

**MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
FULL TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a **Meeting** of the **Full Town Council** which was held on **Monday, 11th December 2017** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7 pm

PRESENT	Councillor M. Hall Councillor B. Castle Councillor Mrs P. Dow Councillor N. Fogg Councillor A. Ross Councillor G. Loosmore Councillor P. Cairns Councillor M. Cooper Councillor S. Price Councillor A. Wilson Councillor D. Heath	Town Mayor
ALSO PRESENT	Mrs S. Parker Mrs D. Whitehall Fr. Blacker Councillor S. Dobson Mr N. Goodwin Ms J. Corbett Plus 14 members of the public	Town Clerk Administrator Mayor's Chaplain Unitary Councillor – Marlborough East Marlborough.News Gazette & Herald

The meeting was preceded by a presentation from Orlando Harris and Paul Oakley about a proposed cinema in The Parade.

PRAYERS

Fr. Blacker opened the meeting with prayers.

Fr. Black left the meeting

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

CRIME AND DISORDER

No officer was available to attend the meeting.

TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Fogg – Members might like to know that Elsie Knocker (one of the names proposed to Redrow Homes for new street names at the Salisbury Road development (Min. No. 427/17 – Planning Committee - 4th December 2017)) had been commemorated on a set of Royal Mail stamps marking the centenary of the end of WW1. A first day cover was also available. It would be good to consider acknowledging this figure of national importance with connections to Marlborough as part of the town's 2018's WW1 commemorations.

441/17

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Kirk Wilson, Farrell, Barrett-Morton, Forbes and Northeast.

442/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Cllr Loosmore – Item 7 – Marlborough Rising – Non-pecuniary.

443/17 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Mayor** expressed thanks to everyone – the Rotary Club, the Lions Club, Showmen's Guild, the BBC, Lead Sponsors (Now Vauxhall), staff and others who helped to make this year's Lights Switch-on such a success.

The Town Council would be launching the new look Marlborough Community & Youth Centre with a celebratory event at the Centre between 5pm and 9pm on Friday, 15th December. Invitations and flyers had been sent out and a good turnout was expected. Councillors were expected to attend and even Father Christmas was coming in to have a look round.

Members would want to be aware that the funeral for Tony Skittrall, former Town Clerk, was to take place on Thursday 14th December at 12 noon at St Mary's Church.

Finally and most importantly, the **Mayor** wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

RESOLVED: that as there were a number of members of the public present with an interest in Agenda item 9 – Rabley Wood – the Mayor would move this up the agenda

444/17 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Town Council held Monday 20th November were approved and signed as a true record by the Town Mayor

445/17 RABLEY WOOD

Members considered a proposal by Wiltshire Council to dispose of amenity land/open space at Rabley Wood.

The Town Mayor summarised the background which was detailed in the Town Clerk's report - the land was owned by Wiltshire Council (previously Kennet District Council) and the play area was, under a licence, the responsibility of Marlborough Town Council. Under a legal agreement, the land was intended for amenity open space use 'in perpetuity.' Marlborough Town Council raised objections to 15/1052/OUT for residential and associated works on the grounds of Highways issues, an existing Deed of Variation, wildlife concerns, parking and safety issues and that the proposed compensatory like for like land was unsuitable. Following an appeal, planning permission was granted in June 2016. A further application (14/03379/FUL) to change use of agricultural land to a Nature Park including compensatory recreation land had also been rejected by the Town Council as not suitable for recreational use.

Development would now depend upon whether Wiltshire Council decided to sell the land to a developer. This matter would be considered at a Cabinet Meeting scheduled for 30th January 2018. The meeting would be open to members of the public who would be able to speak.

Discussion points included:

- Whether Wiltshire Council would be betraying the community's trust if it sold land for development which had been legally designated for amenity use as open space 'in perpetuity'
- Disappointment that the Planning Inspector in his decision to allow the appeal and grant planning permission had not given full consideration to flooding concerns or the legal agreement
- That the sale of the land would provide income for Wiltshire Council

- That the legal agreement put in place by Kennet District Council had intended the open space to be a permanent amenity for the community and it should be honoured and remain in place
- That the compensatory open space would not meet the required standards of the Wiltshire Open Space Standard and contravene Wiltshire Core Strategy Policy 52 (Green Infrastructure)
- Wiltshire Council's own Open Spaces Study (Parts 1 and 2) showed Marlborough as being deficient in green recreation land and recommended that existing areas should be protected. The green space at Rabley Wood View was specifically referred to within the document as a large recreation park.
- The role of wetlands/water meadows in flood mitigation. Wetland areas and water meadows had important roles in both flood mitigation and habitat for wildlife, and similar areas were under threat nationally leading to increased flood risk and habitat decline

RESOLVED: (i) to delegate to the Town Clerk to write a letter of objection in the strongest terms to the disposal of the land off Rabley Wood for development on the grounds that the compensatory recreation land is not suitable and its use as like for like open space is in breach of Core Policy 52, highlighting too various flooding concerns, that the legal agreement to retain the land as open space 'in perpetuity' should be kept in place as it was originally intended and that the historic nature of the adjacent water meadow and its role in flood mitigation and wildlife habitat should also be considered.

RESOLVED: (ii) to defer nominations to attend the Cabinet meeting on 30th January 2018 until the Planning Committee on 15th January, when Members' availability would be clearer

Cllr. Dobson and several members of the public left the meeting, after thanking the Town Council for continuing to support the community on this issue

446/17 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Members noted the Town Clerk's report.

447/17 MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk about progress, and details of a celebratory opening event to be held Friday, 15th December 2017.

This project had been a great success with the Town Council completing the refurbishment in 6 months after only taking on the building in June 2017. The **Mayor** acknowledged a very generous donation of goods and money from McCarthy & Stone to the value of £15,000 and appealed to Members to attend the opening event.

448/17 MARLBOROUGH RISING

Members considered a request for support by the organisers of a music festival taking place in September 2018 and its application for a road closure. Members discussed:

- That, as a non-profit organisation, it would be appropriate to offer the festival organisers charity hiring rates for Town Council venues
- Whether there would be issues about hiring The Common for car parking at the same time as a circus and rugby matches were likely to be taking place
- Whether all parties affected by the proposed road closures had been properly consulted by the organisers
- Whether the proposal for manned road closures implied there would be 24 hour coverage at the barriers

RESOLVED: (i) that Marlborough Town Council supports Marlborough Rising and that an early meeting should take place with relevant officers about the use of Priory Gardens, The Common and possibly the Town Hall all at charity hiring rates

RESOLVED: (ii) that Marlborough Town Council has no objection to the proposed road closure subject to consultation taking place with all businesses in The Parade

Cllr. Loosmore did not vote.

449/17 BUDGET/PRECEPT 2018/2019

Members noted the Town Clerk's report and considered recommendations from the Finance & Policy Committee as outlined by **Cllr. Ross**.

RESOLVED: that the total net budget figure and precept requirement to levy to Wiltshire Council to collect on behalf of the Town Council for 2018/19 is £626,331 representing a 2.9% rise, which equates to an annual precept of £187.97 for a Band D property. This equates to an increase of £5.30, or 44p per month

450/17 WW1 BEACONS OF LIGHT – 11TH NOVEMBER 2018

Members considered whether to join other organisations across the UK lighting beacons on Sunday, 11th November 2018 to commemorate the end of the First World War. There was general support for the initiative with a request for further discussion as part of the overall requirements for the commemorations for Armistice Day 2018.

RESOLVED: to defer a decision to allow time for the Civic Working Party to consider the beacon alongside other activities being discussed for 11th November 2018

The Town Clerk would contact other organisations about whether this would be something of interest to them

451/17 LIAISON WITH OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllrs. Castle and Cooper and the **Town Clerk, Grounds Manager** and **Office Manager** had attended a recent meeting of the Allotment Association. It would hold an AGM in March 2018 after which it was likely a new committee would be formed, possibly with a new constitution and Allotment Agreement. Roles and responsibilities would also be clarified.

Cllr. Ross: The Merchant's House Trust's project to open a new museum was experiencing delays. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should invite trustees to make a presentation to the Full Council in the New Year.

452/17 COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: that in accordance with para 3.1 of the Scheme of Delegation, the following minutes of Committee meetings were noted: **Planning – 30th October and 20th November – Amenities & Open Spaces – 30th October and Finance & Policy – 18th September 2017**

453/17 MEMBER'S QUESTION TIME

No questions had been submitted.

454/17 COMMON SEAL

Proposed by Cllr. Castle and seconded by Cllr. Dow 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

455/17 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the 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

Members of the press and public and Mrs Whitehall left the meeting

456/17 STAFFING MATTERS

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk and considered a recommendation from the Staffing Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED: that a member of staff be granted full retirement pension rights.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Signed: Date:
Town Mayor