

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

FULL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Marlborough Town Council** held on **Monday 4th September 2006 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough at 7.00pm.**

PRESENT	Councillor B. Castle Councillor Mrs P. Dow Councillor S.R. Dobson Councillor W. B. Cavill Councillor G. Francis Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford-Dobson Councillor N. Fogg Councillor M. Gray Councillor Mrs C. V. Jackson Councillor M. Curtis Councillor D. Parker Councillor R. Allen Councillor P. Cossey Councillor A. Ross	Town Mayor
ALSO PRESENT	Mrs Pam Dobson Mrs Sue Fry Mrs Linda Chapman Revd. Michael Cripps Councillor C. Humphries Councillor A. W. Skittrall Mr L. Cowen Acting Inspector M. Freeman	Town Clerk Office Manager Civic Secretary Kennet District Council Kennet District Council Wiltshire Gazette & Herald Wiltshire Constabulary

NOTICE OF MEETING – Public Notice of the Meeting has been given in accordance with Schedule 12, paragraph 10 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

PRAYERS

Revd. Michael Cripps opened the meeting with prayers.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Revd. Cripps – Stated that he played a part in creating the footpath on The Green locally known as Cripps Causeway and had noticed that there appeared to be a channel all the way down the path.

The Town Clerk – stated that the outside staff had looked at the problem and it appears to have been caused by water running down the path following heavy rainfall.

Revd. Cripps – asked if the path could be made firmer to try and avoid this happening again.

The Town Clerk – said that she would look into the maintenance of the path.

CRIME AND DISORDER

Acting Inspector Mark Freeman introduced himself and stated that Inspector Ian Stephenson had been appointed to take over the Marlborough Station and will take up office within the next couple of months.

He stated that recorded crime this year stood at 260 compared to 268 last year with a 23.8% detection rate compared to 20.9% for last year.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams – This is a new approach, which may have a few teething problems but something that has been needed for sometime. Individual Officers will be responsible to local Councils, which should give a degree of continuity.

Marlborough will be retaining its Police Station and its Inspector.

Councillor W. B. Cavill – There is growing concern that the enquiry desk may be facing closure is this the case?

Acting Inspector Freeman – Stated that as far as he is aware there are no plans to close the enquiry desk at this time.

Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford-Dobson – I understand that there is a new policy for dealing with drunks and anti-social behaviour.

Acting Inspector Freeman – Yes Penalty Notices of £80 can be handed out for anti social and drunken behaviour.

The Mayor – What is your policy on under age drinking?

Acting Inspector Freeman – Our policy is to confiscate the drink and either pour away or take back to the Police Station and dispose of. If anyone is aware of underage drinking please call it in.

Councillor G. Francis – Why are prisoners taken to Swindon and not processed through Marlborough Police Station.

Acting Inspector Freeman – Prisoners who are drunk or need to be held for more than 6 hours need to be held at a station with 24hour a day cover. Marlborough is not a designated custody centre therefore they have to be taken to Swindon.

Councillor Mrs P. Dow – With the new law on car seats how much grace will parents have before fines are handed out.

Acting Inspector Freeman – There will be a short period of grace possibly a week.

Councillor Mrs P. Dow – As there is a height limit for the use of car seats it will be interesting to see how parent manage to get a 14 year old into a car seat.

A. Ross – Would like to commend the police on their current initiatives

TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS to and from **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** and **MADT** representatives (not to exceed 10 minutes)

Councillor N. Fogg – would like to know what the situation is with the missing copingstones from the wall in the churchyard and when will they be replaced.

The Mayor – The churchyard is the responsibility of Kennet District Council and therefore you should be able to ask this question at Kennet.

Councillor N. Fogg – Asked the Town Clerk to write to Kennet to remind them that the coping stones still have not been replaced.

Councillor R. Allen – The recycling of plastic and cardboard is proving to be successful however can the skips be emptied of a weekend because by Sunday the skips are over flowing and this looks unsightly especially where tourist are concerned.

Councillor A. Skittrall – The skips are emptied on Saturdays and by first thing Sunday morning they are full up again. Kennet has not looked at emptying them on a Sunday. These skips are out of the way and not an obvious problem to tourists.

Councillor N. Fogg had apologised to the Committee stating that he had another meeting to attend and left the meeting at 7.22pm

Councillor C. Jackson – After speaking to local residents there seems to be a problem with maggots in the new wheelie bins. Kennet District Council may find that they will need to change their views on the fortnightly collection.

Councillor W. B. Cavill – Perhaps the Town Clerk should write to Kennet requesting that the recycling skips be emptied more often bearing in mind that Marlborough does not have a Household Recycling Centre.

Councillor A. Skittrall – Speak to Kennet every time the skip is full to see if they would be able to empty it more often.

Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford-Dobson – Marlborough is the only town to have this type of recycling skip.

Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford stated that she would like to update Councillors on question asked at previous meetings –

Banners on the railings at the Salisbury Road roundabout advertising the French Market were put up by Kennet District Council, as soon as they realised their mistake they took them down and apologised.

No one is permitted to advertise on these railings.

P. Cossey – The storm drains in London Road and George Lane seem to be blocked. Can this be looked into?

Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford-Dobson – Will follow this up.

Councillor P. Cossey – Did telephone and was told that they would not come out for just one drain.

Councillor R. Allen – Flooding in George Lane has got worse since the resurfacing of the road. In some places this is above the dropped kerb. Water sits in quite deep puddles across the road. They should have taken off the old road surface first then rebuilt it again.

192/06 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Cooper, A. Kirk Wilson and N. Fogg

193/06 **DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST**

There were no Declaration(s) of Interest

194/06 **CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a) With effect from today Kennet District Council have closed the toilets under the Town Hall. From today Marlborough Town Council have taken control of the Chantry Lane toilets and they will remain open for use.
- b) Last week as an additional recreational facility, a set of goal posts have been erected by the Council on the southern part of the Common.
- c) I am delighted to announce that last month the Town Council unanimously resolved that the Council will actively support the Fair Trade movement in the town. This will now enable the town to formally gain recognition as a 'Fair Trade Town'.
- d) The proposed Civic Reception planned for Saturday 30th September to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Marlborough Brandt Group has been cancelled. A new date will be arranged for summer 2007 when a contingent from the Gambia will actually be in our town. The visit by me (as Mayor) to Gunjur is still planned for mid-November.
- e) I remind Councillors that the Civic Service at St. Thomas More originally planned for the 24th September is now on Sunday 1st October starting 11.00am at the church.
- f) I am pleased to announce that the town will enjoy seasonal illuminations up, down and across our High Street this December. This is mainly thanks to enthusiasm and resourcefulness of certain traders and businesses helped in part by MADT and this Town Council, represented by the Town Clerk, Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford-Dobson and myself. A sum of the order of about £15,000 has been raised or pledged. This amount will be sufficient to purchase a series of modern long life lights to decorate the High Street, including the professional erection and dismantling of the same. None of this money can or will be from the Town Council's budget for this year, but I have suggested that the Council will be happy and willing to offer the use of the Town Hall on an evening other than a revenue earning weekend for a grand money raising event. In this way the Council can be seen to be an active member of this communal partnership. This proposal will need to be cleared by the appropriate committee. In November the new budgets for Financial Year 2007/2008 will be set. The Council will need to seriously consider including an appropriate sum of money as our ongoing contribution to future years.

Councillor G. Francis – What is happening about the signs for the toilets now that the Town Hall Toilets are closed?

The Town Clerk stated that she had spoken to Adrian Hampton and the signs would be changed.

195/06

MINUTES

(a) Proposed by Councillor B. Castle, seconded by Councillor S. Dobson and –

RESOLVED: 11 votes for with 1 abstention to receive, approve and sign as a true record the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Marlborough Town Council held on the 19th June 2006.

(b) Proposed by Councillor B. Castle, seconded by Councillor S. Dobson and –

RESOLVED: 11 votes for with 1 abstention to receive, approve and sign as a true record the Minutes of the Full Town Council held on the 17th July June 2006 with the following amendment – It was recorded that Councillor Mrs C. Jackson was present at the meeting when she had given her apologies for her absence.

196/06

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS – and to sign as a true record those minutes not previously received.

(a) Proposed by Councillor S. Dobson, seconded by Councillor P. Cossey and -

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy Review Committee held on the 14th June 2006 be received and signed as true record.

(b) Proposed by Councillor P. Cossey, seconded by Councillor S. Dobson and –

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities & Open Spaces Committee held on the 31st July 2006 be received and signed as a true record.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Mrs C. Jackson, seconded by Councillor M. Gray and –

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 21st August 2006 be received and signed as a true record.

(d) Proposed by Councillor A. Ross, seconded by Councillor D. Parker and –

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held on the 21st August 2006 be received and signed as a true record.

197/06

TO DISCUSS THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING – and make Resolutions on the Recommendations therein.

(a) Proposed by Councillor S. Dobson, seconded by Councillor P. Cossey and –

RESOLVED: by 12 votes with 1 against that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy Review Committee held on the 14th June 2006 be received and adopted with the following amendments – minute no 83/06 Appendix A Dress Code for Robed Occasions - delete **at the correct angle i.e. with the front horizontal to the head.** (*Councillor W. B. Cavill requested that his objection be recorded because he felt a dress code was contrary to the Human Rights Act*).

Proposed by Councillor S. Dobson, second by Councillor P. Cossey and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that Appendix C Code of Handling Complaints should be discussed further by the Policy Review Committee regarding the handling of complaints against Councillors.

(b) Proposed by Councillor P. Cossey, seconded by Councillor S. Dobson and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities & Open Spaces held on the 31st July 2006 be received and adopted.

(c) Proposed by Councillor A. Ross, seconded by Councillor D. Parker and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee held on the 21st August 2006 be received and adopted.

198/06

CLERKS REPORT

The Town Clerk stated that she had just returned from holiday and had nothing to report at this time.

199/06

KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL CORPORATE STRATEGY REVIEW

Following a discussion it was agreed that Councillors should complete their forms and return them to the Town Clerk for collating. This will then be placed on the next meeting of the Planning Committee on 18th September where final comments can be made.

200/06

REPORT OF THE 2004 WORKING PARTY

The Town Clerk read out the final report of the 2004 Working Group meeting held on 16th August 2006.

Councillor A. Ross thanked Councillor R. Allen for all his hard work and he then explained the report to the Committee.

Proposed by Councillor A. Ross, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that Report of the 2004 Working Group be received and signed as a true record.

Councillor S. Dobson – Asked how long after you have been involved with a person or company do you need to Declare an Interest.

Town Clerk – stated that a question and answer session is being organised which will help answer a lot of Councillors questions.

Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford-Dobson– Two Councillors have been named all through this report but not the former Responsible Financial Officer and felt that it would be fairer to name him.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford, seconded by Councillor R. Allen and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that the report should be amended to name the RFO/Town Clerk Mr Graham Gittins.

Following further discussion it was –

Proposed by Councillor S. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford-Dobson and –

RESOLVED: by 7 votes for 4 against and with 2 abstentions that paragraph 8.1 Appendix N should be deleted from the report.

Proposed by Councillor S. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Dow and –

RESOLVED: by 7 votes for 3 against and with 3 abstentions that paragraph 9.1 should read That Marlborough Town Council accepts corporate responsibility *and apologises*.
A recorded vote was requested votes as follows –

Votes for - Councillor S. Dobson
Councillor R. Allen
Councillor Mrs P. Dow
Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford-Dobson
Councillor M. Curtis
Councillor M. Gray
Councillor Mrs C. Jackson

Votes against - Councillor A. Ross
Councillor D. Parker
Councillor P. Cossey

Abstentions - Councillor G. Francis
Councillor W. B. Cavill
Councillor B. Castle

Proposed by Councillor A. Ross, seconded by Councillor S. Dobson and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Report of the 2004 Working Group be be Received and Adopted.

201/06

SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS

To Receive the Schedule of Accounts for –

a) July 2006

RESOLVED: that the Schedule of Accounts for July 2006 in the sum £22,682.24 including reimbursement to the No.2 Account in the sum of £7005.27 be Received and signed by the Chairman.

202/06 **TOWN COUNCIL BALANCES**

RESOLVED: The Town Council balances at the 31st July 2006 be Received.

203/06 **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.**

There was nothing to report.

204/06 **SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

Proposed by Councillor S. Dobson, seconded by Councillor W. B. Cavill and –

RESOLVED: That the Common Seal of the Marlborough Town Council be affixed to all documents necessary to give effect to the decisions of the meetings of this Council.

205/06 **MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

Although prior notification had not been given Councillor S. Dobson enquired about the ongoing state of the fence in the Priory Gardens.

The Town Clerk stated that she had spoken to Sarsen Housing as the fence is their responsibility.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm