

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Full Town Council**, which was held on **Monday 1st November 2004** in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough at 7.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor G. Francis	Town Mayor
Councillor Mrs H. A. Cripps	Deputy Town Mayor
Councillor S. R. Dobson	
Councillor M. P. Cooper	
Councillor B. Castle	
Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford	
Councillor N. J. Fogg	
Councillor M. Gray	
Councillor Mrs C. V. Jackson	
Councillor M. C. Curtis	
Councillor D. L. Parker	
Councillor R. J. Allen	
Councillor P. B. Cossey	
Councillor A. R. Ross	
Councillor C. Humphries	Kennet District Council
Inspector W. Dowling	Wiltshire Constabulary
PC. Mike Barrett	Wiltshire Constabulary
Revd. S. Sankey	
Mr N. Kerton	Wilts Gazette
Miss A. Outrim	The Adviser
Mrs P. Coles	
Jonathan Mansfield	Civic Secretary
Sue Fry	Office Manager
Plus 10 Members of the Public	

The Mayor welcomed Councillor A. R. Ross to Marlborough Town Council and congratulated him on his successful election.

PRAYERS:

The Revd Stephen Sankey opened the meeting with prayers.

PRESENTATIONS:

The Mayor presented a MIDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme) Certificate to Mrs Patricia Coles.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

(a) Mrs Val Compton thanked Councillor Mrs H. A. Cripps for getting the disabled toilet in Hughenden Yard cleared and cleaned.

(b) Mrs Val Compton asked if the Town Council was aware that Kennet District Council planning department have told Munchies that no planning application was required on the building in Kennet Place (formerly known as Fleur's Tea Shop) as it already had full A3 planning permission. Without a planning application both the Town Council and local residents have been denied any input on this change of use.

(c) Mr David Sherratt asked for the Town Council to find a more suitable stand for the Town Council Mace. The Mayor said that the Council would look into this.

(d) Dr. David Watson asked how many complaints the Town Clerk had made to the Standards Board. The Mayor replied that he could not answer this question off-hand, but that he could give a written reply if requested.

(e) Councillor R. J. Allen on behalf of Mr P. Turvey, asked the Town Council to be aware of the inadequate way the Town Council by-election was publicised as no polling cards were distributed to East Ward residents. The decision not to issue polling cards was made by the Town Clerk and not by the Town Council and therefore many residents were unaware of the election and were disenfranchised as a result.

CRIME AND DISORDER:

(a) Mr Mike Clements asked what could be done about the escalating violence in St. Mary's Churchyard on Friday and Saturday evenings. Mr Clements asked for more adequate lighting or CCTV to be installed.

Inspector W. Dowling said that he would look into the problems that occur in the Churchyard and he will try to arrange patrols at critical times. Inspector Dowling reported that Marlborough had seen a 25% drop in crime and that these incidents were isolated occurrences.

(b) Councillor P. B. Cossey asked how effective the Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) were?

Inspector Dowling stated that an automatic six-month imprisonment is given to any individual who breaches their ASBO.

(c) Councillor R. J. Allen was concerned that Rabley Wood was being singled out as the main area for anti-social behaviour. Councillor Allen said that there are many initiatives within the Rabley Wood community to try to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

Inspector Dowling said that Rabley Wood was currently the only place in Marlborough where ASBOs are in force.

(d) Councillor N. J. Fogg said that an occasional foot patrol would be helpful.

(e) Mrs Val Compton asked the Police and Marlborough Town Council to put pressure on Waitrose to ask them to ensure that all trolleys are taken back to the store every evening. The local Press Reporter was also asked to include an appropriate article in the paper.

(f) Councillor M. Gray asked if the Police are aware that Police cones are being placed on the High Street outside Somerfield on a regular basis.

Inspector Dowling said that they have been given permission, whilst building work continues.

(g) Dr. David Watson asked when the next Police Consultative meeting will be held?

Inspector Dowling said he would give Dr. Watson the date after the meeting.

(h) Councillor Mrs C. V. Jackson said that residents of Kingsbury Terrace have trouble with young people riding bicycles past their houses.

Inspector Dowling said that this should be reported to the station.

(i) Mr Nigel Kerton, referring to a proposed scheme to install CCTV in Devizes, asked that Marlborough also be considered in the proposals.

(j) PC M. Barrett said that the present ASBOs have been a success, however, when talking to the local youths at Rabley Wood, they have asked for the Town Council's help to provide a shelter for them to use. They are prepared to raise some of the money required.

KENNET RECYCLING:

Councillor Brian Twigger will now present Kennet's plans for recycling to the Council on Monday 31st January 2005.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(a) The Mayor informed the Council that the Town Clerk has been signed-off sick for another month (until 1st December 2004). Councillor S. R. Dobson asked for a working party to be set up to look at the further implications of the Town Clerk's absence, particularly with estimate and precept recommendations coming up.

(b) The Mayor gave his Mayoral Engagements since the last meeting:

- Opening of new Kennet Carers office in Pewsey
- Attended the opening of the 600th anniversary of Bridgwater Fair
- Awarded prizes at the Marlborough Gardening Association exhibition
- Opened the Mop Fair
- Opened the Charity Christmas card shop in St. Peter's Church
- Attended the Historic Towns Conference in Chesteron protecting our heritage
- Attended the AGM of Victim Support at Devizes
- Attended the AGM of Marlborough Talking Newspaper
- Attended the dinner and dance of the Royal British Legion
- Sailed with HMS Marlborough on their last deployment to Iraq

(c) The Mayor asked for the numbers of Councillors wishing to attend the Christmas Dinner.

(d) The Mayor reported that he had received a donation cheque from Mr W. Wilson Fun Fairs in the sum of £500.00 towards the 2004 celebrations.

318/04

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor W. B. Cavill, Councillor Mrs P. A. Dow and Councillor Mrs Margaret Boulton.

319/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

320/04 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND MADT REPRESENTATIVE:

There were no questions from County and District Councillors and MADT representative.

321/04 QUESTIONS TO COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND MADT REPRESENTATIVE:

(a) Councillor R. J. Allen asked Councillor C. Humphries for assurance that the ‘Saturday Specials’ at the Leisure Centre were to be continued.

Councillor Humphries said that they would continue and were safe for next year.

322/04 MINUTES:

RESOLVED: By 13 votes to 0 votes with 1 abstention, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2004 be taken as a true record and signed by the Mayor, subject to the following amendments -

253/04 Commemorative Brochure – delete from ‘a proposal’ to ‘failed’ and insert: ‘An amendment by Councillor R. J. Allen, seconded by Councillor M. C. Curtis that this Council resolves to donate all unsold copies of the 2004 Commemorative Brochure to local schools, and in addition condemns the process by which the brochures were procured to the extent that it requires a full and independent investigation to be carried out. Any Councillors or staff found to have acted improperly and in breach of the Code of Conduct or Standing Orders will be requested to resign was ruled out of order by the Mayor and therefore inadmissible’.

254/04 Fingerposts – delete last sentence and insert: ‘Councillor R. J. Allen agreed to assist with using the existing fingerpost outside Pinks and to consider what additional fingerposts could usefully be added to it as a trial’.

258/04 Member’s Question Time – after ‘to-date’ insert: ‘Councillor R. J. Allen asked that the Council request an Auditor to inspect the 2004 accounts and report back to Full Council’.

323/04 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

(a) Proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and -

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 20th September 2004 be received.

(b) Proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4th October 2004 be received.

(c) Proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 18th October 2004 be received.

(d) Proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Special Planning Committee meeting held on 25th October 2004 be received.

324/04

TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

(a) Proposed by Councillor M. C. Curtis, seconded by Councillor P. B. Cossey and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 4th October 2004 be received and adopted subject to the following –

281/04 Black and White Photographs - delete 'Borough' and insert 'Town'.

Councillor S. R. Dobson asked for the matter of colour photographs in the Council Chamber to be re-discussed.

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

RESOLVED: By 7 votes to 5 votes with 1 abstention to remove Councillor W. B. Cavill's colour photograph and insert a black and white version.

(b) Proposed by Councillor S. R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs C. V. Jackson and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Special meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 4th October 2004 be taken as a true record and signed by the Chairman

Proposed by Councillor S. R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs C. V. Jackson and –

RESOLVED: By 7 votes to 0 votes with 3 abstentions, that the Minutes of the Special meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 4th October 2004 be received and adopted.

Councillor R. J. Allen asked by what authority the Finance and General Purposes Committee had to make the decision that night. The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee did not make it clear

that the Council would be liable to a fine amounting to over £7,000 per day for not signing the sale. Why was this not discussed at a special meeting of the Full Town Council.

Councillor S. R. Dobson replied that he acted in good faith bringing the detail of the sale to the attention of his Committee before the document was signed, and no charge has been made to the Council for late signing.

(c) Proposed by Councillor S. R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs C. V. Jackson and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 18th October 2004 be taken as a true record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:

304/04 (c) Wedding Licence Fee – after ‘£1,000’ delete ‘for each year, for a period of three years’ and insert: ‘for a three-year period’.

304/04 (c) Wedding Licence Fee – delete ‘Registrar’ and insert ‘Wiltshire County Council’.

304/04 (d) Part-Time Caretaker – third paragraph, before ‘Councillor D. L. Parker’ insert: ‘In response to the Chairman’s comments’.

304/04 (d) Part-Time Caretaker – delete the last sentence and insert: ‘it was agreed that the position of relief Caretaker should be on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee’.

Proposed by Councillor S. R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs C. V. Jackson and –

RESOLVED: By 10 votes to 0 votes with 2 abstentions, that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 18th October 2004 be received and adopted.

Councillor S. R. Dobson, referring to Minute 310/04 (b) said that 1A Kingsbury Street had now been let at the full rent requested by Marlborough Town Council.

325/04 JOINT COUNCIL TAX BROCHURE:

Proposed by Councillor S. R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor N. J. Fogg and –

RESOLVED: By 10 votes to 0 votes with 2 abstentions, to accept the charge of £270.95 for Marlborough Town Council’s section within the Council Tax Leaflet 2005/2005.

326/04 MARLBOROUGH & DISTRICT ROTARY CLUB:

Councillor Mrs H. A. Cripps stated that the Rotary Club are seeking Marlborough Town Council’s permission to hang baskets in the centre of the High Street during the summer of 2005. These would be watered by Marlborough Town Council outside staff and the poles on which they are placed will be purchased by the Rotary Club.

Proposed by Councillor N. J. Fogg, seconded by Councillor P. B. Cossey and –

RESOLVED: By 11 votes to 1 vote with 1 abstention that the Marlborough & District Rotary have permission to erect the hanging baskets, subject to the approval of Kennet District Council.

327/04 TOWN HALL CHIMING CLOCK:

The Mayor asked the Town Council to choose one of three preferred suppliers for the installation of the chiming mechanism in the Town Hall Cupola.

Councillor S. R. Dobson recommended that the Council did not go any further until the Auditor has come back with his report on the 2004 Committee accounts.

Councillor R. J. Allen asked if the quotations would still be valid at that time.

Proposed by Councillor B. Castle, seconded by Councillor D. L. Parker and –

RESOLVED: By 7 votes to 1 vote with 6 abstentions, that Marlborough Town Council are minded to select supplier (B), if the quotation is still valid following the receipt of the External Auditor's report into the 2004 Committee accounts.

328/04 DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

The Town Council considered a response to the Wiltshire County Council's draft document – Statement of Community Involvement.

Councillor D. L. Parker asked that the Town Council agree to be a Stakeholder in order that they may get more fully involved with this document.

Proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and –

RESOLVED: By 14 votes to 0 votes with 0 abstentions, that Marlborough Town Council become a Stakeholder.

329/04 STANDING ORDERS:

The Mayor said that it has been two years since the last review of Standing Orders. A majority of the Standing Orders have been drawn-up by Marlborough Town Council, except those in bold type, which are statutory duties, and some are now in need of clarification.

Discussion took place on the most efficient way of discussing Standing Orders and it was

Proposed by Councillor N. J. Fogg, seconded by Councillor R. J. Allen and –

RESOLVED: That Councillors should write to the Mayor stating which Standing Orders they have difficulty with. Those Councillors who do not have any problems should also write with no comment to make. The Mayor will amalgamate all these concerns to be discussed at the meeting of the Full Town Council on 31st January 2005. The Civic Secretary will send a Memo to remind Councillors of these arrangements.

330/04 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS:

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

RESOLVED: Unanimously, that the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to all documents necessary to give effect to the decisions of the meeting of the Council.

331/04 MEMBER'S QUESTION TIME:

(a) Councillor D. L. Parker referred to the rubbish that was left on The Common following the Mop Fair and asked what the procedure is for returning the Bond to the hirer.

The Mayor confirmed that once the Town Clerk (or Senior Groundsman in his absence) was happy that The Common has been left as it was found, the Bond is returned.

(b) Councillor R. J. Allen asked what the Town Council's view would be to having questions tabled on behalf of the youth of the Town?

The council agreed that this would be a good idea.

(c) Councillor R. J. Allen asked the Town Council to consider the employment of a temporary Town Clerk, particularly during the estimates and Precept period. Councillor Allen stated that WALC have a list of possible Clerks.

It was agreed that The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee would discuss this possibility with the staff.

(d) Councillor R. J. Allen asked what the correct procedure is for Councillors to get straightforward answers?

The Mayor replied that all questions should be given in writing on paper, rather than electronic form.

Meeting closed at 8.48pm