

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

FULL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Full Town Council** held on **Monday 16th October, 2006 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 G. Francis Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson Councillor Mrs P.A. Dow Councillor N. Fogg Councillor Mrs C.V. Jackson 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 Councillor A.W. Skittrall Mr. N. Kerton Acting Inspector M. Freeman	Town Clerk Office Manager Mayor's Chaplain Leader – Kennet District Council Kennet District Councillor Wiltshire Gazette & Herald Wiltshire Police
	Plus 1 member 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

Mrs J. White – Preshute School Chair of Governors - stated that the refuse from Manton High Street is collected at the same time as the children are being taken to school. This causes congestion along the High Street, could the Kennet District Councillors look into the possibility of a time change for the collection, a letter has already been sent from the school to the District Council regarding this matter but to little avail.

Revd. M. Cripps – could the local coffee shop be asked to stack their bags in such a way so as the pavement is not blocked to pedestrians.

The Town Clerk informed Revd. Cripps that this matter has been reported to the District Council.

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson said that this business had been written to regarding the refuse but that she would follow this up again.

CRIME AND DISORDER

The Mayor welcomed Acting Inspector Mark Freeman.

Acting Inspector Mark Freeman reported that the last two weekends had been relatively quiet in the town considering that the Mop Fair had been present. A large amount of alcohol had been seized from under age drinkers, this appears to have been bought from one off licence in the town. This off-licence has been warned to be more vigilant on their alcohol sales.

There is now a second PCSO stationed at Marlborough Police Station

Councillor S.R. Dobson – Following the dawn arrest on Wednesday 22nd March, 2006 of several local fire fighters including the Station Commander, now that the police involvement has been concluded are the police now prepared to answer the following –

1. Are they happy that the amount of force used for the operation and the resultant cost to the tax payer was justified?
2. Was the decision to carry out the operation made on the request of a senior fire officer and if so what is their name and position.
3. In hindsight do the police consider that the damage to local good relations historically enjoyed by the police following this operation can be justified in the light of the resulting outcome of the case against the former Station Commander.

Acting Inspector Mark Freeman – this operation was not dealt with by the Marlborough Police Station and unfortunately he was unable to answer these questions.

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson – as a Wiltshire County Council Councillor stated that she had written many times requesting answers to these questions the last letter had been sent to the Chief Constable but to date she had not received a reply.

Councillor N. Fogg – felt that it may be beneficial if the Council wrote as a body to ask for answers to the questions raised by Councillor S.R. Dobson.

Councillor C. Humphries – understood that there were still unresolved issues and that no answers would be given until these had been resolved.

Councillor R. Allen – how long might we expect to wait for these issues to be resolved, as during this time Marlborough has lost a very good and valuable WPC.

Town Clerk – will make enquiries and place this item on a future agenda.

Councillor G. Francis – there appears to be a general lack of observation for the law regarding the use of mobile phones whilst driving, what is the policy of our local police on this matter?.

Acting Inspector Mark Freeman – fixed penalty tickets are issued to all those found to be in breach of the law.

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

Councillor Mrs P. Dow – asked Kennet District Council Councillors if it was correct that the skips in George Lane Car Park used for plastic and cardboard are in fact taken for landfill and not re-cycled.

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson - these skips are taken for re-cycling.

Councillor N. Fogg – if Councillor Mrs Dow has proof that these skips are being used for landfill then he will investigate immediately.

Mayor, Councillor B. Castle – understood that these skips are only taken to landfill if they are contaminated.

Councillor M.P. Cooper – the skips should have re-cycling codes on them to guide people.

Councillor C. Humphries – information has been sent to all households regarding the acceptable grading for re-cycling.

Councillor R. Allen - some elderly find it hard to read the grading symbols on containers, there are still black bags being dumped by the side of the re-cycling skips, although he has noticed that there has been a significant improvement with re-cycling.

Councillor N. Fogg – is it true that the District Council are considering making a charge to households for the collection of plastic and cardboard to be re-cycled?.

Councillor C. Humphries – there are no resources available for the provision of collecting these items and all possibilities have to be considered.

Councillor N. Fogg – is it correct that the new toilets that were to be placed in George Lane Car Park have now been shelved and will not be erected until the new theatre is in place?.

Councillor C. Humphries – these toilets will go ahead with or without the new theatre being in place.

Councillor A.W. Skittrall – was of the same understanding as Councillor Fogg and that the toilets would not go ahead without the theatre being built, and that he understood that Devizes had now taken precedence over Marlborough for the erection of new toilets.

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson – responding to an earlier query from Councillor R. Allen regarding the surface water along George Lane informed him that a camera surveillance on drains would be taking place.

Councillor P. Cossey had also requested that the drains be looked at in London Road, Councillors Mrs Hannaford reported that a camera surveillance had been carried out on these drains and that concrete had been found in them, these will be repaired in the near future.

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson – reported to Councillors that the Wiltshire County Council Cabinet agenda referred to a potential further sale of land from the St. John's School site which was of grave concern. Further reports would be made when more information is available.

254/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W.B. Cavill, M. Gray and M. Curtis.

255/06 DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST

There were no Declaration(s) of Interest

256/06 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) The Mayor informed Councillors that he would fly to the Gambia on the 17th November, 2006 for one week. The last Mayor to formally visit the Gambia was Councillor Mrs Joyce White 8 years ago, so to be able to go and represent the town in the 25th year of the formation of the Marlborough Brandt Group is indeed a privilege.
- b) The Mayor informed Councillors that he will not be organising a formal Christmas Dinner this year but instead will provide drinks and refreshments following the extra planning meeting which will be held on the 18th December. He hopes that Councillors, their friends and relatives and any members of the public who may be present will stay to wish each other warm greetings for the season.
- c) The Mayor reported that he attended a seminar for appointed flood wardens in the area on Friday 13th October. It was reported by experts that they do not expect an excessive amount of rainfall this winter and as such severe flooding by the river Kennet is unlikely. However the Mayor would like to remind members that a deputy warden is still required and also an assistant warden for Manton Village. To enable an archive to be built up of those areas that might flood any photos written or aural recollections of such events that Councillors may have would be greatly appreciated.
- d) On the 30th October, 2006 the Mayor and Deputy Mayor have been invited to the Fire Station to meet the volunteer firemen at their drill. The Mayor will use this opportunity to thank them, on behalf of the community for all their skills and dedication over a very difficult period.

- e) The Mayor reminded Councillors of the following civic dates -
- Thursday 26th October, 2006 – 6.00 pm Peppercorn Rent Ceremony, Merchant’s House.
- Saturday 11th November, 2006 – 11.00 am Town Hall steps, 2 minutes silence of Remembrance.
- Sunday 12th November, 2006 – Parade, church service and wreath laying
- f) The Mayor reported that he had received complaints regarding the amount of dog fouling that has been taking place in Stonebridge Lane and ask that the Councillor responsible for walking this footpath should write a formal report.

257/06 MINUTES

Proposed by Councillor B. Castle, seconded by Councillor S.R. Dobson and -

RESOLVED: unanimously to receive, approve and sign as a true record the Minutes of the Full Town Council held on the 4th September, 2006.

258/06 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 Mrs P. Dow and –

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on the 18th September, 2006 be received and signed as a true record.

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

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Policy Review Sub Committee held on the 25th September, 2006 be received and signed as a true record.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Mrs C. Jackson, seconded by Councillor M.P. Cooper and -

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on the 2nd October, 2006 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 Property Committee held on the 2nd October, 2006 be received and signed as a true record.

259/06

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

(a) Proposed by Councillor G. Francis, seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Dow and -

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on the 18th September, 2006 be Received and Adopted.

(b) 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 25th September, 2006 be Received and Adopted with the addition of “and bankers” to be added to Financial Regulations 11.1 (ii)

The Chairman of the Policy Review Sub Committee highlighted the 2 following points –

- a) **Minute No. 231/06 – Councillors are urged to think of questions prior to Code of Conduct seminar meeting, which will take place on the 6th November, 2006.**
- b) **Minute No. 232/06 – The Selection of Mayor to operate from May 2007.**

The Mayor thanked the Chairman Councillor S.R. Dobson for all his hard work.

(c) 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 October, 2006 be Received and Adopted.

The following points were raised –

- a) **Minute No. 248/06 c) – when considering the opening and closing times of these toilets Councillor M.P. Cooper felt that 8.00am to 6.00pm would be appropriate.**
- b) **Minute No. 251/06 d) – Councillor D. Parker said that £1,000 had been included in this years budget to accommodate the re-printing of the brochure for this year. The Chairman agreed to take this back to Committee and ask them to consider a smaller re-print run until such time as a new brochure can be prepared.**

260/06

CLERK'S REPORT

(a) Twin Town Enquiry from France.

The Committee consider a letter received concerning the possibility of entering into an active "twin" relationship with a town in France. After discussion it was –

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

RESOLVED: unanimously that the formation of a committee to consider the pros and cons of twinning be placed on the next agenda of the Planning Committee.

(b) Update on response to items raised in Public Question Time and Questions to and from County and District Councillors to be dealt with by Town Clerk.

Repairs to the footpath know as Cripps Causeway on the Green have been completed.

Following several e mails Kennet District Council have finally responded to our request and an officer has been assigned to look into the replacing of the copingstones in St. Mary's Churchyard.

A response has been received from Kennet District Council that from week commencing 11th September the re-cycling skips would be emptied at least once a day 7 days a week.

261/06

MONTHLY COUNCILLOR'S SURGERIES

The Committee considered a proposal from the Town Mayor to change the venue of the monthly Councillors Surgeries. After discussion it was –

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

RESOLVED: by 3 votes for with 8 against and 1 abstention that the Councillor's Surgeries be moved to the Mayor's Parlour therefore this proposal was defeated.

262/06

SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS

To receive the Schedule of Accounts for –

(a) August, 2006.

RESOLVED: that the Schedule of Accounts for August, 2006 in the sum of £24,445.41 including reimbursement to the No. 2 Account in the sum of £6569.54 be received and signed by the Chairman.

(b) September, 2006.

RESOLVED: that the Schedule of Accounts for September, 2006 in the sum of £24,335.02 including reimbursement to the No. 2 Account in the sum of £6791.59 be received and signed by the Chairman.

263/06 TOWN COUNCIL BALANCES

RESOLVED: That the Town Council balances as at the 31st September, 2006 be Received.

264/06 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.

Councillor S.R. Dobson reported that he had recently attended a meeting of MCASP, he stated that MCASP hold a vital role with in the town and felt that until now the Town Council have not enjoyed the full benefit of that role. The Town Clerk informed members that should they wish copies of the MCASP minutes received in the office could be circulated to everyone.

265/06 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.

266/06 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

Councillor S.R. Dobson relayed to the Town Council the following points that had been raised during his recent Councillor's Surgery –

1. The Town Council to be thanked for arranging collection of plastics and cardboard in the George Lane Car Park.
2. Could the Town Council put pressure on the authority responsible for the control of the use of 'A' Boards in the High Street.
4. Could the Town Council put pressure on the authority responsible for ensuring that storm drains are able to prevent flooding following heavy downpours especially in Back Lane.

The Mayor requested that an engineering inspection is carried out on the drains on the south side of the high street as recent heavy rainfall has resulted in shops and residential homes being flooded.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm

