

**MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
FULL TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the **Full Town Council** which was held on **Monday, 26th June 2017** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7.00 pm

PRESENT	Councillor M. Hall	Town Mayor
	Councillor Mrs P. Dow	
	Councillor N. Fogg	
	Councillor A. Ross	
	Councillor G. Loosmore	
	Councillor L. Farrell	
	Councillor N. Barrett-Morton	
	Councillor P. Cairns	
	Councillor H. Forbes	
	Councillor M. Cooper	
	Councillor S. Price	

ALSO PRESENT	Mrs S. Parker	Town Clerk
	Mrs D. Whitehall	Administrator
	Fr. J. Blacker	Mayor's Chaplain
	Mr R. Allen	Co-option Candidate
	Mr D. Heath	Co-option Candidate
	Mr T. Millett	Marlborough.News
	Plus 1 member of the public	

PRAYERS

Fr. Blacker opened the meeting with prayers.

Fr. Blacker left the meeting

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr R. Allen, George Lane Resident – at a recent visit to Marlborough's Recycling Centre he had been informed that China was no longer buying plastics from the UK. This meant that, apart from plastic bottles, the skip for rigid plastic was only being collected once a week and once full all other plastics were going into landfill. He asked whether Unitary Councillors could find out whether Wiltshire Council had alternative plans to recycle plastics. **Cllr. Fogg** thanked Mr Allen – he was not aware of this issue and would take it up with Wiltshire Council.

CRIME AND DISORDER

No officer was available to attend the meeting but a full written report had been provided.

Cllr. Farrell referred to a recent incident of young people leaving litter and other items in a public park after an evening party, and asked how often the police carried out night patrols, especially as the 'party season' was upon us.

TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS

The **Town Mayor** referred to the incomplete footpath which was to link the old railway path with Marlborough Business Park and beyond. In the previous year Wiltshire Council had been in discussions with the owners of the Business Park but nothing appeared to be progressing. **Cllr. Fogg** would progress with Wiltshire Council, and it was agreed the **Town Clerk** would also write a letter to Wiltshire Council on behalf of the Town Council.

Cllr. Farrell was concerned that Aster Homes were placing vacant properties (3-bedroom and 4-bedroom houses and bungalows) for sale with a local Estate Agent, which seriously reduced the availability of affordable homes available to rent. This would particularly impact the ability of young people and young families to remain in Marlborough, as well as older/infirm people. Her concern was that private landlords would acquire these properties with a subsequent increase in rental costs. She asked Unitary Councillors to progress this urgently with Wiltshire Council, and whether a meeting could be arranged with Aster Homes. Members discussed:

- There had been an ongoing reduction in the availability of social housing in Marlborough since the 1980s
- The role and duties of housing associations
- That Claire Perry, MP, was aware of the issue
- Whether the resulting funds from the sales would be used to provide more modern, replacement affordable housing to benefit Marlborough or whether the funding would be used in other towns
- Whether the houses would be offered for sale at lower than market rate, allowing local people to get onto the property ladder
- That recent and ongoing developments on larger sites provided more retirement accommodation rather than family homes
- Whether the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk should request a meeting with Aster Homes in Devizes
- Whether Aster Homes representatives should be invited to a public meeting to explain their intentions
- Whether to approach Aster Homes through Wiltshire Council, who had the overall accountability to ensure social housing provision

Cllr. Fogg referred to a question at a previous meeting from **Mr Allen** about a large pothole in the footpath in Figgins Lane. He had progressed this with Wiltshire Council at a recent Community and Transport Group (CAT-G) meeting, where it was confirmed that Thames Water were responsible for rectifying the problem. **Cllr. Cairns** had discussed the issue directly with a representative of Thames Water and also written to them requesting a speedy repair. At the same meeting Cllr. Fogg had been disappointed to hear that Wiltshire Council had added the resurfacing of George Lane to the priority list for 2018/19 rather than the current year as previously expected.

104/17 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. Castle, Kirk Wilson, Northeast and Wilson. Unitary Councillor Dobson was also unable to attend the meeting.

105/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

106/17 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Marlborough Puppetry Festival would take place over the weekend of 8th-9th July. This was a celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of Pelham Puppets in Marlborough by Bob Pelham and was supported by the Town Council from the start. A flyer was circulated to Councillors. The organisers were looking for volunteers to spare some time over the weekend to help marshal car parking at the Common. The Town Clerk had already sent round an email about this and Members were encouraged to get back to her if they were able to spare some time to help out.

As Councillors were aware, the annual Civic Service would take place on Sunday, 9th July at St Mary's and would be themed on the community and Pelham Puppets with a chance for all attending to visit the puppet exhibition for refreshments afterwards. A number of Mayors from across the county were attending: Chippenham, Calne, Westbury, Royal Wootton Bassett and Warminster as well as the Chair of Wiltshire Council. It was really important that Councillors attend. Those who had not yet confirmed attendance with the Civic Secretary were asked to do so as soon as possible.

There was still time to enrol in the Town Council Cricket Team for the annual match with Marlborough Cricket Club on Wednesday, 5th July at the Cricket Ground starting at 6pm. 4MI would be providing four players but more were needed. It would be quite an event, with various ancillary activities going on. Supporters were welcome too!

The Marlborough in Bloom Judging Day was 13th July. There was a real need for volunteers to step forward to help weed and clean the High Street ready for the judge's walkabout. Volunteers met on Wednesday mornings at the back of Waitrose at 10am. It would be excellent if Councillors went along to help out, especially the two Wednesdays before the big day (Wednesday, 12th was the day before the judges arrive).

A reminder for Councillors that training had been arranged for Tuesday, 27th June with the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils. We have already heard of some Councillors who were unable to attend. Spare places were being offered to parish council partners in our Neighbourhood Plan area.

Finally, all Councillors had been invited to visit the new St Mary's school site on Friday, 30th June. It would be good to see Councillors there – it was a chance to view the tremendous progress made on this exciting new school project.

107/17

MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Meeting of the Full Town Council held on Monday, 22nd May 2017 were approved and signed as a true record by the Town Mayor

108/17

CO-OPTION FOR THE WEST WARD

After an uncontested election which left the Town Council with one seat unfilled in West Ward, two candidates applied for the vacant seat and Richard Allen and Donald Heath attended to make presentations and answer Councillors' questions. A vote was held and the successful candidate, Mr Donald Heath, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his place at the table for the remainder of the meeting.

RESOLVED: that Donald Heath is elected to Marlborough Town Council

Cllr. Heath took his place at the table

109/17

MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE

Members noted the Town Clerk's report and the notes of a meeting of the Working Party held 7th June 2017. They also considered a recommendation from the Staffing Committee about taking the project forward. Points discussed included:

- A recent project to re-open the public conveniences in George Lane had been successful, completing on time and within budget under the close management of a Project Manager. As a result there was a balance of approximately £22,000 in the funds set aside in Ear Marked Reserves which could allow the appointment of a Project Manager to oversee the required Youth Centre works

- Marlborough Youth Football Club had been regular users of the changing rooms at the Centre in the past and had expressed a willingness to contribute funds towards the renovations
- Local groups were keen to start using the facility, including Mencap for regular meetings
- Work would begin to clear out the building on 29th June. Councillors were encouraged to attend on Saturday 1st July to help fill the skip

RESOLVED: (i) that a Project Manager be taken on to follow through on structural alterations and remedial work at the Marlborough Community & Youth Centre, funded from Ear Marked Reserves

RESOLVED: (ii) that Cllrs. Loosmore and Barrett-Morton would join the Working Party

RESOLVED: (iii) that a meeting of the Working Party be held at 7 pm on Wednesday, 28th June, to urgently discuss structural and remedial works, capital funding, and what materials should be disposed of

110/17 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2016/17

RESOLVED: that, as recommended by the Finance & Policy Committee of 12th June 2017 (Min. 91/17), the Statement of Accounts for 2016/17 was approved and to be signed by the Chairman of the Council (Town Mayor) and Responsible Finance Officer (Town Clerk)

111/17 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2016/17

RESOLVED: that, as recommended by the Finance & Policy Committee of 12th June 2017 (Min. 92/17), the Annual Governance Statement at Section 1 of the Annual Return was approved with all items to be marked 'yes', and to be signed by the Chairman of the Council (Town Mayor) and Responsible Finance Officer (Town Clerk)

112/17 ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2016/17

RESOLVED: that, as recommended by the Finance & Policy Committee of 12th June 2017 (Min. 92/17), the Annual Accounting Statements at Section 2 of the Annual Return was approved and to be signed by the Chairman of the Council (Town Mayor) and Responsible Finance Officer (Town Clerk)

113/17 EAR MARKED RESERVES

RESOLVED: that, as recommended by the Finance & Policy Committee of 12th June 2017 (Min. 94/17), the Ear Marked Reserves for 2017/18 were approved with one change – line item 'George Lane Toilets' be renamed 'George Lane Toilets and Marlborough Community & Youth Centre'

114/17 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Members considered nominations to vacancies on Committees and Sub-Committees (following appointments at Full Town Council meeting of 22nd May 2017 (Min. 22/17) there were two vacancies for the Property Committee, one for Finance & Policy Committee and four for Staffing Sub-Committee).

Finance and Policy Committee

RESOLVED: that Cllr. Northeast was nominated to the Finance and Policy Committee

Staffing Sub Committee

RESOLVED: that Cllrs. Loosmore and Heath were nominated to the Staffing Sub Committee

Property Committee

RESOLVED: that Cllr. Heath was nominated to the Property Committee

115/17

COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: that in accordance with para. 3.1 of the Scheme of Delegation, the approved minutes of the following Committees were noted: **Planning Committee** – 3rd April, 2nd May and 30th May 2017 – **Finance and Policy** – 13th March 2017 – **Amenities and Open Spaces** – 2nd May 2017

116/17

LIAISON WITH OUTSIDE BODIES

Members provided updates on recent or upcoming meetings with local organisations and voluntary groups. Of particular note were:

Community Area Transport Group (CATG) (Cllrs. Cairns & Wilson) – At a meeting on 22nd June CATG had agreed to progress a permanent ‘no entry’ sign to Silverless Street from the eastern end. The streetlight in Ironmonger Lane was not the responsibility of Wiltshire Council. At the Planning Committee meeting held on 12th June (Min. 79/17) Members had supported the installation of a chicane barrier in Figgins Lane at the entrance to River Park. CATG had agreed to prepare a proposal to include this. A metrocount to identify suitable areas for 20 mph limits was underway or proposed.

Local Youth Network (Cllrs. Price & Northeast) – at a recent meeting support had been expressed towards the re-opening of the Community & Youth Centre in St Margaret’s Mead and it was possible that grants or funding could be made available, possibly for IT equipment or floodlights for the skate park in Salisbury Road Recreation Ground.

Sports Forum (Cllrs. Farrell & Cooper) – A new Chairman was to be appointed at the meeting on 11th July. £11,000 was available for grants.

Cllr. Ross also reported that work was progressing well towards opening a museum within the Merchant’s House, but the need for storage was now becoming critical. The Town Council had previously been approached about providing suitable storage space in the basement of the Town Hall. It was agreed to add this to the agenda for the Property Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, 3rd July.

117/17

MEMBER’S QUESTION TIME

No questions had been received.

118/17

FIXING OF THE COMMON SEAL

Proposed by Cllr. Dow and seconded by Cllr. Fogg and

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

119/17

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

120/17

STAFFING MATTERS

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk and recommendations from the Staffing Sub Committee

RESOLVED: That the Full Town Council accepts the recommendation of the Staffing Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Signed:
Town Mayor

Date: