

# MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

## FULL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Full Town Council** held on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2013** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7.00 pm.

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<b>PRESENT</b>	Councillor G. Loosmore Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson Councillor B. Castle Councillor N. Fogg Councillor A. Ross Councillor A. Kirk Wilson Councillor N. Barrett-Morton Councillor Ms. L. Farrell Councillor R. Allen Councillor J. Cook Councillor B. Lam Councillor M. Hall Councillor A. Light	Town Mayor
<b>ALSO PRESENT</b>	Mrs. S. Parker Mrs S. Fry Mr. G. Isaaman Mrs S. Pryor Sgt Barry Reed Plus 2 members of the public	Town Clerk Office Manager Marlborough News Online The Adviser Wiltshire Constabulary

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### PRAYERS

The Mayor opened the meeting with Prayers.

### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

**Mrs V, Compton** – when consideration is given to the replacement of the Mayoral Chain could thought be given to replacing it with an elegant, plain, simple but modern version?.

**The Mayor** – replied that this topic was an item for discussion later on the Agenda.

### CRIME AND DISORDER

The Mayor welcomed Sgt. Barry Reed.

**Sgt Reed** – reported that this was one of the busiest times of year for the police. There had been a reduction in all areas of crime apart from criminal damage and another such case had taken place in the St. Martins area at the beginning of November. This was being covered with additional patrols. It was important to remember that Marlborough still remained a safe place

Operation Banning which had been running since June 2013 had resulted in 44 offences being detected and 48 people dealt as a result of this.

Operation Dasher was now in place. It was aimed at crime prevention involving high visibility patrols during the Christmas period liaising closely with retailers and helping staff identify suspicious characters

Shop lifting crimes had risen from 4 last year to 7 in 2013 but, this rise could be due to shop staff being more aware of what was happening in their shops

Sgt Reed reported that he had recently attended a CATG meeting. The police would be assisting in drafting a Road Safety Strategy which will link in with local parish councils

A Youth Crime initiative was being piloted using restorative justice. This involved using preventative measures to deter young people from entering the criminal system

**The Mayor thanked Sgt Reed for his very informative report.**

**Cllr A. Kirk Wilson** – enquired as to whether Sgt Reed felt that Restorative Justice worked when dealing with young people who had carried out criminal damage to cars in St. Martins

**Sgt Reed** – replied that, so far, the results had been positive

**The Mayor** – stated that he felt it might be beneficial for Sgt Reed to give a short presentation to Councillors on how Restorative Justice works.

**Sgt Reed** – reported that he would be happy to do this

**Cllr. Fogg** – enquired as to whether Sgt Reed felt that CCTV might have helped in the recent cases of criminal damage in St. Martins

**Sgt Reed** – replied that it may well have helped

**Cllr. B. Castle** – enquired from where the Restorative Justice initiative originated

**Sgt Reed** - replied that this was the Ministry of Justice

**Cllr. B. Lam** – stated that he felt that, after midnight, the police presence diminishes in the High Street.

**Sgt Reed** – replied that after this time, the town is covered by patrol cars from Swindon

**Cllr. A. Light** - enquired as to what classes of drugs had been seized during Operation Banning

**Sgt Reed** – replied that this varied but mostly they were those used for recreational purposes (e.g. Ketamine and Cannabis). There appeared to be only small use of drugs such as Cocaine.

**The Mayor** – thanked Sgt Reed and his staff for all their help at the recent parades and events that had taken place in the town and asked that he passed on the Council's best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to his staff

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

**Cllr. N. Fogg** – enquired as to why there had been no free parking dates during the Christmas period for Marlborough.

**The Town Clerk** – replied that no notification had been received from either the Chamber of Commerce or Wiltshire Council. However, there was a voucher in the latest edition of the Wiltshire Council magazine which entitled shoppers to an hour of free parking after the first two paid hours.

**373/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S R Dobson, J. Cook and Mrs P. Dow.

The Mayor wished Councillor S. Dobson a speedy recovery following his recent operation.

**374/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

The Town Clerk explained that, under the Localism Act and for 2013/14 precept setting, all Councillors had needed to request dispensations enabling them to make a decision on the precept. However, guidance had now been received from the Department of Communities and Local Government confirming that this was no longer necessary.

**375/13 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor thanked everyone who had helped to make the Remembrance Parade, Armistice Day, the Military Parade and the Christmas Lights Switch-on all such successful events.

Congratulations were passed on to the Citizen of the Year, Mrs Viv Lucas as well as close runner-up, Mrs Janet Lough.

There were to be changes at Marlborough Fire Station and a representative from the Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service would be attending the Full Town Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January to update the Town Council on these

The CCTV consultation was due to close on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

The Mayor informed Members that he had held a Christmas Card Competition inviting children from the three local primary schools to design the Mayor's Christmas card for 2013. With so many entries and such high standards, it had been a very difficult choice for the Mayor and Mayoress. A winner had been chosen from each school and each presented with a certificate

There would be an Icicle Balloon meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> January on the Common, an early start to blow away the excess of Christmas!

As this was the last Full Council meeting of 2013, the Mayor wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**376/13 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**377/13 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

**RESOLVED:** unanimously that the contents of the Town Clerk's report be noted and that she be thanked for a comprehensive report.

378/13

### **MAYOR'S CHAIN**

The Town Clerk's report was noted. Main discussion points were:

- That the Council's insurers would pay for a replacement chain up to the value of £96,550
- Provenance of the original Mayor's Chain
- The merits of replacing the chain on a 'like for like' basis
- Whether consideration should be given to commissioning a modern chain with fine detail in keeping with the historical style of the robes
- Retaining the style of the original chain whilst including some modern design (e.g. a greyhound and lettering of 2014).
- That the production timeframe if undertaken by insignia specialists was likely to be 4 to 5 months

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Clerk works up a proposal for a replacement chain with responses from craftsmen to bring back to the next meeting of the Full Town Council.

379/13

### **BUDGETS/PRECEPT 2014/2015**

The Town Clerk's report and recommendation from the Finance and Policy Committee were noted. Cllr A Ross, Chair of the Finance Committee, outlined the reasoning behind the proposed rise in precept. Main points of discussion were:

- The effects of the reduced Local Council Tax Grant from Wiltshire Council
- The likelihood of capping for town and parish councils over the next 1-2 years
- That the situation was felt on a national level and that Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) had indicated that rises were inevitable
- That the rise in precept represented a rise of 15.49%. (This equated to an increase of £19.56p per year or £1.63 per month or 37p per week per Band D property).

**RESOLVED:** that the Budget for 2014/2015 be £477,759 and that the Precept (to include the Local Council Tax Support Grant of £20,314 from Wiltshire Council) be £457,445 as per the recommendation from the F & P Committee meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk issues a Press Release.

380/13

### **PROPOSAL ENGLISH CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT**

The Town Clerk's report was noted. Cllr Hall who, together with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllr Ross had attended a preliminary meeting with the English Civil War Society, outlined the proposal for a re-enactment on The Common over the weekend of 26/27 July 2014 as well as the associated events around it.

- Total expenditure was estimated at £9,000
- No budget was available for the proposal and external sponsorship would have to be sought
- The short timeframe available for proper organisation of the project and if a date in 2015 would be more appropriate

- Success of a previous re-enactments in the High Street in 2004 and recent enactments at Monkton Park in Chippenham

**RESOLVED:** unanimously that the Town Council supports, in principle, the proposal for a Civic War Re-enactment on The Common and that the Town Clerk investigates sponsorship opportunities alongside a suitable timeframe for the event.

**381/13 USE OF COMMON**

Request for the use of the Common by Circus Ginnett between 14-16 April 2014

**RESOLVED:** that the use of The Common be approved for use by Circus Ginnett subject to the usual conditions

**382/13 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

A report by the Town Clerk about a request to turn on the Christmas Lights earlier during the course of the day was noted.

**RESOLVED:** that the Christmas Lights are switched on for the few remaining days leading up to Christmas to encourage a more festive feel to the town and help to boost trade.

**383/13 DEPUTISING POLICY**

**RESOLVED:** that the Deputising Policy be adopted as set out in the recommendation from the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013

**384/13 LIAISON WITH OUTSIDE BODIES**

The following updates were given-

**Market Towns Forum** – The most recent meeting involved presentations about business support.

**Marlborough Area Board** – The November meeting had centred on health issues and there were disappointingly few attendees for such an important topic. All Members were encouraged to go along to future meetings

**Marlborough Brandt Group** – Councillor Kirk Wilson reported that fundraising concerts were being held

**The Richmond Fellowship** – Councillor Castle reported that the Fellowship fully endorsed Marlborough's entry into Britain in Bloom

**Shadow Communities Operation Board** – Councillor Allen reported that he was awaiting confirmation of the next meeting date

**CATG** – it has now been made clear that issues regarding Manton should first come through the Town Council

**ARK** – Councillor Castle reported that the second Fish Pass had now been installed in Coopers Meadow

**2293 Air Training Corps** - Councillor Barrett-Morton reported that planning was well underway for the parade in February

**Kennet Community Transport** – Councillor Kirk Wilson reported that £1,800 had been raised through sponsorship.

**Sports Forum** – Councillor Ross confirmed that the annual fundraising dinner would be held in January. Guest speakers were Stuart Pearce and Andrew Thornton

**Town Team** – a meeting was being arranged for January

**Allotment Association** – an AGM would be held in the New Year

385/13

**MEMBER'S QUESTION TIME**

Councillor M. Rose raised the following question:

*At the meeting last Monday of the Finance and Policy Committee, the committee decided to remove from the budget of the Amenities and Open Spaces the sum of £5000 to be used as a sinking fund for possible expenditure on the replacement of expensive machinery for the outside staff. At the same meeting, the committee agreed the sum of £65,000 for unspecified future Town Hall projects.*

*Can Cllr. Ross assure the Council that following their decision, our Estate Manager will be able to purchase replacement machinery when required in 2014/15 and not have to wait for a new financial year in order to maintain the high standards our residents expect in our outside spaces?*

**The Mayor** – replied that the decision of the Finance and Policy Committee not to adopt the Sinking Fund Policy as proposed by the Open Spaces Committee did not in any way inhibit any proposed future capital expenditure by that Committee. The Council, had to date, adopted a policy of spreading capital expenditure over a period of years by lease, hire purchase or other arrangement.

386/13

**SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

**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 meeting closed at 8.57 pm.

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....