

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

FULL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Full Town Council** held on **Monday 16th June, 2008** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7.00 pm

PRESENT	Councillor Mrs P. Dow Councillor G. Francis Councillor B. Castle Councillor N. Fogg Councillor A. Ross Councillor A. Kirk Wilson Councillor Mrs E. Fogg Councillor T. Spranger Councillor R. Pitts Councillor A. Sycamore	Town Mayor
ALSO PRESENT	Mrs Pam Dobson Mrs Sue Fry Mr. N. Kerton Inspector I. Stevenson Councillor Chris Humphries Plus 4 Members of the Public	Town Clerk Office Manager Wiltshire Gazette & Herald 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.

PRAYERS

The Mayor opened the meeting with prayers.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Susan Park – with regard to the proposals for a driving range on the Common, walkers and members of the Golf Club do not co-exist. Walkers are afraid of being hit by golf balls and also suffer verbal abuse from golfers when they are walking on the Common. Could a large notice be erected on the edge of the Common warning walkers about the golf balls? The Common is the only large area left within walking distance of the town, what is the best way forward to allow the general public unlimited access to the Common.

Mr. Park – as a member of the Golf Club who initiated the proposal for the driving range?

The Mayor – approximately 4 years ago the Golf Club approached the Town Council with regard to a driving range. Although in principal the Town Council support the Tennis Clubs proposals there are issues that have to be dealt with. The Town Council are looking into establishing a Commons User Group for which Terms of Reference have to be established. A public consultation will be taking place.

Councillor B. Castle – if anyone experiences verbal abuse from golfers while they are walking on the Common, they should report it to both the management at the Golf Club and the Town Council.

Mr. N. Kerton – what are the Town Council doing to help traders in the town advertise their businesses, in particular those in the Parade.

Councillor R. Pitts – Planning Permission has been sought for planters with display boards to be erected enabling businesses in both Kingsbury Street and The Parade to advertise. These planters will also hopefully have cycle racks attached.

Mr. N. Kerton – What is happening to Marlborough Youth Centre?

The Mayor – informed Mr. Kerton that his question would be passed onto the Wiltshire County Councillor.

Councillor R. Pitts – a survey has been carried out at the schools on children between the ages of 12 to 16 the figures for which will be available shortly.

Councillor Mrs E. Fogg – I understand that presently the Youth Centre is open 8 hours per week and that there are approximately 45 users. There is a Government Initiative to have Youth Centres opened for more hours but as yet this has not been implemented. The Community Payback Team agreed to carry out the redecoration at the Youth Centre but a recent document “Demolition and Reconstruction Safety Measures” has a section on decorating which means there are extra regulations to abide by. Wiltshire County Council and the Payback Team are in negotiation about this.

Mr. N. Kerton – he understood that the youth worker at the Youth Centre is salaried so why is the centre only open 8 hours per week?

Mr. P. Morgan – there has been a noticeable increase in the volume of traffic using the A4 out of Marlborough towards Manton. A large number of residents have signed a petition to ask for the speed limit to be reduced to 30 mph out to the town boundary.

Councillor R. Pitts – said that he was starting a campaign along with Preshute Parish Council to try and address this issue and would be happy to talk to Mr. Morgan about this.

Councillor C. Humphries – a request had been made to reduce the speed limit along the A4 from Beckhampton to Marlborough, all speed limit reviews will be implemented by 2011.

The Mayor – stated that this would be placed on a future Planning Agenda for discussion.

CRIME AND DISORDER

The Mayor welcomed Inspector Ian Stevenson.

Inspector Stevenson – informed members that as of today's date the enquiry office at Marlborough Police Station has re-opened for a trial period, it is open from 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday. He stated that Councillor Humphries should be thanked as he had been instrumental in putting pressure on the Police Authority to re-open the enquiry desk.

The **Mayor** – also thanked Inspector Stevenson for all his hard work towards getting the Enquiry Desk re-opened.

Inspector Ian Stevenson – gave a brief report on the recent crime figures and their success rate in the detection of these crimes.

TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS to and from COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.

Councillor N. Fogg – Kennet District Council will not go ahead with the proposed ‘Super Loos’, he stated that he felt that this issues had been dealt with badly and there could be no consultation as the money has not been ‘ring fenced’. He felt that a letter should be sent to Councillor Grundy protesting in the strongest possible terms about the way in which this has been dealt with.

He stated that he and the Mayor has written a letter to the leader of Wiltshire County Council regarding this matter and that she had replied that she had been unaware of the decision made but would come back to the Council.

Councillor N. Fogg – he understood that the playing field at the Kingsbury Hill School Site had been left in perpetuity for the children of the town. Who are the trustees of this land, who made the decision to sell this land, how much was it sold for, and what has happened to the money?

Mr. N. Kerton – stated that he understood that Mr. B. Hey was one of the trustees, that the covenant had been lifted and that the money was now held in a ‘St. Mary’s Garden Fund’ for the youth of the town.

Councillor Mrs E. Fogg – why was the Connect 2, Line 44 Marlborough to Devizes bus service that ran on a Thursday at 10.00 am suddenly withdrawn at the end of April? Why does the unsuitable taxi-bus replacement service leave at 9.30 am, **before** the town and country feeder services arrive in the High Street. This was a vital opportunity for people in Marlborough, particularly those on low fixed incomes, to access cheaper outlets. Could we urge Wiltshire County Council to reinstate this service as a matter of urgency?

Councillor A. Sycamore – suggested that the Town Council needed to make contact with the County Council regarding the inclusion of the re-establishment of a Marlborough Rail Link in the County Transport Strategy.

70/08

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S.R. Dobson, Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson, R. Notton, Mrs M. Rose, S. Radnedge and G. Loosmore.

71/08

DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST

There were no Declaration(s) of Interest.

72/08

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed members that a suggested date for the Annual Bowls Match was Saturday 12th July, 2008. As this is the Jazz Festival weekend, I would like to know how many Councillors would be available to take part. If the numbers are insufficient then an alternative date will need to be arranged.

The Special Annual Service of Evensong at St. Peters Church is to be held on Sunday 29th June, 2008. At this time only 7 Councillors including myself are attending, as the Bishop of Ramsbury has agreed to preach I would urge all Councillors to make every effort to attend. Those of you who haven't already notified the office if you are able to attend could you please do so and those of you who have stated that they can not attend please reconsider. This Council needs to show a united front.

It is the start of our second year and I hope that we will adopt a new way of thinking – not that we can't do this, but that we can. We are going to look forward not back and I know as a Council we can find a way of achieving this.

The Mayor informed members that the Annual Mayors Cup for athletics was being held on Tuesday 17th June, and any Councillor who would like to attend would be most welcome.

73/08

MINUTES

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

RESOLVED: unanimously to receive, approve and sign as a true record the Minutes of the Annual Marlborough Town Council meeting held on the 12th May, 2008.

74/08

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF COMMITTEE AND SUB COMMITTEE METINGS AND TO SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD THOSE MINUTES NOT PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED.

a) Proposed by Councillor G. Francis, seconded by Councillor Mrs E. Fogg and -

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the Staffing Committee which was held on the 19th May, 2008 be received and signed as a true record.

b) Proposed by Councillor B. Castle, seconded by Councillor R. Pitts and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of Amenities and Open Spaces Committee which was held on the 19th May, 2008 be received and signed a true record.

c) Proposed by Councillor G. Francis, seconded by Councillor R. Pitts and –

RESOLVED unanimously that the Minutes of the Property Committee which was held on the 19th May, 2008 be received and signed as a true record.

d) Proposed by Councillor A. Ross, seconded by Councillor A. Sycamore and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee which was held on the 19th May, 2008 be received and signed as a true record.

e) Proposed by Councillor A. Kirk Wilson, seconded by Councillor A. Sycamore and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the Planning Committee which was held on the 2nd June, 2008 be received and signed as a true record with the following amendment –

Min No. 57/08 RESOLUTION to read – unanimously that this Council supports Option 3 and that Councillor G. Loosmore with the assistance of Councillors A. Sycamore and N. Fogg will compile a corporate view to be submitted.

f) Proposed by Councillor G. Francis, seconded by Councillor R. Pitts and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the Property Committee which was held on the 2nd June, 2008 be received and signed as a true record.

75/08

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

a) Proposed by Councillor A. Ross, seconded by Councillor A. Sycamore and -

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee which was held on the 19th May, 2008 be Received and Adopted.

b) Proposed by Councillor S. Radnedge, seconded by Councillor G. Francis and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the Property Committee which was held on the 2nd June, 2008 be Received and Adopted.

