

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

FULL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Full Town Council** held on **Monday 5th March, 2007** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7.00 pm

PRESENT	Councillor B.D. Castle Councillor S.R. Dobson Councillor M.P. Cooper Councillor W.B. Cavill Councillor G. Francis Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson Councillor Mrs P. Dow Councillor N. Fogg Councillor Mrs C.V. Jackson Councillor M. C. Curtis Councillor D.L Parker Councillor R.J. Allen Councillor P.B. Cossey Councillor A.R. Ross Councillor A. Kirk-Wilson	Town Mayor
ALSO PRESENT	Mrs Pam Dobson Mrs Sue Fry Revd. M. Cripps Councillor C. Humphries Mr. N. Kerton Inspector I Stevenson	Town Clerk Office Manager Mayor's Chaplain Leader – Kennet District Council Wiltshire Gazette & Herald Wiltshire Police
	Plus 3 members of the Public	

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

Mr. C. Bristow – Secretary Local Branch Royal Naval Association. – Would the Council consider an affiliation with another ship?

Councillor M.P. Cooper – this should be looked into and placed on the next agenda.

Mr. C. Bristow – would be happy to attend the meeting and hopefully Commodore Jamie Millar may also be available on that date.

Mr. D. Smithers – it was at the suggestion of the Navy that this link with the town of Marlborough was re-established and that he will contact Commodore Millar to see if he could attend the next meeting.

The Mayor, Councillor B.D. Castle – this item will be placed on the Planning agenda of the 19th March, 2007.

Mr. N. Kerton – would the Council allow the HMS Marlborough bell to be mounted on a bell stand by the Royal Naval Association and rang at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

The Mayor, Councillor B.D. Castle – this item will be placed on the next Planning Agenda of the 19th March, 2007.

CRIME AND DISORDER

The Mayor welcomed Inspector Ian Stevenson.

Inspector Stevenson – reported that the Neighbourhood Policing Teams are working well crime figures are good and the detection rate is on a par with last years figures.

Councillor Mrs P. Dow – if the Library is to be used as a Police Contact Point then I feel that there will be a lack of confidentiality for those reporting issues.

Inspector I. Stevenson – the positioning of the Police Contact Point has yet to be finalised.

Councillor C. Humphries – appointments can be made to see the police at the local station by ringing 0845 408 7000.

Councillor P. Cossey – what police cover do we have at night in Marlborough ?

Inspector I. Stevenson – stated that there was 1 car to cover Marlborough, Devizes and Pewsey at night but at weekends Marlborough had 1 car to cover until 3 am. It had been suggested that the car that covers Marlborough, Devizes and Pewsey should also encompass Cricklade, Malmesbury and Wootton Bassett but this idea has been shelved.

TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS to and from COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS and MADT representatives.

Councillor W.B. Cavill arrived at 7.20 pm

Councillor P. Cossey – could something be done about the current state of the building adjacent to Bridge Garage.

Councillor W.B. Cavill – stated that this is a listed building and that Kennet District Council had powers to ask that action be taken regarding this building.

Town Clerk – to write to Kennet District Council asking for action to be taken.

Councillor N. Fogg – could something be done about the numerous holes in the road in parts of London Road.

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson – regular meetings are now taking place with Wiltshire County Council regarding such problems.

Councillor W.B. Cavill – stated that he had reported some of these problems in 2005 and that they had still not been dealt with, he understood that the roads are walked every month but that this does not appear to have helped solve the problems.

Councillor S.R. Dobson – stated that he felt that the Town Clerk, Councillor Hannaford-Dobson and Councillor P. Cossey should be congratulated for the initiative shown in convening these meetings.

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson – update on previous questions raised.

Controlled Zone sign posts are in place to show where one time zone starts and another one finishes.

A temporary repair will be made to the holes in Barn Street, but that when the Pelican Crossing is put in place then the whole road will be re-surfaced.

The TIC signs will be blanked out as soon as the plates arrived to be fixed over them.

A speed limit of 30mph will be enforced from Barnfield to Reeds Grounds on London Road.

Councillor B. Castle – informed members that the old TIC building in George Lane car park is to be used as a Surestart Centre.

Councillor S.R. Dobson – can we ascertain how much rent is being paid by Surestart and is it more than was offered by Marlborough Town Council

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson – understood that the rent offered by Marlborough Town Council was not a formal one.

Councillor S.R. Dobson – felt that we still have a right to know.

Councillor R. Allen – stated that he felt we have a right to know what rent is being paid and that Kennet District Council still have Marlborough's best interests at heart.

Councillor G. Francis – as you approach Marlborough via the Pewsey Road there is still signage directing the public to the Civic Offices in George Lane.

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson – will look in to this.

489/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M. Gray

490/06 DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 7(h)	Councillor A. Ross	Member of Rugby Club
Agenda Item 10	Councillor G. Francis	Member of KVAT

491/06 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) On a sombre note a year ago on 23rd February our late Mayor, Councillor Mrs Hilary Cripps, died in office. This Council formally celebrated her life and passing on the 7th March with a Civic Memorial Service it is therefore fitting that we remember Hilary again at this time and her photograph is now in place. A week ago, in a simple ceremony two playground clocks were unveiled at St. Peter's School in Hilary's memory.

b) The Mayor informed members that he has been holding informal talks with Councillor Gwynneth Bullock - Mayor of Hungerford regarding forging closer friendships between our two communities and Councils. He informed members that he had placed a formal resolution item 8 on the agenda to give formal recognition to this ongoing dialogue.

c) Members are I am sure aware that there is a lot of disquiet amongst the residents of our town and the wider community concerning what appears to be a relentless diminution of services. When we address some of these issues later I would urge Councillors to try and seeking solutions to these problems where possible. I have placed a copy of a new planning document issued by Kennet today in front of you all. The first of Kennet's consultative meetings will be held in the Town Hall on Tuesday 13th March.

d) The Mayor informed members that two weeks ago he hosted a visit to the Town Hall for a small party from Marlborough, Massachusetts. They were shown our artefacts and the various rooms in the Town Hall including the cells, afterwards refreshments were provided.

e) The Mayor informed members that he had sent the Councils best wishes to our former Town Clerk of many years Councillor Tony Skittrall following his admission into the Great Western Hospital. Councillor Skittrall left hospital on Saturday and is now at home making satisfactory progress.

f) The Mayor informed members that work has now started in the Priory Garden to enhance and strengthen the river bank. As a council we are grateful to the Marlborough River Project, of which we are a partner, and ARK in particular for promoting the Lottery funding for this scheme.

g) The Mayor reminded councillors that their support for the Mayoral Ball is a tangible way to celebrate a year in which the council has made visible unified progress and that their presence at the function, whether partnered or alone will add to the occasion.

492/06 MINUTES

Proposed by Councillor B. Castle, seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Dow and –

RESOLVED: unanimously to receive, approve and sign as a true record the Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on Monday 22nd January, 2007.

493/06 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF COMMITTEE AND SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS – and to sign as a true record those Minutes not previously received.

a) Proposed by Councillor S.R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Dow and -

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy Review Sub Committee held on the 5th February, 2007 be received and signed as a true record.

b) Proposed by Councillor P.B. Cossey, seconded by Councillor M. Curtis and -

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee held on the 5th February, 2007 be received and signed as a true record.

c) Proposed by Councillor Mrs C. Jackson, seconded by Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson and -

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 19th February, 2007 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 19th February, 2007 be received and signed as a true record.

e) Proposed by Mrs C. Jackson, seconded by Councillor S.R. Dobson and -

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Policy Review Sub Committee held on the 27th February, 2007 be received and signed as a true record.

494/06

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

- a) Proposed by Councillor S.R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Dow and -

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy Review Sub Committee held on the 5th February, 2007 be Received and Adopted with the following amendments –
Min No. 438/06 – RECOMMENDATION – to read
‘unanimously that the Town Clerk should make contact with Kennet District Council and Wiltshire County Council to line up a meeting if the Wiltshire County Council bid goes forward for consideration’.

It be noted that there is no minute number 433/06.

- b) Proposed by Councillor P. Cossey, seconded by Councillor S.R. Dobson and -

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee held on the 5th February, 2007 be Received and Adopted.

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

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held on the 19th February, 2007 be Received and Adopted with the following amendment –

The date of the meeting to read ‘Monday 19th February, 2007’.

495/06

CLERK’S REPORT

- a) **Further to Minute 414/06 – Acknowledgement from Chief Constable and response from Chief Fire Officer.**

The Town Clerk informed members that an acknowledgement has been received from the Chief Constable and a further response is awaited. A response has been received from the Chief Fire Officer regarding concerns raised by this Council, copies of both of these letters having previously been circulated to members. Members stated that they would wish that an up-date be sought from time to time from the Chief Fire Officer regarding this matter.

- b) **Election Timetable and availability of Nomination Packs for Town Council Elections.**

The Town Clerk informed members that Nomination Packs are available from the Council Offices for those who require them.

c) **Revised Polling Station Arrangements for East Ward.**

The Town Clerk informed members that due to the works being carried out in the Court Room an alternative venue has had to be found for the East Ward elections, a copy letter from Kennet District Council had previously been circulated to members. Members ask if any arrangements had been made by Kennet District Council to assist those electors from the East Ward who would have to travel to the Leisure Centre to place their votes. Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson informed members that Kennet District Council had looked at 2 other possible venues but both had proved unsuitable.

d) **Further to Minute 443/06**

The Town Clerk informed members that a response had been received from Wiltshire Police regarding the concerns of this Council on the closure of local enquiry desks, members having previously received a copy of the letter. Councillor M.P. Cooper ask if any thought had been given to the fact that if the Police Contact Point was situated in the Library then what cover would there be over the Easter period for example. A further letter from the Police Authority regarding the same matter had been circulated.

Proposed by Councillor B. Castle, seconded by Councillor P. Dow and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Town Clerk write to the Police Authority about this Councils concern of there being no cover for the general public over such times as the Easter period should the Police Contact Point be placed in the Library

e) **Proposed re-organisation of Registration Service**

The Town Clerk informed members that an acknowledgement and information on the next stage has been received regarding the re-organisation of the Registration Service (members had previously received a copy)

f) **Continued Degradation of Services – PCT decision to close Minor Injuries Unit at Savernake Hospital.**

Members will have noted the recent PCT decision to close the Minor Injuries Unit at Savernake Hospital. MCASP have voiced their dissatisfaction at the closure of the MIU. The PCT have aired the possibility of there being an alternative to Chippenham Community Hospital being used and there may be a possibility of a local doctor's surgery being used for this area as an alternative.

g) **Update on Wiltshire County Council bid for Unitary Authority**

The Town Clerk informed members that the Town Mayor and herself had attended an informal meeting with the leader of Kennet District Council regarding the bid from Wiltshire County Council. It was stated that the Town Council had not discussed the bid and were waiting until the decision in April from Ruth Kelly that the bid will go forward to the next stage. Subsequently the leader of Kennet District Council sent the letter that has previously been circulated to members. Following the Policy Review Sub Committee meeting and in anticipation of the bid going forward an approach has been made to both Wiltshire County Council and Kennet District Council for a presentation on their respective positions.

h) **Rugby Club Summer Ball,**

The Town Clerk informed members that a letter has been received from the Rugby Club requesting permission from the Town Council as their landlords to site a marquee for the Summer Ball on the Common.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs P. Dow, seconded by Councillor A. Kirk-Wilson and –

RESOLVED: by 13 votes for with 1 abstention Councillor A. Ross to be named as abstaining that Marlborough Town Council have no objection to the Rugby Club siting a marquee on the Common subject to the usual conditions.

i) **Extended Schools Co-ordinator.**

The Town Clerk informed members that the Mayor had recently received a request to send a representative to attend a meeting with the Extended Schools Co-ordinator on 14th March, 2007 at St. John's School, did the Town Council wish to nominate a representative ?.

Proposed by Councillor D. Parker, seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Dow and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that Councillor G.Francis be nominated as this Councils representative to attend a meeting with Extended Schools Co-ordinator.

496/06

RELATIONSHIP WITH HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The following Proposal was received from the Mayor, Councillor B.D. Castle –

Proposed by Councillor B D. Castle, seconded by Councillor G. Francis and –

RESOLVED: by 14 votes for with 1 against that Marlborough Town Council accept the following proposal submitted by Councillor B. Castle -

‘I propose that this Council welcomes the exploration of a closer relationship between ourselves and the Town Council of Hungerford, in the firm belief that our two towns although separated by a County Boundary, share much in common.’

497/06 REVISED MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

After discussion the following comments were made –

Proposed by Councillor B. Castle, seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Dow and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that Marlborough Town Council welcome the changes to the Model Code of Conduct and support the clarification made to the declaring of both personal and prejudicial interests. However, one item they felt should have been addressed is the cost of legal representation for members who have to defend malicious unsubstantiated complaints against them. At this point, there appears to be no mechanism for the recovery of these costs when they are found innocent.

Councillor G. Francis left the room at 8.27 pm

498/06 CULTURAL INITIATIVE JULY 2007

The Council received a letter from KVAT after discussion it was –

Proposed by Councillor B. Castle, seconded by Councillor P. Cossey and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that Marlborough Town Council participate in the Cultural Initiative.

Councillor G. Francis returned to the room at 8.31 pm

499/06 MARLBOROUGH BRANDT GROUP 25TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

The Council received a letter from the Marlborough Brandt Group regarding the Town Council's participation in the Brandt Group 25th Anniversary Reception.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs C. Jackson, seconded by Councillor N. Fogg and –

RESOLVED: by 11 votes for with 4 against that this decision be deferred to the next meeting.

500/06 SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS

January, 2007.

Proposed by Councillor B.D. Castle, seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Dow and –

RESOLVED: that the Schedule of Accounts for January, 2007 in the sum of £29,629.99 be received and signed by the Chairman.

501/06 TOWN COUNCIL BALANCES

Proposed by Councillor B.D. Castle, seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Dow and –

RESOLVED: that the Town Council balances as at 31st January, 2007 be received.

502/06 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS (if any)

Councillor M.P. Cooper reported the following from his recent Councillor Surgery –

He was ask to investigate the closure of the Post Office on the 14th and 17th of March due to the refurbishment of the ‘One Stop Shop’.

The Town Clerk will write to the Post Office regarding these closures.

Councillor D. Parker – felt that the Fire Forum should be resurrected.

The Town Clerk reported that she has spoken to Ian Hunter and that he is keen to get it back up and running.

Councillor S.R. Dobson – reported that he had attended the MCASP meeting (minutes will be circulated in due course when received by the office)

503/06 SELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR FOR THE MAYORAL YEAR 2007/2008

Proposed by Councillor B. Castle, seconded by Councillor M. Curtis and –

RESOLVED: by 13 votes for with 1 abstention that Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson be elected as Deputy Town Mayor for the Mayoral Year 2007/2008

504/06 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Proposed by Councillor S.R. Dobson seconded by Councillor M.P. Cooper and –

RESOLVED: unanimously 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.

505/06 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

There were no questions at Members Question Time.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm