

# Marlborough Town Council



## Full Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Marlborough Town Council held Monday, 23 March 2026  
in the Court Room, Marlborough Town Hall at 7pm

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<b>PRESENT</b>	Councillor Emily Trow	Town Mayor
	Councillor Nicholas Fogg	
	Councillor Lisa Farrell	
	Councillor Mervyn Hall	
	Councillor Mark Cooper	
	Councillor James Sheppard	
	Councillor Susannah O'Brien	
	Councillor Caroline Sadler	
	Councillor Abi Beaumont	
	Councillor Caroline Wrench	
	Councillor Nicholas Awbery	
	Councillor Kim Wakeham	
	Councillor Jane Davies	Wiltshire Councillor – Marlborough West
	Richard Spencer-Williams	Town Clerk
	Dawn Whitehall	Corporate Services Officer
<b>ALSO</b>		
<b>PRESENT</b>	Mathilde Scheepers	Chair, Marlborough Youth Council
	Neil Goodwin	Marlborough.News
	Eight members of the public	

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### **MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTION**

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were several questions relating to Lower Prospect, and photographs were tabled for Councillors:

- What can the Council do to stop illegal and inconsiderate parking that blocks garages
- Residents are often kept awake by car horn alarms not knowing who the owners are
- The level of conflict is growing due to parking at the end of the cul-de-sac: tyres have been let down, tempers are frayed

- On 8 March an ambulance was called for an emergency at an address in Lower Prospect but the vehicle was unable to get near the house due to the whole area being clogged by badly parked cars
- Some vehicles appear to be 2<sup>nd</sup> cars and are left for days or weeks without moving
- The double parked cars do not belong to residents of Lower Prospect
- For clarity, **Val Compton**, who successfully campaigned for a resident parking scheme at Kennet Place, had been supporting residents of Lower Prospect. Since the introduction in Kennet Place while occasionally residents may have to wait a while for another vehicle parked legally for the 2-hour limit to move, the resident parking scheme was working and had made life much easier.

The **Town Clerk** had visited the road the previous week with a resident, ahead of an application for a resident parking scheme appearing on the Planning Committee agenda for 30 March. The issue with parking at the end of the cul-de-sac is a separate matter to the application for residents parking. The garages are mostly owned by Aster Group (some privately owned) with the added complication of rights of way/access through the area. As such, the Town Clerk was not sure that Wiltshire Council would be able to resolve the problems, or that the issues with parking near the garages was a suitable candidate for the Local Highway & Footway Improvements Group to consider. The main conversation should be with Aster Group. While having no power over highways, the Town Council does have a duty to promote public safety, and as such he was happy to contact Aster Group to start a conversation for the residents to try to avoid any further conflict; he would also check with the police whether they would view the issues as a civil matter or something they could help with.

**ACTION:** Town Clerk to contact Aster Group about parking issues at Lower Prospect

**Neil Goodwin (Marlborough.News)** and **Pauline Berryman (resident)** asked questions about York Place: what was happening with the development as the building was deteriorating; and what would the Town Council do once the development was complete, where there would likely be double the number of cars for the available parking spaces, which would put even more pressure on on-street parking in St Martins, Lower Prospect and other nearby streets?

**The Mayor** had already replied by email to Pauline Berryman, and forwarded her comments to Kym-Marie Cleasby, the Wiltshire Councillor for Marlborough East as well as Planning Officers. The **Town Clerk** would ask for a status update on the planning application for York Place, and he confirmed that the Town Council were very aware of the potential parking issues and the point had been made very strongly at the time the planning application was submitted.

**ACTION:** Town Clerk to request an update on York Place

#### **CRIME AND DISORDER**

No officer was available to attend the meeting, but an update report had been provided and was tabled for Councillors.

**Councillor Fogg** asked that congratulations be passed back to Wiltshire Police on the success of Operation Scorpion (tackling drug supply and creating a hostile environment for organised crime groups): it had demonstrated the value of co-operation between the South West's five police forces.

**Councillor Farrell** asked whether the police take any action when arresting people for drug offences in terms of offering support to help them get off drugs

**ACTION: Councillor Farrell** to email her question via the **Town Clerk**

### **PRESENTATION ON THE CEMETERY CONSULTATION PROPOSAL**

A video outlining the proposal to extend Marlborough Cemetery onto part of Marlborough Common was shown. As this involved Common land, DeFRA requires the Town Council to provide alternative common land in compensation, and to gain public agreement. The video explained all of this, as well as in-person consultation events on 28 March and the voting day on 16 April. Leaflets were available at the meeting for members of the public, and the video and further information was available on the Town Council website<sup>1</sup>.

Discussion points included:

- The proposed new common land at Hawthorn Meadow was intended strictly for public amenity: no burials were proposed there. The current Cemetery would be extended from its current border to Frees Avenue
- The importance of tradition and heritage in Marlborough, in keeping generations of family burials in one location
- The proposal highlighted the wonderful work that had been done in Marlborough over the years to support nature
- It was not possible to re-use spaces in the closed Victorian Cemetery: it was a 'closed' cemetery (the new cemetery opened in 1924); the rights to reuse spaces had not been legal before 1955; all grave spaces in both cemeteries had been sold in perpetuity prior to 1977<sup>2</sup>
- It was known that ashes had previously been interred at the Victorian Cemetery by lifting the turf and scattering them, but the sites were not marked or known; meaning it may be difficult to offer this location for future similar ashes interment without unknowingly disturbing a grave
- There were many government bodies involved in the Cemetery project: while a projection of 6-10 years before it was full felt like a long time, this would be a complicated project that would take several years to complete and it was important to start now
- Whilst not in scope for this project, the new playground at Hawthorn Meadow was progressing, with the Town Council grounds team assisting with tending the grass areas, despite the fact that the playground along with Hawthorn Meadow remain in the ownership of GreenSquareAccord HA. There was now an agreed plan in place; hopefully all work would be over by June so the play area would be open for the summer

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk/news/news-articles/3205-cemetery-extension>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1977/204/contents/made>

## QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS

**Councillor Farrell** asked whether there was any way that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) could work with the Town Council to find the right solution for the town when considering the sale of the former police station in George Lane.

**Councillor Davies** noted that Philip Wilkinson had attended the recent Area Board meeting where people could ask him questions. The PCC had a duty to sell the site at the highest price: the money would go back into policing services. She wasn't sure there was legally any leeway on this, but Councillors were welcome to write to him again. She also reinforced that separately, **Wiltshire Council Planning Officers** did have the ability to balance applications against social benefit and refuse unsuitable planning proposals, as had been the case with the unsuccessful application to build luxury retirement apartments at the site.

ACTION: Town Clerk to clarify with the PCC if their stated legal position on the sale of the former police station site was the case, or whether there is any leeway to take into account the needs of the community, via the Town Council's solicitor if necessary.

On a related point, **Cllr Davies** had been reassured that Wiltshire Council, which owns the former resource centre site at Cherry Orchard, wouldn't just sell it off. While the Stone Circle proposal was no longer going ahead as they were focusing on buying 1 and 2 bed flats rather than new build, the future of the site was still within the gift of Wiltshire Council – as an example, it could decide to build a scheme that would be 100% social housing.

**Councillor Davies** asked whether Councillors were aware that Wiltshire Council had passed its budget at the end of February, and she highlighted a number of elements of the budget and recent council discussions including the political make up of Wiltshire Council, decisions on funding community transport, potential closure of household recycling centres, whether to introduce lane rental for utility companies and whether to harmonise car parking charges across the county.

*Councillor Davies and five members of the public left the meeting*

**437/25**

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence had been received from **Councillors Cleasby, Lusson, Shantry and Morgan**.

**438/25**

### **DECLARATIONS**

**Councillor Cooper** – agenda item 11 – Kennet Place Waterfront Garden – non-pecuniary.

#### **439/25 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor thanked everyone who had provided input to Wiltshire Council proposals to close household recycling centres and stressed that Cabinet does listen when Parish and Town Councils contact them, as Marlborough had done on this issue. Wiltshire Council had now confirmed that both the Purton and Lower Compton Household Recycling Centres will stay open while they progress plans for a new facility in the north of the county. They recognised how strongly residents feel about this issue and acknowledged the important role the community's voice had played throughout the process.

The Gala Dinner on 20 March had been a fabulous evening, and the Mayor thanked everyone who came along and/or helped to support it, especially the Civic, Cemetery & Engagement Officer. So far it looked like at least £6,000 had been raised for Prospect. The Mayor's other charity was Marlborough Area Youth Forum, and she would now focus her support there, especially at the fundraiser in May.

As this was the last Full Council meeting the Mayor would chair, she expressed her gratitude to Members for their patience, for representing their community, and to the Town Clerk for his support.

The Annual Town Meeting would take place on 27 April between 6-9pm, when the Community Champion Award winners would be announced, and she hoped everyone would attend.

#### **440/25 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held 26 January 2026 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor

#### **441/25 ACTION LOG**

Members noted the action log. **Councillor Cleasby** was taking the lead on actions related to parking at Avebury, and **Councillor Sheppard** would be happy to reinforce the questions if required.

#### **442/25 MAYOR 2026-27**

Proposed by **Councillor Fogg** and seconded by **Councillor Hall** and

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Mayor for 2026-27 will be **Councillor Mark Luson**

#### **443/25 DEPUTY MAYOR 2026-27**

Proposed by **Councillor Hall** and seconded by **Councillor O'Brien** and

**RESOLVED:** that the Deputy Town Mayor for 2026-27 will be **Councillor Emily Trow**

#### **444/25 COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2026-27**

**RESOLVED:** that the calendar of meeting dates for municipal year 2026-27 is agreed

#### **445/25 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

Members noted the second interim internal audit report, and that no issues had been found.

#### **446/25 COMMUNITY FRIDGE**

Members noted the update report on the Community Fridge. The **Town Mayor** extended the Council's thanks to Transition Marlborough, Milly Carmichael and the Deputy Town Clerk Clare Williams for an exceptionally successful collaboration.

**447/25 KENNET PLACE WATERFRONT GARDEN**

*Councillor Cooper did not participate in the discussion and did not vote*

Members noted the Town Clerk's report and considered whether to apply for a Section 96 licence, which grants permission for planting, upkeep and small scale improvements to the Wiltshire Council grass verge; and whether to agree to a request from resident Val Compton for the Town Council to assume responsibility for the Kennet Place Waterfront Garden.

Discussion points included:

- A S96 licence gives the holder permission to work on an area in the public realm but does not provide any obligation to do so. The licence can be given up at any time with responsibility for the area handed back to the owner, Wiltshire Council
- The Waterfront Garden was regarded as one of the little gems of the town, and had been recognised with multiple awards
- There was general support to keep the garden going and support the request
- Whether residents would continue to look after the garden if the Town Council did not take it on
- Whether there would be an ongoing cost to the Town Council, and whether it was prudent to take on the licence and responsibility without this being fully understood
- Whether to apply for the licence but retain the status quo, i.e. with residents maintaining the garden
- Whether, if the Town Council took over responsibility, at worst case/lowest cost it could be returned to a grass verge and strimmed a few times each year which presented little risk to the Council
- Whether, if residents ceased their involvement, the Town Council could maintain the garden with the same style of planting. It requires hand watering and water supply would be an issue for the Grounds Team, especially in times of drought. A different style of planting, or perhaps a rain garden, could be considered. In addition, while Mrs Compton currently maintains the river side of the flood wall the Town Council team would not do this
- Whether there would be negative public reaction if the Town Council took it on and changed the style of the garden
- Whether to apply for the licence now, recognising there was little risk or cost to the Town Council at this point, noting that in future decisions could be taken on whether to retain the licence and style of garden (open to review at any time) should circumstances change

**RESOLVED:** to apply for a Section 96 licence for Kennet Place Waterfront Garden

**448/25 STANDING ORDERS**

Members considered the Town Clerk's report and the proposal to amend standing orders to allow a representative of the Youth Council full non-voting participation in Full Council discussions. Several Members expressed enthusiastic support for the proposal.

**RESOLVED:** to amend Standing Orders to allow a representative of the Youth Council non-voting participation at Full Council meetings

**449/25 SAFEGUARDING SUB-COMMITTEE**

Members noted the Town Clerk's report and considered whether to create a small safeguarding sub-committee to meet as required to review policy and practice development, or in relation to safeguarding issues. This would provide support to the Town Clerk in his role as Safeguarding Officer.

**RESOLVED:** (i) to create a Safeguarding Sub-Committee

**RESOLVED:** (ii) that members of the Safeguarding Sub-Committee for 2025-26 would be **Councillors Trow, Awbery** and the **Town Clerk**

**450/25 OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillors provided verbal updates on their representational roles with outside bodies:

**Marlborough Sports Forum – Cllr Wrench** reported plans were going well in preparation for the event on 4 May (Bank Holiday Monday) between 10am-4pm at the Recreation Ground. Sponsorship had been obtained for T-shirts and Marlborough College was providing food for the event. **Cllr Trow** had already volunteered her time, any other Councillors able to help out for a few hours were asked to contact **Cllr Farrell**.

**The Merchant's House – Cllr Beaumont** reported the new Chair had taken over from Alison Galvin Wright, and the Committee members were all very committed and driven. It was considering whether to apply for Museum status. The shop was still empty and available to rent. **Cllr Wrench** had been invited to attend the meeting in her capacity as a representative of the Town Council's Promotions & Culture Committee.

**Marlborough Youth Council – Cllr Farrell** would not always be able to attend every meeting: **Cllr Wrench** agreed to join to provide support and/or cover

**ACTION:** Remove Cllr Farrell from the representatives to the Patients Participation Group

**451/25 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

In accordance with para. 3.1 of the Scheme of Delegation, Members noted the approved minutes of the following committee meetings: **Planning** on 12 January and 16 February 2026, **Amenities & Open Spaces** on 19 January 2026, **Property** on 27 October 2025 and 5 January 2026 and **Finance & Policy** on 24 November 2025.

**452/25 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, members of the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

*Neil Goodwin and all remaining members of the public left the meeting*

**453/25 COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARDS**

Members considered nominations received for the 2026 awards.

**454/25 NOMINATION FOR HONOURS**

Members considered a letter received from a member of the public, and agreed this was a matter beyond the scope of the Town Council, but individual council members could make personal representations of support if they considered this appropriate.

**455/25 COMMON SEAL**

Proposed by **Cllr Fogg** and seconded by **Cllr Farrell** and

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

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Signed: .....

Town Mayor

Date: .....