

## MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

### FULL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Full Town Council** held on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2008** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7.00 pm

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| <b>PRESENT</b>      | Councillor Mrs P. Dow<br>Councillor S. Dobson<br>Councillor G. Francis<br>Councillor B. Castle<br>Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson<br>Councillor N. Fogg<br>Councillor A. Ross<br>Councillor A. Kirk Wilson<br>Councillor Mrs E. Fogg<br>Councillor R. Notton<br>Councillor A. Spranger<br>Councillor G. Loosmore<br>Councillor S. Radnedge<br>Councillor R. Pitts | Town Mayor  |
| <b>ALSO PRESENT</b> | Mrs Pam Dobson<br>Mrs Sue Fry<br>Mr. N. Kerton<br>Mr. G. Adams<br>Inspector A. Noble<br>Councillor Chris Humphries<br>Plus 16 Members of the Public  | Town Clerk<br>Office Manager<br>Wiltshire Gazette & Herald<br>Advisor<br>Wiltshire Police |

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**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. Ian Cooper opened the meeting with prayers.

Revd. Ian Cooper asked all those present to join in a minutes silence for past Councillor and Mayor Mr. W.B. Cavill.

#### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**Mr. I. Philpott** – handed a petition “Protect our Common” with 1,767 signatures to the Mayor and read out a covering letter (copy of letter attached).

**The Mayor** – thanked Mr. Philpott and said as you are aware discussions are ongoing with the Golf Club and once there is anything to report we will get back to you.

**Mr. R. Allen** – read a question for the Mayor.

**The Mayor** – thanked Mr. Allen for his question and said that he would receive a reply in due course.

## **CRIME AND DISORDER**

**The Mayor welcomed Acting Inspector Andy Noble.**

**Inspector Noble** – informed the Mayor and Councillors that he had been confirmed as the new Inspector for Marlborough and Devizes.

**The Mayor congratulated Inspector Noble.**

**Inspector Noble** – said that he would be happy to arrange a joint visit with Devizes to discuss CCTV.

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

**Councillor S.R. Dobson** – informed members that a recent meeting he had attended at Kennet District Council, Devizes Chamber of Commerce had applied for a free parking day for Christmas shoppers. Councillor Dobson had requested that Marlborough shoppers be granted the same, if we wish to take advantage of this then we need to contact Kennet District Council with a proposed date.

**The Town Clerk** – said that she would contact the Chamber of Commerce regarding a date and then write to Kennet District Council.

**The Mayor** – thanked Councillor S. Dobson.

**Councillor Mrs E. Fogg** – praised the Gazette and Herald for their reporting in regard to recent housing problems experienced by a Sarsen tenant who lives in St. Martins, after 2 years the works have finally been carried out.

**Councillor N. Fogg** – said that he had first received a letter from Mrs Hughes regarding her housing problems 2 years ago. There are 2 adjacent houses in St. Martins that have been empty for a long time, in this present climate with a shortage of housing this should be looked into.

**Councillor S.R. Dobson** - stated that he is meeting with the lady in question who had experienced these problems and an officer from Sarsen.

**Councillor N. Fogg** – said that he was disappointed with the report in the Wiltshire Gazette and Herald by Mr. Kerton and the comments from Mr. Allen regarding the grant awarded to the Merchants House. The Merchants House is more than worthy of this grant it is a great credit to the town, not only is it popular with visitors to the town but is of great educational benefit to local children.

The grant awarded to the Merchants House had no bearing on the loss of funding for the

new toilets in the George Lane Car Park, in fact KDC have allocated funds to refurbish the existing toilets. All four of the local District Councillors fought to try and secure the money for these toilets. The Unitary Council will not inherit the money for the new toilets.

**Mr. Kerton and Mr. Allen both asked for the right to reply.**

**The Mayor suggested that both spoke to Councillor N. Fogg after the meeting. When both declined this offer she gave them a maximum of 2 minutes to reply.**

**Mr. Kerton** – stated that Kennet District Council had reneged on their promise of funding for the toilets.

**Mr. Allen** – stated that Councillor N. Fogg should not abuse the privilege of his position to make personal attacks.

**Councillor R. Pitts** – asked if there was an update on the ‘Children at Play’ signs for the Jubilee Field at Manton which he had enquired about at the last Full Town Council meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2008.

**Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson** – replied that this matter was being progressed.

**The Mayor congratulated Mrs Val Compton on becoming Citizen of the Year.**

#### **309/08 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs M. Rose and A. Sycamore both were for personal reasons.

#### **310/08 DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST**

There were no Declaration(s) of Interest.

#### **311/08 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reminded all Councillors that the Christmas Tree lights on The Green will be switched on at 6.30 pm, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November. There will be prayers and carols followed by refreshments in the Town Hall.

The Mayor said that she would like to congratulate the Lights Committee for the wonderful display of Christmas lights this year. This was echoed by all present.

#### **312/08 MINUTES**

Proposed by Councillor G. Francis, seconded by Councillor G. Loosmore and –

**RESOLVED:** by 12 votes for with 2 abstentions to receive, approve and sign as a true record the Minutes of the meeting of the Full Town Council held on the 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2008.

313/08

**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 A. Kirk Wilson and -

**RESOLVED:** unanimously that the Minutes of the Staffing Committee which was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> October, 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 the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee which was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 be received and signed as a true record.

c) Proposed by Councillor A.Kirk Wilson, seconded by Councillor G. Francis and –

**RESOLVED:** by 11 votes for with 3 abstentions that the Minutes of the Planning Committee which was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 be received and signed as a true record.

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

**RESOLVED:** 13 votes for with 1 abstention that the Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee which was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 be received and signed as a true record subject to the following amendment –

**Councillor R. Pitts to be recorded as present, Councillor B. Castle to be recorded as observing.**

e) Proposed by Councillor R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor G. Loosmore and –

**RESOLVED:** unanimously that the Minutes of the IT Sub Committee which was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 be received and signed as a true record.

314/08

**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 A. Kirk Wilson and -

**RESOLVED:** by 11 votes for with 2 against and 1 abstention that the Minutes of the Staffing Committee which was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2008 be Received and Adopted.

**Min No. 275/08 i)** – Councillor Dobson stated that he felt that in this present Financial climate the expenses incurred by staff attending the Saltex Exhibition were too great.

Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson requested a full costing for this trip.

Councillor G. Francis replied that this is the only occasion that staff have to view new equipment and possible training that is available.

Councillor R. Pitts stated that he had attended this exhibition as a member of the A & OS Committee and had found it very informative.

Councillor S.R. Dobson requested that before any decision is made regarding next years exhibition that it should go before Council for discussion.

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

**RESOLVED:** by 10 votes for with 4 against that the comments for **Min No 275/08 i)** should stand.

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

**RESOLVED:** unanimously that the Minutes of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee which was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 be Received and Adopted.

**Min No. 284/08 – Cemetery Charges** – Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson proposed that the increase on the Cemetery Charges should be scrapped and that she would like a named vote to take place.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson, seconded by Councillor R. Notton and –

**RESOLVED:** by 4 votes for with 10 against that the increase on the Cemetery charges should be scrapped.

**FOR -** Councillors S.R. Dobson, Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson, R. Notton and A. Spranger.

**AGAINST -** Councillors Mrs P. Dow, N. Fogg, G. Francis, B. Castle, A. Ross, A. Kirk Wilson, Mrs E. Fogg, G. Loosmore, S. Radnedge and R. Pitts.

**This proposal was lost.**

Proposed by Councillor A. Ross, seconded by Councillor G. Loosmore and –

**RESOLVED:** unanimously that this item should be taken back to the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee.

**Min No. 285/08 d)** – Councillor R. Notton requested that allotment holders are consulted before any decision is made to change the aesthetic appearance of the allotments by planting trees or shrubs .

c) Proposed by Councillor A. Ross ,seconded by Councillor R. Pitts and –

**RESOLVED:** by 9 votes for with 5 against that the Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee which was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 be Received and

Adopted a named vote was requested by Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson.

**FOR -** Councillors R. Pitts, G. Loosmore, Mrs E. Fogg, A. Kirk Wilson, A. Ross, B. Castle, G. Francis, N. Fogg and Mrs P. Dow.

**AGAINST -** Councillors S. Radnedge, A. Spranger, Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson, S.R. Dobson and R. Notton.

**Min No. 302/08 b)** – Councillor S.R. Dobson stated that he was glad that the current condition of Councillors gowns was being considered.

**Min No. 302/08 c)** – Councillor N. Fogg asked if the presentation of a past Mayors badge to a Borough Mayor could be brought back to Council for consideration.

**Min No. 303/08 2.** – Councillors S. R. Dobson and Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson both stated that we should be mindful of any increase to the precept and that they understood that last year was a one off increase. This Council should be looking at ways to reduce this amount not increase it.

d) Proposed by Councillor R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor G. Loosmore and –

**RESOLVED:** by 12 votes for with 1 against and 1 abstention that the Minutes of IT Sub Committee which was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 be Received and Adopted.

**315/08**

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

a) Rail Link to Marlborough

The Council had previously received a copy of the response from Wiltshire County Council regarding the Town Council's request for consideration or re-establishing a rail link for Marlborough. Councillor G. Francis asked that the new Unitary Councillors take up and promote services to Marlborough and that the scheme is re-considered when the 2011 Transport Plan is revised.

b) Wiltshire County Council Everything to Play For.

Members had previously been informed that a copy of the strategy is available in the Office for their perusal.

c) Annual Christmas Day Lunch

Members had previously received a copy of a letter from Mr. Kerton requesting the Council's support for free use of the Town Hall.

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

**RESOLVED:** unanimously that Mr. Kerton and his committee of volunteers are granted free use of the Town Hall on Christmas Day to host their Christmas lunch for senior citizens.

**NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES – to receive nominations and make decisions on the following –**

a) Pilot Community Area Board.

The following nominations were made –

**Councillor R. Pitts** – Proposed by Councillor Mrs P. Dow, seconded by Councillor N. Fogg.

**Councillor A. Sycamore** – Proposed by Councillor Mrs. E.M. Hannaford-Dobson, seconded by Councillor S.R. Dobson.

**Councillor G. Francis** – Proposed by Councillor A. Spranger, seconded by Councillor R. Notton.

The Town Clerk suggested it would be wrong to take a vote until it could be confirmed that Councillor Sycamore was willing to be nominated. Councillor Mrs. E. M. Hannaford-Dobson stated that she had felt Councillor Sycamore had indicated to her that he would like to be on the Area Board and she also commented there was nothing happening until the New Year. An unsuccessful attempt was made to contact Councillor A. Sycamore.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs P. Dow, seconded by Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson and –

**RESOLVED:** by 13 votes for with 1 against that this item should be deferred until the Full Town Council meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2009 and that Councillor R. Pitts should continue to attend any meetings until this date.

b) MCASP

It was agreed that this item should be deferred until the Full Town Council meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2009.

c) Brandt Group

Two nominations were received – Councillor Mrs E. Fogg and Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson. A Vote was taken –

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Councillor Mrs E. Fogg               | 8 votes |
| Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson | 3 votes |
| 1 Abstention                         |         |

Proposed by Councillor Mrs P. Dow, seconded by Councillor R. Pitts and –

**RESOLVED:** by 8 votes for with 3 against and 1 abstention that Councillor Mrs E. Fogg be nominated as this Councils representative for the Brandt Group.

Councillor R. Notton stated that he felt that the Brandt Group would welcome two

representatives, the Clerk suggested that if the Brandt Group would like to have two representatives from the Town Council they should write to confirm this.

**317/08            TIMETABLE FOR SELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR.**

After a short discussion it was –

Proposed by Councillor Mrs P. Dow, seconded by Councillor G. Francis and –

**RESOLVED:** by 13 votes for with 1 abstention that nominations for Mayor should be received by the end of the Full Town Council meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> January, 09 and selected made at the Full Town Council meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 09. Nominations for Deputy Mayor should be received by the end of the Full Town Council meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2008 and selected at the Full Town Council meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> April, 09. This process should take place at the same time each year.

**318/08            PROCEDURAL CONCERNS**

After discussion it was agreed that this item should be deferred to the next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee. Councillor S.R. Dobson will write to the Town Clerk detailing points he wants discussed.

**319/08            TOWN HALL PROJECT**

The Committee received a letter from Councillor Pitts in support of the Town Hall Project Strategic Review prepared by Andrew Bumphrey, with additional comments from Cllr. Sycamore.

After discussion it was –

Proposed by Councillor Mrs P. Dow, seconded by Councillor G. Francis and –

**RESOLVED:** by 12 votes for with 2 against that this Council should proceed with projects 1, 2 and 4.

**320/08            COMMUNITIES IN CONTROL: Real People, real power: Codes of Conduct for local authority members and employees - A Consultation from the DCLG.**

After discussion it was agreed that if we wish to make comment on this consultation then it is placed on the next agenda of the Planning Committee.

**321/08            PRESENTATION OF ABRIDGED ACCOUNTS FOR 2007/2008 AND FINANCIAL RESULTS COMPARISON.**

Councillor A. Ross, Chairman of Finance and Policy presented the Abridged Accounts for 2007/2008. This item was noted as it related to factual information previously presented in a different format.



**322/08 SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS**

a) October, 2008.

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

**RESOLVED:** by 12 votes for with 2 abstentions that the Schedule of Accounts for October, 2008 in the sum of £27,857.06 be received and signed by the Chairman.

**323/08 TOWN COUNCIL BALANCES**

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

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Council balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2008 be received.

**324/08 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.**

a) WALC Newsletter

b) Marlborough Christmas Lights Association – Minutes 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2008.

c) Sarsen Annual Report

d) Annual General Meeting of MADT – Council Chamber, 7.00 pm 26<sup>th</sup> November, 08

**325/08 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

Proposed by Councillor S.R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor G. Francis 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.

**326/08 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

**Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson to the Mayor, Councillor Mrs P. Dow.**

I would like to know why the yearly expenses of all Councillors were not published in the Greyhound last April/May as previously agreed by the Council on the 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2007?.

I would ask that all of the expenses incurred by all serving members are included in the next Greyhound clearly stating who incurred the expenses and why.

I am sure that all members would agree that open and transparent government is the only way forward and of course most councils including District and County follow this extremely sensible course of action.

The Town Clerk stated that she took full responsibility for the fact that the expenses and councillors surgeries attendance were not included in the Annual Report, between July 07 and May 08 this had slipped off the radar. The Councillors attendance were published in full in the Annual return and we have updated this with the full council and planning figures up to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2008. However, as discussed with Councillor Mrs. Hannaford-Dobson earlier today, we will include in the next edition of the Greyhound, the attendance figures for the remaining Committees, the expenses claimed by Councillors for the 07/08 financial year and attendance at Councillors Surgeries providing the information is available.

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The meeting closed at 9.15 pm