Councillor G. Francis drew the members attention to the fact that the Staffing Committee still had a vacancy on its committee. As no one had come forward the Mayor asked if anyone would like to sit on this committee, Councillor A. Kirk Wilson said that he would be willing to have his name put forward.

RESOLVED: by 9 votes for, with 1 abstention that Councillor A. Kirk Wilson be elected as the final member of the Staffing Committee.

CLERK'S REPORT

a) Update on progress with Commons User Group and Usage Survey

We have had a number of people contact the Town Council to express an interest in the Commons User Group. However, before the User Group is established there needs to be a clear understanding of what the aims and objectives of the Group are to be and the number of representatives from Council and specific interest groups who will take part.

Whilst we are aware that the current Golf Club/Tennis Club proposals are one reason for the establishment of a Group it will hopefully become a forum for discussion of wider issues. It would be inappropriate for one group to dominate so a formula needs to be agreed on how fair representation of everyone's interests can be achieved.

We would appreciate your consideration of the terms of reference of the Group and would request that all Councillors contact me with their thoughts so that a report can be presented to the next Amenities and Open Spaces Meeting on 30th June so that the interested parties can be informed when the establishment will take place.

Following discussions at the last Council meeting regarding a usage survey on the Common, St. Johns School and the International Baccalaureate students were keen to take this on as a project and have volunteered to carry out the survey on our behalf. It is important that any survey is seen as being impartial therefore they have prepared their own questionnaire and will be carrying out consultation with the public on Wednesday mornings in the Town and periodically on the Common to ascertain views. On completion, they will present their findings to the Town Council. All the students are sixth formers and the project will contribute to their achievement of the IB qualification in respect of community involvement.

b) Apologies for meetings – It is of great concern that over the last few months the apologies that have been received for meetings from some Councillors have not always specified the reasons for the absence. I would remind all Councillors that under Section 85 of the LGA 1972 the reasons for non attendance at a meeting are subject to approval by the Council. Without clear reasons for non attendance the Council is unable to accept those apologies and the Councillor will be recorded as absent. Failure to attend without the approval of the Council for a period of six months can result in disqualification.

SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS

a) April, 2008.

Proposed by Councillor R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor N. Fogg and –

RESOLVED: that the Schedule of Accounts for April, 2008 in the sum of £42,427.14 be received and signed by the Chairman.

b) May, 2008.

Proposed by Councillor A. Kirk Wilson, seconded by Councillor N. Fogg and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Schedule of Accounts May, 2008 in the sum of £36,145.25 be received and signed by the Chairman.

78/08 TOWN COUNCIL BALANCES

Proposed by Councillor A. Ross, seconded by Councillor N. Fogg and –

RESOLVED: that the Town Council balances as at 31st May, 2008 be received.

79/08 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS – where copies have not be circulated they are available in the office for Members perusal.

a) MCASP Meeting held 14th May 2008 (minutes are available in the office)

Councillor R. Pitts gave a verbal report.

b) MCASP Extraordinary meeting to be held 25th June 2008 – requirement to appoint substitute member.

It was agreed that Councillor A. Ross – Chairman of Finance and Policy

c) MCA Health & Safety Forum - Councillor R. Pitts gave a verbal report.

d) Chamber of Commerce meeting 12th June 2008. - Councillor R. Pitts gave a verbal report.

e) WALC Newsletter's May – copy previously circulated.

f) Marlborough Christmas Lights Association Minutes 14th May 2008

g)Wiltshire Services for Young People Newsletter

Councillor A. Sycamore gave a verbal report on the Merchant's House, Marlborough Brandt Group and the CCTV working group.

80/08 TOWN HALL PROJECT

The Council received a report from Kim Wakeham.

After discussion it was –

Proposed by Councillor N. Fogg, seconded by Councillor R. Pitts and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that a Steering Group should be set up and report back to the next Full Town Council. The members to be Councillors A. Ross, A. Sycamore, R. Pitts, N. Fogg and S. Radnedge (if he is in agreement).

81/08 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Proposed by Councillor G. Francis, seconded by Councillor B. Castle 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.

82/08 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

There were no Members Questions.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm