

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

FULL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Full Town Council** held on **Monday 16th April, 2007** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at **7.00 p.m.**

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.A. Dow Councillor N. Fogg Councillor M. Gray Councillor M. 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 Mr. N. Kerton Mr. G. Adams Inspector I. Stevenson Plus 5 Members of the Public	Town Clerk Office Manager Mayor's Chaplain Wiltshire Gazette and Herald The Advisor Wiltshire Police

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

The Mayor announced the sad death of Mrs J.C. Evans former Mayor and Councillor of Marlborough Town Council.

This was followed by a minutes silence.

PRAYERS

Revd. Michael Cripps opened the meeting with prayers.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr. N. Kerton – asked if Councillors were aware that the railings over the bridge at Stonebridge Lane were very badly damaged and need immediate attention.

Town Clerk – reported that Mr. Peter Hanson at Wiltshire County Council was aware of this problem.

CRIME AND DISORDER

Inspector Ian Stevenson – gave a short report on the overall crime figures for the area, stating that although there was an increase for the area the figures for Marlborough show a decrease.

Councillor M.P. Cooper – asked why when there were major road works being carried out was parking allowed in George Lane as this only added further to the problems.

Inspector I Stevenson – replied that Kennet District Council are responsible for parking issues, problems were made worse by the contractors erecting 3 way traffic lights, but when the police became aware of this they instructed the contractors to change the system to 2 way lights and this did appear to help the situation.

Councillor R. Allen – asked if the police could not act if the parking was causing an obstruction.

Inspector I Stevenson – replied that the police could act if the obstruction is brought to their attention.

TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS TO AND FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

Councillor D. Parker – asked why because of the traffic problems work was not being carried out at week-ends.

Councillor Mrs P. Dow – asked who would be responsible for the grass verges that have been put in place by the new crossing.

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson – replied that she would look into both of these queries.

Councillor W.B. Cavill – felt that the gridlock in Marlborough has been going on for too long and that the Town Council should write to the County Council expressing their dismay at the poor organisation and could they look again at the methods used for traffic control.

Councillor R. Allen - stated that it was inevitable that there would be hold-ups and that there is no easy solution but that we should welcome the road repairs being carried out.

Councillor G. Francis – stated that we had waited a long time for the repairs to be carried out and felt that the delays were inevitable.

Councillor W.B. Cavill's suggestion that a letter be written was not supported by fellow Councillors.

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson – will relay the concerns of the council to the County Council.

Councillor N. Fogg – informed members of an advertisement that had recently come to his attention regarding the sale of HMS Marlborough, unfortunately the sale had already taken place in 1764 so on this occasion the Town Council had “missed the boat”. Councillor Fogg's amusing anecdote was noted.

Councillor M. Gray – reported that after reading an article about Devon's energy consumption for street lighting, asked if a figure could be obtained from the County Council for the energy consumption of street lighting in Wiltshire.

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson – replied that she would look into this.

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson - reported on matters arising from previous meetings –

The holes that had been reported in London Road by Councillor N. Fogg have now been placed on the repair list and hopefully will be done soon.

The signs reported by Councillor G. Francis on the Pewsey road as you approach Marlborough indicating Council Offices in George Lane will be covered by blanking plates which are at present on order.

Councillor B. Castle – ask that that the pot holes in the Parade and Kennet Place be addressed.

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson – replied that she would ask the County Council to address this problem.

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson – informed the council that she had received a letter from a lady who had recently visited our town from Marlborough, Massachusetts. The lady expressed her admiration for the town and commented on the friendly welcome she had received.

562/06

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs C. Jackson

563/06

DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST

There were no Declaration(s) of Interest.

Councillor A. Ross arrived at 7.35 pm

564/06

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) I formally record with pleasure and pride the status of 'Quality Council' that has been awarded to this Council. This achievement would not have been possible without the hard work of our Town Clerk, Mrs Pam Dobson, her staff and you the elected councillors – all working harmoniously as a team with a vision for our town's future.

b) The minutes of the last Full Council meeting on the 5th March refers to the possibility of the HMS Marlborough ship's bell being used at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. I can report that this matter is in hand and a letter has been sent to the Royal British Legion.

c) I must register my disappointment that despite several reminders a handful of councillors have let down this council and the residents who elected them. If they cannot be bothered to walk and report on the condition of their appointed public footpath no one else will. During the days running up to the May 3rd we will all be told on doorsteps that voting is a waste of time because no one listens and no one delivers. If we as a council can not perform the little tasks efficiently then our new Quality Status could be a hollow accolade.

d) Next Sunday, as the Town Council we will be celebrating St. George's Day with a Civic Service at Preshute Church, the service is at 10.00 am, we will robe at 9.30 am. This occasion is our last ceremonial outing as colleagues and friends for this civic year. I hope you will be able to attend.

565/06

MINUTES

Proposed by Councillor S.R. Dobson, 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 the 5th March, 2007.

566/06

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 G. Francis, seconded by Councillor M. Curtis and –

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

b) Proposed by Councillor P. Cossey, seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Dow and -

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Policy Review Sub Committee held on the 2nd April, 2007 be received and signed as a true record.

c) Proposed by Councillor M. Gray, seconded by Councillor A. Kirk-Wilson and -

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 2nd April, 2007 be received and signed as a true record

- d) Proposed by Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson, seconded by Councillor G. Francis and –

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Property Committee held on the 2nd April, 2007 be received and signed as a true record.

- e) Proposed by Councillor S.R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor A. Ross and –

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

567/06

TO DISCUSS THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING AND MAKE RESOLUTIONS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN WHERE NECESSARY.

- a) Proposed by Councillor G. Francis, seconded by Councillor M. Curtis and -

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on the 19th March, 2007 be Received and Adopted.

- b) Proposed by Councillor P. Cossey, seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Dow and -

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Policy Sub Committee held on the 2nd April, 2007 be Received and Adopted.

- c) Proposed by Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson, seconded by Councillor G. Francis and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting of the Property Committee held on the 2nd April, 2007 be Received and Adopted.

- d) Proposed by Councillor S.R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor A. Ross and -

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy Review Sub Committee held on the 5th April, 2007 be Received and Adopted.

568/06

CLERK'S REPORT

- a) Further to Minute 495/06 (a) – Response from the Chief Constable

Councillors had previously received a copy of a letter received from the Chief Constable in reply to concerns raised by this Council regarding the handling of the Fire Service investigation and arrests. The Town Clerk reported that she would also chase the Fire Brigade for a further response.

- b) Further to Minute 495/06 (d) – Response from Wiltshire Police

Councillors had previously received a copy of a letter received from the Wiltshire Police Authority in reply to concerns raised by this Council on the closure of the Local Enquiry Desk.

- c) Annual Area Highways Presentation.

The Town Clerk informed members that the Town Council have been invited to nominate two members to attend this presentation on 10th May, 2007 at 2.00 pm which will be held at the Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. It was decided that this item should be deferred until the Selection Committee meeting on the 9th May, 07.

- d) Community Area Highway Information

Councillors had previously received a copy of the Community Area Highway Information. The following observations were reported –

The footbridge at Stonebridge Lane is listed for full renovation.
The condition of the road through the High Street appears to have been omitted.

569/06 SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS

To receive the Schedule of Accounts for –

- a) February, 2007.

RESOLVED: that the Schedule of Accounts for February, 2007 in the sum of £29,815.74 be Received and Signed by the Chairman.

- b) March, 2007.

RESOLVED: that the Schedule of Accounts for March, 2007 in the sum of £38,973.80 be Received and Signed by the Chairman.

570/06 TOWN COUNCIL BALANCES

RESOLVED: that the Town Council balances as at 31st March, 2007 be Received.

571/06 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.

- a) WALC – March Newsletter (copy for information)
- b) MADT – Spring Newsletter (copy for information)
- c) Marlborough Christmas Lights Association – Minutes from the February and March meetings are available in the office for members perusal.

572/06

SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Proposed by Councillor M. P. Cooper, seconded by Councillor W.B. Cavill 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.

573/06

MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

There were no Members Questions.

This is the last meeting of the Full Town Council, not only for this Civic Year but for the end of our four year mandate from the electors. We shall not meet formally again around this table. It is therefore appropriate to say thank you to all of you for what we can look back on as a significant and successful year. Some of us are seeking to renew our promises to serve our community in the honourable position of town councillor unpaid and possibly, at times unloved. Councillors Allen, Cavill, Cooper, Cossey, Curtis, Gray, Jackson and Parker are not seeking re-election. Two are Ex-Mayors, most have been Committee Chairmen and all have given their honest best efforts for the Town of Marlborough. Again on behalf of our community our sincere thanks and our good wishes for many happy and fulfilling Monday evenings.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm