

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

FULL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the **Full Town Council** held on **Monday 24th September, 2007** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7.00 pm

PRESENT	Councillor Mrs P. Dow	Town Mayor
	Councillor S.Dobson	
	Councillor G. Francis	
	Councillor B. Castle	
	Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson	
	Councillor N. Fogg	
	Councillor A. Ross	
	Councillor R. Notton	
	Councillor Mrs M. Rose	
	Councillor G. Loosmore	
	Councillor R. Pitts	
	Councillor A. Sycamore	

ALSO	Mrs Pam Dobson	Town Clerk
PRESENT	Mrs Sue Fry	Office Manager
	Mr. G. Adams	Adviser
	Sir John Sykes	Merchant's House

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.

Proposed by Councillor S. Dobson, seconded by Councillor N. Fogg that Sir John Sykes address the Council before the commencement of the meeting.

Sir John Sykes informed members that the application for lottery funding has to be submitted by Thursday 27th September, 2007. The reason that the Town Council were being approached to become a formal partner in this application is the need for at least a 15 year lease, at present the Merchants House only has a 7 year lease as it only pays a peppercorn rent. If the bid is successful the money will be used to refurbish the kitchen, the servants staircase and accommodation. It is hoped that the kitchen will become fully functional and the property will be opened up to the public. Previous applications have been refused, but it is hoped that this time as the Education Policy has been adhered to this one will be successful. Sir John Sykes did not have a copy of the application but hoped that one would be available shortly for any councillor who wished to see one.

The Mayor then invited councillors to ask Sir John Sykes any questions they may have.

Councillor A. Sycamore – asked why paragraph 40 had not been completed and what the time scale would be?

Sir John Sykes – stated that he was unable to answer this question immediately but would find out the answer.

Councillor A. Sycamore – If in 5 years time the lease is discontinued would this become the responsibility of any new councillors elected to the council?

Sir John Sykes – no they would not be held responsible.

Councillor B. Castle – said that he hoped these improvements would be of benefit to the whole of the town and that the Merchants House will be opening for all members of the public to view at a minimal cost.

Sir John Sykes – said that there does have to be a charge as the books have to be balanced, some open days have been held but these do not seem to have been taken up by the general public. There does not appear to be a great deal of local support for the Merchants House. Having an open house is not an option, but there are approximately 30 volunteers who carry out guide tours of the house at certain times.

Councillor S. Dobson – said that he felt that children should be given every possible opportunity to view the Merchants House.

Councillor R. Pitts – asked if any salaries were included in grant that was to be applied for?

Sir John Sykes – replied that no salaries were included as the Merchants House has in-house experienced staff.

Councillor R. Pitts - asked if the Merchants House are confident on this application.

Sir John Sykes – replied that everyone has worked very hard on this application.

Councillor G. Loosmore – asked what the feasibility of opening to the public one day a month would be.

Councillor N. Fogg – asked if the Merchants House had tried the National Open Day Scheme.

Sir John Sykes - replied that in the past they had been disappointed with the attendance at such days but it was certainly something that could be re-visited.

238/07

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Kirk Wilson, Mrs E. Fogg and A. Spranger.

239/07

DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 4	Councillor S.R. Dobson	Trustee (Personal Interest – will not vote)
Agenda Item 4	Councillor N. Fogg	Trustee (Personal Interest)

240/07 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUCEMENTS

There were no Chairman’s Announcements.

241/07 REQUEST FROM THE MERCHANT’S HOUSE TRUST.

The committee received a request to become a formal partner in the application for lottery funding currently being submitted by the Merchant’s House Trust. As a safeguard for the Town Council against any financial or other liability, an indemnity had been drawn up by the Trust for consideration.

After discussion it was –

Proposed by Councillor N. Fogg, seconded by Councillor G. Francis and –

RESOLVED: by 11 votes for with 1 abstention that Marlborough Town Council become a formal partner in the application for lottery funding provided our legal advisors are happy with the indemnity and that the contract with HLF does not exceed the period of unexpired lease.

Two invites had been received from the Showmens Guild for two councillors plus their partners to attend the official opening of the Mop Fair. The following names were drawn by the Mayor – Councillors A. Ross and T. Spranger, if Councillor Spranger is unable to attend then Councillor R. Notton will do so in his place.

The meeting closed at 7.53 pm