

**MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
FULL TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Full Town Council** which was held **Monday, 22 July 2019** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7 pm

PRESENT: Councillor M. Hall
Councillor B. Castle
Councillor Mrs P. Dow
Councillor A. Kirk Wilson
Councillor G. Loosmore
Councillor N. Barrett-Morton
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 J. Blacker
Councillor S. Dobson
Mr T. Millett
Mr N. Goodwin
Plus 1 member of the public

Town Clerk
Administrator
Mayor's Chaplain
Wiltshire Councillor – Marlborough East
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The **Town Mayor** made a presentation to well-known, successful equestrians, Tim and Jonelle Price, originally from New Zealand and who are now based near Marlborough. They both compete nationally and internationally, achieving top world rankings.

There was also a presentation to Rev. Heather Cooper who is Leaving Marlborough after being Methodist Minister at Christchurch since 2011. The Mayor thanked her for her service to the community, including serving twice as Mayor's Chaplain, and wished her well in her move to The Wirral.

Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Mark Cooper presented a trophy to the **Town Mayor** to mark the recent draw at the annual match between Marlborough Cricket Club and the Town Council XI – each will hold the trophy for 6 months.

PRAYERS

Fr. Blacker opened the meeting with prayers.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

CRIME AND DISORDER

Acting Inspector Foster was not able to attend the meeting and there were no questions to pass on.

QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS

In answer to a question from **Cllr. Cairns** following a serious fire at a Premier Inn at Cribbs Causeway, **Cllr. Dobson** agreed to investigate with Planning Officers whether proper fire-retardant materials were being used for the Premier Inn being constructed at Salisbury Road. **Cllr. Dobson** provided updates:

- Wiltshire Council had received a rating of 'good' in a recent Ofsted inspection – the only council in the South West to achieve this
- Building/renovation work at the cottages adjacent to Bridge Garage in London Road was expected to be completed by February 2020
- A developer had been selected for the former St Peter's School site and a planning application was anticipated in due course
- A request had been made at an earlier meeting for information about Wiltshire Council's intentions for the land at the former Resource Centre at Cherry Orchard. A decision was expected at a Cabinet Meeting taking place on 23 July that Wiltshire Council would set up its own development company. Following this, a decision could be taken on whether Wiltshire Council would develop the site itself.

149/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from **Cllrs. Fogg, Ross and Forbes**.

150/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

151/19 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A reminder to everyone that the Civil War Re-enactment - The Battle of Marlborough - would take place over the weekend of 27/28 July. The battle itself would be on The Common on the afternoon of the Saturday and Sunday and a Living History in Priory Gardens on both days too. There would be other events and activities taking place around the town and all details were available on the Town Council website. The Annual Civic Service would also be held on Sunday at St Mary's Church which was tied into the weekend's event.

Judging for Marlborough's entry to this year's South West in Bloom competition was to take place on 23 July. Marlborough in Bloom and the Council's Grounds Team had put much effort towards this and the Mayor passed on his best wishes for another successful outcome.

Also, on 23 July, the Area Board in the Town Hall would be preceded between 6pm-7pm with another chance to view the Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan (MANP) exhibition. All Councillors were encouraged to attend.

152/19 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held Monday, 24 June 2019 were approved as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor

153/19 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's report was noted

154/19 WRITTEN MOTION

In accordance with Standing Order 10, **Cllr. Cairns** had submitted a written motion for consideration:

"I propose that Marlborough Town Council requests Wiltshire Council to enable the provision of benches and litter bins on the Barton Park/College Fields Public Open Space. I further

propose that Marlborough Town Council requests of Wiltshire Council that they engage with this part of Marlborough to make an assessment of what other facilities this local community needs at this location”

Cllr. Cairns added that this area was poorly served for recreational amenities such as benches, bins etc and had provided research that showed the area was well used and that provision of suitable facilities was appropriate. Members discussed:

- The Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan proposed to include this area as a green space
- The area was owned by Wiltshire Council
- It was not yet known whether Wiltshire Council intended to include this land as part of proposed community asset transfers for 2020/21. If the land was transferred, then the Town Council would be able to make decisions about providing amenity and/or play equipment
- If the land remained with Wiltshire Council, the Town Council could request amenity facilities, though there was no certainty that this would be followed up

Members agreed that some level of amenity provision would benefit local residents.

RESOLVED: to write to Wiltshire Council to request the provision of benches and litter bins on the Barton Park/College Fields Public Open Space, and to further request that Wiltshire Council engages with local residents to make an assessment of what other facilities the local community needs at this location

155/19

MARLBOROUGH AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (MANP)

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk about an informal consultation taking place across the Neighbourhood Plan area. Councillors were encouraged to attend upcoming exhibitions and to complete the survey (also available online) and encourage others to do so. **Cllr. Cooper** thanked the MANP Steering Group for the publicity about the consultation given to Manton residents inviting them along to a well-attended open evening on 17 July at Manton Village Hall.

156/19

BLUE PLAQUES

Following a request made at Full Council on 24 June, Members noted a report by the Town Clerk and considered a proposal to upgrade blue plaques around the town:

- This potential project did not appear on the Town Council’s 2017-2021 Action Plan, but could be considered and added at a review workshop due to take place 31 July
- Whether this should be considered as part of a wider strategy for Tourism (the Town Council was in the process of recruiting a dedicated Tourism Officer)
- There was no current budget for blue plaques, although there was a small budget (£1,000) for heritage projects and a tourism budget of £5,000
- Support for the proposal which would enhance Marlborough’s status as an Destination Town for the Great West Way tourist route
- The ‘Blue Plaque Walk’ leaflet was commended as well as a suggestion by the Town Crier that he offer guided walks.

RESOLVED: to consider adding a new project for Blue Plaques/Tourism at the Project Plan Review Workshop on 31 July

157/19

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON EVENT

Members noted a report by the Assistant Town Clerk about the event on 22 November and considered event costs and possible ways to carry the event forward:

- The proposed total expenditure for the event was £6,845
- It was disappointing that costs still included an element of £2,200 for the suspension of High Street parking spaces
- That a separate budget of £13,000 was for the Christmas lights themselves
- If approved, it was likely that this event would consume most of the remaining budget balance
- Sponsorship support was still being pursued, but was becoming increasingly difficult to obtain locally
- Whether new businesses to Marlborough could be approached for sponsorship
- Whether to simply turn on the lights without holding a supporting event
- Whether the market could be moved to a different location, reducing the costs for suspension of parking
- That the Christmas Lights Switch-on was an important part of the festive season which the community looked forward to and a reluctance to cancel the event despite rising costs.

RESOLVED: that the proposed event format and costs were agreed in principal and that the Town Council continued to seek more sponsorship

158/19

PROJECTOR FOR TOWN HALL

Members noted a report by the Assistant Town Clerk and considered quotes for a replacement projector for the Town Hall. Members agreed this would provide an important part of the offering to hirers of the building.

RESOLVED: to purchase an Epson L1405U projector at a cost of £8,241.45 plus fixed costs of £528.30 from Juice Sound Ltd.

159/19

OUTSIDE BODIES

North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Cllr. Heath : a project manager had been appointed to work with the Great West Way to make improvements to and promote the white horse chalk figures in the region. This would have a link to Marlborough with its own white horse alongside Treacle Bolly.

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC)

Cllr. Price : at a recent meeting there had been an interesting presentation about housing and Community Land Trusts. Devolution of services was also discussed, with attendees able to hear about the experiences of towns which had already gone through this process (Chippenham and Devizes). These topics would be included at the October Annual General Meeting. A potential alternating day for WALC meetings had also been discussed.

160/19

COMMITTEE MINUTES

In accordance with para 3.1 of the Scheme of Delegation, Members noted minutes of the following committee meetings: **Planning** – 17 June, **Amenities & Open Spaces** – 7 May and **Property** – 8 April

161/19

MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

Cllr. Cooper had submitted the following question:

“I would like to ask that Marlborough Town Council approaches the Doctors surgery in Marlborough about the possibility of beginning an outside body liaison with the surgery. This would enable representatives from the Town Council to regularly meet with representatives from the surgery and gain a better understanding of the pressures that the surgery faces, give praise regarding the work of the surgery and importantly raise any concerns that residents may have relating to the surgery. I would ask that this placed on the agenda for discussion at the next full town council meeting”

Members agreed that this could be added to the agenda for the next meeting and noted that in the past the Town Council had been represented at the Patient Improvement Group.

162/19

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

The meeting closed at 8 pm

Signed: Date:
Town Mayor