

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Marlborough Town Council** held on **Monday, 15th March, 2004** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough at 9.15pm**

PRESENT

Councillor W. B. Cavill

Town Mayor

Councillor S. R. Dobson

Councillor M. P. Cooper

Councillor Mrs. H. A. Cripps

Councillor B. Castle

Councillor N. Fogg

Councillor M. Gray

Councillor Mrs. C. V. Jackson

Councillor M. Curtis

Councillor D. L. Parker

Councillor W. Worby

Councillor R. J. Allen

Councillor P. Cossey

Councillor Mrs. M. Boulton

Councillor A. W. Skittrall

Councillor C. Humphries

Mr. M. Ward

Mr. A. Light

Mr. N. Kerton

Miss A. Outrim

Inspector W. H. Dowling

Mr. P. Wilson

Wiltshire County Councillor

Kennet District Councillor

Kennet District Councillor

Humberts

Marlborough Branch - Royal
British Legion

Wiltshire Gazette

The Adviser

Wiltshire Constabulary

Architect

Mr. G. Gittins

Town Clerk

Mrs. R. E. Johnston

Minute Secretary

6 Members of the public

PRAYERS:

The Meeting commenced with Prayers, said by the Mayor's Chaplain – the Revd. A. Studdert-Kennedy.

The Mayor invited Councillor B. Castle to say a few words, as follows –

‘I wish to put on record my personal thanks and that of my sons, for the considerable affection and respect paid to former Town Councillor Mrs. Hilary Castle during the period of her death and leading up to her Funeral. The Mayor, his Chaplain, the Councillors and all the staff of

Marlborough Town Council were at all times kind and supportive to my family as were the local press and all the community of this wonderful Town.
Thank you again.'

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

(a) Mrs. V. Compton via Councillor B. Castle – Great Western Hospital

The Mayor read a statement on behalf of Mrs. V. Compton which said that she had recently spent some time in Great Western Hospital, Swindon where the medical care was excellent but the food was not up to standard, apparently all food, except for the café in reception, is cooked off premises. Although, the food at Savernake Hospital is at present cooked on the premises and is far superior, once the rebuild is completed, it will not longer be cooked on site. In fact, both hospitals will receive food cooked in Wales, which will be frozen and brought up to the hospitals by road.

Miss Compton then asked the following –

Apart from this seemingly environmentally unfriendly policy – will the Council please check if my information is correct and should it be so, if local people – who are potential patients of the future – realise and agree with this idea.

At the suggestion of Councillor Mrs. M. Boulton it was agreed that the Town Clerk should write to Mr. Tim Bowsher of the Primary Care Trust to register this Council's concern.

(b) Mrs. T. Feather – Roads and Pavements

Mrs. Feather asked if there is any further information on the state of the roads and footpaths ie what repair work has been done. She said that she has spoken to the Highways Department and they welcome lists of any footpaths etc. that require attention.

The Town Clerk said that the position of Parish Lengthman had been temporarily suspended to help with minor road or pavement problems.

Councillor Mrs. Boulton said that a list could be sent to the County Council giving information on roads and footpaths that require attention, she also requested that the Council make a note of the double yellow lines that have been obscured over the last years and inform the County Council.

(c) Mr. D. Sherratt – Minute 436/03 - TIC

Mr. Sherratt referred to the above Minute and asked if there had been any further progress.

Councillor Mrs. M. Boulton has said there had been a meeting in the Library consisting of most of the members of the Marlborough Town Council, 2 Kennet District Councillors, the Chief Executive of Kennet District Council and the Senior Officer from the Council. and it was

announced that a dedicated Tourist Officer had been appointed to commence on the 2nd April, 2004 on a temporary basis situated at the top of the stairs in the Library – more options are being explored. Mr. M. Boden – Chief Executive invited members of the Marlborough Town Council to the opening of a new Call Centre in Salisbury Library on the 19th April 2004 at 11am. Councillor Mrs. M. Boulton thanked the two Members of the Town Council for their efforts in exploring the possibility of the TIC under the Town Hall and having read their report she made the following observations -

- (a) The Town Hall, like the Library, is a Listed Building
- (b) It is said that Tourists judge the Town by its toilets currently we have 3 sensibly sited, conveniences – if they are closed what about traders and visitors to the markets?

- (d) **Mr. D. Sherratt – Minute 480/03 – 3(c)**
Transfer of Mayor-Making Costs to Civic Hospitality – 2004
Mr. Sherratt asked for an explanation of this Recommendation.

Mr. Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee said that he would reply when the Minutes came up for ratification under Agenda Item 8(b).

- (e) **Mr. N. Kerton – Council Tax Demands**
Mr. Kerton asked the reason why Marlborough Town Council's Council Tax would not be included in the leaflet issued by Kennet District Council. How will the people of Marlborough know what the Council Tax will be and how will it compare with Kennet District Council and the Wiltshire County Council?

The Mayor replied that this Tax is included in the current edition of the Greyhound which has been circulated to the people with the Adviser.

Mr. Kerton asked how the Council can be certain this paper is delivered to every home in Marlborough and will it be cost effective. He also questioned the legality of such a distribution and said some things have to be addressed for local reasons.

The Mayor replied that the District Council wanted to include this with their brochure but by having it delivered with The Adviser the sum of £200.00 has been saved and The Adviser has agreed to re-distribute the current edition of the paper to those areas that have not received a copy.

The Town Clerk said that previous delivery costs were £370.00 which had reduced to £152.50 using The Adviser.

- (e) **Mr. D. Sherratt – Minute 469/03 – Town Hall external lighting**

Mr. Sherratt asked if advice had been sought from an Architect with regard to the external lighting at the Town Hall.

The Mayor replied that the Council's Architect is going to speak to a Lighting Engineer.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S QUESTION TIME:

None

CRIME AND DISORDER:

Inspector W. H. Dowling had nothing to report and asked if Councillors had any questions.

Councillor Mrs. M. Boulton asked what is the law on flyposting.

Inspector Dowling was unable to give a reply but would investigate.

Councillor C. Humphries said complaints have to be made in writing then proceedings would be taken.

FLOODING IN MARLBOROUGH:

The Town Clerk reported that Mr. Steve Ibbetson who was to give an update, was unfortunately, unable to attend as he had been taken ill that morning.

495/03 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Mayor asked Councillors to report to the Town Clerk on whether they had received The Greyhound newsletter.

The Mayor asked for the Council's approval of taking Agenda Item 18 under Part 2 – Staff Contracts - immediately after the meeting of the Planning Committee when the Staff would not be present. Agreed.

496/03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. Francis – Deputy Town Mayor, Mrs. P. Dow and Mrs. E. M. Hannaford.

497/03 DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST:

None

498/03 TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND MADT REPRESENTATIVE:

None

499/03 QUESTIONS TO COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND MADT:

(a) **Councillor R. J. Allen to District Councillors**

Asked why we do not get copies of all the comments on Planning Applications which are received by Kennet District Council and not by this Council.

The Town Clerk said that comments received by the Town Council on Planning Applications are forwarded to Kennet District Council although Kennet District Council do not reciprocate.

Councillor A. W. Skittrall said if Members would like to telephone him before the meeting, he would keep them informed.

The Mayor asked the Town Clerk to telephone Kennet District Council on the afternoon before the Planning Committee to find out about objections sent only to them.

- (b) **Councillor Mrs. C. Jackson -Salisbury Road Industrial Site**
Asked on behalf of a resident, how long the above site is to be left in its current unsightly state.

Councillor Mrs. Boulton said that Kennet District Council has extended the Planning Permission for 3 years so that any applicants for the site would have a building suitable to their requirements.

Discussion followed, Councillor A. W. Skittrall said that it is extremely expensive for the District Council to go to Appeal, this was echoed by Councillor C. Humphries.

- (c) **Councillor Mrs. C. Jackson – Recycling – Black Boxes**
Asked when will the residents of Manton be getting black boxes.

The Mayor replied some time in the future.

Councillor A. W. Skittrall said that the issue of these boxes is in the control of Hills Waste.

500/03 MINUTES:

TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 2ND FEBRUARY, 2004

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2nd February, 2004 be taken as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

501/03 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES –

Proposed by Councillor M. P. Cooper, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 2nd February, 2004 be Received subject to the Minute Nos. adjusted to read /03.

Proposed by Councillor M. P. Cooper, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 16th February, 2004 be Received.

Proposed by Councillor M. P. Cooper, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 1st March, 2004 be Received.

502/03 TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES –

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. H. A. Cripps, seconded by Councillor M. P. Cooper and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on the 16th February, 2004 be Received.

Proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded by Councillor Mrs. C. V. Jackson and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on the 1st March, 2004 be Received subject to the following amendment –

Minute 487/03 –Rabley Wood Skateboard Ramp –
Second paragraph - £3,00.00 **amended** to read **£3,000.00.**

Minute 480/03(c) - Transfer of Mayor-Making Costs to Civic Hospitality – 2004 re Mr. D.Sherratt

Councillor D. L. Parker said that he had re-read the Recommendation and said that it was not clear; because of the extra expense being incurred in the financial year 2004 for the 2004 Celebrations it was Recommended to cancel the Mayor-Making reception for 2004 only and transfer the money to the general Hospitality Fund. Councillor Parker explained that many of the people on the invitation list to Mayor-Making would be on the official list for the Royal Visit.

Minute 487/03 – Rabley Wood Skateboard Ramp

Councillor R. J. Allen

Councillor Allen questioned this Recommendation and asked if it would be possible to circumvent this and consider a donation to the Resident's Association.

Councillor D. L. Parker replied that it was felt that we did not have all the information we needed to come to a conclusion and we should wait until we had a true idea of the costs involved.

Councillor Mrs. H. A. Cripps said that a quotation has been received in the sum of £2,350.00 – lower than that quoted in Minute 487/03. She asked if two Town Councillors would like to go around the residents in the area of Rabley Wood View to receive their views on a Skateboard Ramp.

It was unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Orders.

503/03

WAR MEMORIAL WALL:

- (a) The Mayor introduced Mr. Patrick Wilson, Architect for Majestic Wines Warehouse who gave a short Presentation on the proposed War Memorial Wall.

Mr. Wilson then answered questions from members of the public.

Mr. Wilson was unaware of the Celebrations for the 2004 Anniversary and said that he would inform the builders according.

Mr. A. Light representing the Marlborough Branch of the Royal British Legion said that they are delighted with the wall and the fact that it would be in place by the Remembrance Day.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Wilson for giving up his time to attend the Meeting.

There being no other questions, Standing Orders were reinstated.

- (b) **To discuss Majestic Wine Company's offer to build a wall behind the War Memorial**

Proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded by Councillor J. Fogg and RECOMMENDED that the Marlborough Town Council accept the offer of the Majestic Wine Warehouse to erect a wall at the rear of the War Memorial in accordance with the plans that have been submitted.

504/03

SELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR FOR THE MAYORAL MAYORAL YEAR 2004/2005:

The Mayor said he was pleased to announce that Councillor Mrs. H. A. Cripps be nominated for the position of Deputy Town Mayor for the Mayoral Year 2004/2005.

Proposed by Councillor M. P. Cooper, seconded by Councillor M. Curtis and RESOLVED unanimously, that Councillor Mrs. H. A. Cripps be selected Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2004/2005.

Councillor Mrs. H. A. Cripps received the congratulations of the Mayor and Councillors. She thanked them all for their support.

505/03

TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS:

- (a) **Update from Marlborough Town Council's Architect**
Mr. M. Ward updated the Council on the progress and said there are no problems and work is on schedule with timing and costs.
- (b) **Extra Pigeon Proofing to original specification**
Mr. Ward explained the situation regarding the problems being encountered with pigeons, especially on the projections

of the Town Hall. A quotation has been obtained for this work in the sum of £5,240.00 plus VAT however, a provisional sum of £942.00 is included within the Specification for the removal and reinstatement of existing spikes and wires, therefore it is anticipated there would be a net addition to the Contract of £4,620.35.00 plus VAT. Mr Ward felt that this should be encompassed within the contingency of the original tender.

The Town Clerk said that wire should be placed on the windows and not on the ledges, this would enable windows to be opened.

The Town Clerk suggested that Dovecotes could be erected at various points in the Town together with contraceptive bird seed to reduce the pigeon population in the Town.

(c) **Town Hall Balcony**

Mr. Ward said that a Structural Engineer has been employed to look at the balcony and he has said that a support can be constructed by means of a waterproofed beam. That particular sum of money is contained within the original money on the project.

This was welcomed by Members.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Ward for attending the meeting.

(d) **Use of Town Hall by the Youth Centre for a period while the Youth Centre is being refurbished**

Councillor R. J. Allen said that the Youth Centre is closed while renovations are being undertaken, until the Youth Centre is open until the middle of April would the Town Council consider offering the Youth Centre the use of the Town Hall on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Heated discussion followed on whether to give permission for this use and the costs involved – should the Youth Centre be charged for the use of the Town Hall.

Proposed by Councillor R. J. Allen, seconded by Councillor D. L. Parker and RECOMMENDED by 8 votes for, 4 against and 1 abstention that the Marlborough Town Council do offer this facility until such time as the renovations are completed and the Youth Centre is re-opened. If a donation is forthcoming from the County Council, this would be welcomed.

Recorded votes as follows –

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Cllr. R. J. Allen	Cllr. M. P. Cooper	Cllr. G. Worby
Cllr B. Castle	Cllr. S. R. Dobson	
Cllr. W. B. Cavill	Cllr. N. Fogg	
Cllr. P. B. Cossey	Cllr. M. Gray	
Cllr. Mrs. H. Cripps		
Cllr. M. Curtis		
Cllr. Mrs. C. V. Jackson		
Cllr. D. L. Parker		

506/03 HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE IN MARLBOROUGH:

Councillor D. L. Parker referred to a copy of his letter dated 7th April, 2003 giving the basis on his objections to the Salisbury Road site as a Household Recycling Centre, which had been forwarded to Members for their information together with a copy of a letter from The Director of Community Services at Kennet District Council dated 10th February, 2004.

After discussion it was proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and unanimously RESOLVED that there are no suitable sites within Marlborough for a Recycling Centre but this Council does support the alternative sites recommended to the Inspector being considered.

507/03 THE COMMON PLAY AREA:

To choose a supplier to replace the swings on The Common

The Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee said that three Playground Tenders have been received as follows –

Company (A)	£4,231.20
Company (B)	£5,534.00
Company (C)	£3,481.05

Tenders from Company (B) and (C) have anti-wrap swings (rotating Bearings).

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. H. Cripps, seconded by Councillor Mrs. C. V. Jackson and unanimously RESOLVED that the Tender from Company (C) in the sum of £3,481.05 be accepted.

508/03 WAITING RESTRICTIONS IN MARLBOROUGH:

- (a) **GBOW/TRO/MARL – Pewsey Road double yellow lines**
- (b) **GBOW/TRO/MARL – Frees Avenue ‘no parking lay-bys**

The Mayor referred to a letter received from the Wiltshire County Council and local residents.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk reply to the Wiltshire County Council as follows –

- (a) **Frees Avenue** – a passing place created with double yellow lines in Frees Avenue.
- (b) **Pewsey Road** – having seen the objections, we have now reconsidered that these parking places are traffic calming measures that help to keep speed down and prevents accidents.

509/03

K&NWPCT – Consultation on Maternity and Outpatients Services

The Chairman referred to a letter, documents and feedback form received from The Kennet and North Wiltshire Primary Care Trust and asked for comments.

It was agreed to reply as follows –

- (a) Why are the GPs not promoting the Midwife Led Service which is much appreciated by new Mothers in Marlborough and the surrounding area and is very highly regarded?
- (b) What is the reality of a rumour of the Midwife-Led Service being provided at the Great Western Hospital.

510/03

SEALING OF DOCUMENTS:

Proposed by councillor S. R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor M. P. Cooper and RESOLVED unanimously that the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to all Documents necessary to give effect to the decisions of the Meetings of this Council.

511/03

MEMBER'S QUESTION TIME:

- (a) **Councillor S.R. Dobson - Standing Orders**
Councillor Dobson said it is confusing to the public and fellow Councillors when Standing Orders are suspended and reinstated. He asked for clarification and strict guidelines to be considered on this subject.

The Town Clerk explained that Mr. M. Ward is employed as this Council's Architect, this means Standing Orders are not suspended whereas Mr. Patrick Wilson is not employed by this Council and Standing Orders are suspended to enable to him address Members.
- (b) **Councillor B. Castle – Marlborough Community Partnership**
Councillor Castle referred to a recent booklet issued by the Partnership and it was agreed that it should be on the agenda of the Finance and General Purposes Committee with a view of looking at it intensively.
- (c) **Councillor S. R. Dobson – re County Councillor Mrs. M. Boulton**
Councillor Dobson commented on the large involvement of County Councillor Mrs. M. Boulton in the meeting.

Councillor Mrs. Boulton replied that she would be more than happy to submit answers to questions in writing.

(d) **Councillor B. Castle – Local Community Area Plan**

Councillor Castle drew attention to this plan and it was agreed that this item should be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and to press, through our Community Partnership, the Government, to get better television reception.

It was also agreed that Michael Ancram MP be contacted on this subject.

(e) **Councillor P. B. Cossey – Dog Fouling**

Councillor Cossey asked for a Dispenser at the end of Stonebridge Lane and Cooper's Meadow.

The Town Clerk said it had been agreed to place a dispenser in Cooper's Meadow in the next financial year. It was agreed that this should be an item on the Agenda for the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

PART 2

512/03 **Staff Contracts**

Staff Contracts were discussed and it was agreed to that this should be an item on the Agenda for the next Meeting of the full Town Council.

The meeting ended at 9.08pm

STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

PART 2

Proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor D. L. Parker and unanimously RECOMMENDED that under the Local Government Act 1972 the Public and Press be asked to leave the meeting, due to the fact that legal and confidential Matters were to be discussed.

513/03 STAFF CONTRACTS:

A short discussion took place but because of the late hour it was decided to adjourn to the next Full Town Council meeting on 26th April 2004.

The Mayor introduced the item and then handed over to the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Councillor D. L. Parker explained that the Town Clerk, Mr Graham Gittins, considered that the position of the Town Clerk could be performed with considerably less working hours to the benefit of the Council with its cost savings. The Chairman said that with Health and Safety was now fully covered by Mr Heath; Jonathan Mansfield was working well together with Mrs Sue Fry in the office and the accounts fully updated with the OMEGA accounting system now in place he would support this as a recommendation. He said the cost savings were substantial and with a three day week the savings to the council would be £13,700 and a four day £8,850.

After discussion it was agreed, because of the later hour, that members wished to defer this to the next Full Town Council meeting, but in principle agreed to a four day week commencing 1st May 2004 and that the Town Clerk should be present to take questions.

Proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded by Councillor N. Fogg and –

RESOLVED: That this Council agrees in principle to the present Town Clerk working to a four-day week with effect from 1st May 2004, subject to further discussions at the meeting of the Full Town Council.
