The Town Clerk to investigate this matter further and report back.

Mr. A. Oliver – the use of the Common as a car park by the Rugby Club is causing damage can the Town Council investigate this?

Councillor G. Loosmore – replied that this issue is being looked in to.

Mr. R. Chalke – are more areas being sought and investigation taking place as to how best to develop the Marlborough Community Orchard Project.

Councillor R. Pitts – areas are being investigated.

Town Clerk – reported that Marlborough Town Council are also working with Wiltshire Council to clarify the suitability of some areas of land that are in their ownership that have already been planted and identify other sites that can be planted in the future.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Annual Parish Meeting will be the 28th April, 2014.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed
Chairman

Date