

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

FULL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Full Town Council**, which was held on **Monday 31st January 2005** 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 W. B. Cavill	
Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford	
Councillor Mrs P. A. Dow	
Councillor N. J. Fogg	
Councillor Mrs C. V. Jackson	
Councillor M. C. Curtis	
Councillor R. J. Allen	
Councillor P. B. Cossey	
Councillor A. R. Ross	
Graham Gittins	Town Clerk
Jonathan Mansfield	Civic Secretary
Revd Susannah Reide	
Mr Nigel Kerton	Wilts Gazette & Herald
Miss A. Outrim	The Adviser
Inspector J. Dawson	Wiltshire Constabulary
WPC E. Brown	Wiltshire Constabulary
Councillor C. Humphries	Kennet District Council
Councillor A. Skittrall	Kennet District Council
Plus 9 Members of the Public	

PRAYERS

The Reverend Susannah Reide opened the meeting with prayers.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(a) Mrs Janet Louth – Taxi Rank

Mrs Louth asked if the taxi rank on the High Street, which is rarely used, could be put back to parking. The Mayor said that the rank had not been in place for very long and it should be given more time to be used properly.

(b) Mrs Janet Louth – Parking

Mrs Louth referred to the bad parking at the lower side of the High Street. The Mayor asked Mrs Louth to put her concerns to Inspector Dawson who was present at the meeting.

(c) Dr. D. Watson – Parking Signs

Dr. Watson said that many of the parking restriction signs were removed before the visit of HRH The Prince of Wales in June 2004 and have not been replaced. The Mayor said that this should be taken up with Kennet District Council.

(d) Mr N. Kerton – Town Council’s Solicitors

Mr Kerton asked who were Marlborough Town Council’s Solicitors. The Mayor, on the Town Clerk’s advice, replied that Withy King are the Council’s Solicitors.

(e) Mr N. Kerton – Schedule of Accounts

Mr Kerton asked why Thring Townsend had been paid £348 for employment advice (see November 2004 Schedule of Accounts), and whether free advice had first been sought from WALC? Mr Kerton asked if The Mayor would be happy for this information to be sent to the External Auditor. The Mayor replied that he would give Mr Kerton a written answer.

(f) Councillor R. J. Allen – Recreation Ground Tennis Courts

Councillor Allen stated that the Members of the Marlborough Youth Club have asked what is planned for the site of the disused tennis courts at the Recreation Ground with a view to them taking responsibility for its upkeep. Councillor Allen asked if this could be an agenda item for the Recreation and Amenities Committee; Councillor Mrs P. A. Dow agreed.

CRIME AND DISORDER

The Mayor welcomed Inspector Jerry Dawson to the meeting and congratulated him on his appointment as Inspector for Marlborough.

Inspector Dawson described some of the operations which the Police will be starting this week: community patrols in un-marked cars with plain-clothed Officers; targeting of farms and industrial sites in the area and a new surgery at the Police Station to be held for two hours in the evening. To answer some of the previous questions, Inspector Dawson read an email which he has asked the Wiltshire Gazette to publish regarding parking violations in the Town.

The Mayor asked for questions from Councillors and Members of the Public.

(a) Councillor R. J. Allen – Parking on Pavements

Councillor Allen asked the Police to make regular sweeps of the Town to try to eradicate parking on the pavements, which is particularly hazardous to disabled and elderly persons and wheelchair users. Councillor Allen also stated that parking within the bus stops in the High Street, especially on Sundays outside Woolworths, meant that the buses had to stop in the middle of the road.

(b) Councillor R. J. Allen – Young People’s Shelters

Councillor Allen asked if there had been any progress with the idea of erecting shelters for young people to meet? Inspector Dawson said that this idea was in its early stages and he was making enquiries with local businesses to see if they could provide a safe venue for young people to meet. Inspector Dawson assured Councillor Allen that the young people of Marlborough would be consulted on this initiative.

(c) Councillor A. Skittrall – Double Yellow Line Enforcement

Councillor Skittrall asked if the Police would enforce the double yellow lines on George Lane and Culvermead Close. Inspector Dawson said this would be done when staffing was available.

(d) Dr. D. Watson – Anti-Drugs Posters

Dr Watson asked the Police to issue all Marlborough public houses with posters stating that anyone caught using, buying or selling drugs in this premises will be barred for life.

464/04 APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. P. Cooper, Councillor B. Castle, Councillor M. Gray and Councillor D. L. Parker.

465/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

The Mayor asked for Agenda Item 12 to be brought forward so that Inspector Jerry Dawson could speak.

466/04 COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER FUNDING:

The Mayor referred to a request from Chief Superintendent J. Wickham, that Marlborough Town Council provides funding for a Community Support Officer and asked for Councillors comments.

Inspector Dawson said that the rough cost for 1 Community Support Officer would be £23,154.00 per annum, which would include shift allowance, National Insurance and Superannuation contributions etc.

Following debate it was proposed by Councillor S. R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor N. J. Fogg and –

RESOLVED: Unanimously, that this matter is considered at the next available meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee with further information of costs.

467/04 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The Mayor welcomed Councillor W. B. Cavill back to the Council after having undergone a triple heart by-pass.
2. The Mayor is reluctant to ask local businesses for gifts for his Mayoral Charity raffle so soon after the Tsunami Appeal Auction and asked if any Councillors could donate unwanted gifts or presents to him.
3. The Mayor asked Councillors to send in their payment for tickets to his Reception as they were selling quickly.
4. The Mayor stated that he has reinstated Member's Question Time following a number of requests from Councillors.
5. The Mayor was pleased to report that the Tsunami Appeal Auction raised £10,045.48. Grateful thanks to Nigel and others for their hard work.

468/04 QUESTIONS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND MADT REPRESENTATIVE:

None.

QUESTIONS TO DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND MADT REPRESENTATIVE:

(a) Councillor R. J. Allen to County Councillor

Councillor Allen asked for more prominence to be given to long-stay car parking signs. Councillor Humphries said that the whole of Marlborough is due to be re-signed in March 2005.

(b) Councillor R. J. Allen to District Councillors

Referring to the idea of waste collection taking place every two weeks and the use of wheelie bins, Councillor Allen asked who would move the bins for the elderly and had the District Council thought through properly the health risks that these bins would create, particularly in the summer? Councillor Skittrall said that this idea was still being discussed. Councillor W. B. Cavill stated that elderly residents can contact Kennet District Council to ask that their rubbish is collected from the rear of their homes.

(c) Councillor R. J. Allen to District Councillors

With the tourist season fast approaching, Councillor Allen asked what provisions had been made for the new Tourist Information service, which was promised in the Library following an alteration to its interior. Councillor N. J. Fogg said that there were no proposals but that all Marlborough's Kennet District Councillors were vehemently opposed to the T.I.C. closure and would keep this matter as a live issue.

(d) Councillor R. J. Allen to District Councillors

Councillor Allen asked for the District Council to explore an out of town car park for lorries, which cause unnecessary traffic along George Lane in the evening.

(e) Councillor R. J. Allen to District Councillors

Councillor Allen invited all Kennet District Councillors to the Saturday Special at the Leisure Centre on Saturday 5th February from 10.15am to 12.30pm to see what takes place there.

(f) Councillor N. J. Fogg to County Councillor

Councillor Fogg asked if Marlborough could also have special parking arrangements for public events, such as they have in Devizes during the Carnival.

470/04

MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the special meeting, which was held on Monday 17th January 2005 be taken as a true record and signed by The Mayor.

471/04

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

(a) Planning Committee Monday 13th December 2004.

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee, which was held on Monday 13th December 2004 be received.

Councillor W. B. Cavill abstained.

(b) Planning Committee Tuesday 4th January 2005.

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee, which was held on Tuesday 4th January 2005 be received.

Councillor W. B. Cavill abstained.

(c) Planning Committee Monday 17th January 2005.

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee, which was held on Monday 17th January 2005 be received.

Councillor W. B. Cavill abstained.

472/04

TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

(a) Recreation and Amenities Committee Tuesday 4th January 2005

Proposed by Councillor Mrs P. A. Dow, seconded by Councillor M. C. Curtis and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee, which was held on Tuesday 4th January 2005 be received and adopted.

Councillor W. B. Cavill abstained.

(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee Monday 17th January 2005

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, which was held on Monday 17th January 2005 be received and adopted.

Councillor W. B. Cavill abstained.

473/04

SELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR 2005/2006:

The Mayor reminded Councillors that the ratification of the vote for Town Mayor would take place at the Annual meeting of the Town Council on 9th May 2005, when the vote will be repeated.

The Town Clerk received one nomination form.

Proposed by Councillor M. C. Curtis, seconded by Councillor G. Francis and –

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs Hilary Ann Cripps be selected for Town Mayor for the year 2005/2006.

Councillor Mrs H. A. Cripps abstained from voting.

474/04 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE:

Councillor R. J. Allen asked the Council to consider restructuring its Committees and the way therefore that decisions are made. Councillor Allen gave two alternative options:

1. All Councillors to belong to each Committee and attend by choice. It is to be recognised that each Committee will have delegated powers to decide certain matters without recourse to Full Town Council, as is the case with other Councils. Full Town Council will meet less frequently, to address more strategic issues unless called to respond to matters raised as a result of a request for a Special Town Council meeting.
2. Full Town Council meetings to be held every four weeks and to be sectioned into three parts. The first part will be for Recreation and Amenities followed by Finance and General Purposes and then Full Council. All Councillors will be summoned to attend.

Following debate it was agreed that these suggestions and others would be made at the next available meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

475/04 WAR MEMORIAL WALL:

The Mayor referred to an application from the Royal British Legion to erect brass hooks on the recesses of the new War Memorial wall.

Following debate on whether the Town Council has the necessary right to approve this request, it was agreed to write to the Royal British Legion to state that Marlborough Town Council would prefer that the hooks were made of a non-corrosive metal. The Royal British Legion should then write to Majestic Wine with their request, stating that they have this approval from Marlborough Town Council.

476/04 BRANDT GROUP TRUSTEES:

Following the resignation of Councillor B. Castle as Marlborough Town Council's representative on the Marlborough Brandt Group it was –

Proposed by The Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs H. A. Cripps and –

RESOLVED: Unanimously, that Councillor Mrs C. V. Jackson be selected as Trustee for the Marlborough Brandt Group.

477/04 STANDING ORDERS:

A discussion was held on each of the Standing Orders enquiries submitted by Councillors.

(a) S.O. 12 - Voting on Appointments – Councillor D. L. Parker

“Before ‘ballot’ insert ‘secret’. Voting on appointments cannot be a named vote as it causes conflict among Councillors”.

The Town Clerk stated that under Schedule 12, sub-section 13(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, this would be illegal and could not therefore be discussed.

(b) S.O. 15 - Order of Business – Councillor D. L. Parker

“Move (e), (f) and (g) to after ‘prayers’”.

The Mayor stated that these items had to be included within the Agenda under Standing Orders.

(c) S.O. 15 - Order of Business – Councillor G. Francis

“15(e): delete second sentence – ‘Public Question Time to be also in the usual place before Questions to County Councillors and District Councillors’. Opportunity for public questions occurs at the beginning of the meeting”.

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

RESOLVED: To keep the status-quo as in Standing Orders.

(d) S.O 17 –23 - Motions - The Mayor

ADD NEW: “EMERGENCY MOTIONS”

There are no means at present to approve emergency motions in times of crisis.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that some provision for the creation of an Emergency Committee should be included in Standing Orders.

The Town Clerk said that Executive Power cannot be given to one Councillor.

(e) S.O. 34 - Rules of Debate - Councillor B. Castle

ADD NEW:

“34(b) An amendment shall not be critical of a motion by impugning, at short notice, improper financial irregularities. A separate written motion is required in such circumstances (S.O. 17 refers)”.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to re-visit this at a later date when Councillor B. Castle was present.

(f) S.O. 42 - Rules of Debate – Councillor D. L. Parker

“Remove ‘ Committee Chairmen are empowered to waive this rule in Committee meetings by declaring so at the start of each Municipal year’.

RESOLVED: This was agreed.

(g) S.O. 68(d) - Composition of Committees – Councillor Mrs H. A. Cripps

“Longest serving Member to be deleted from the Selection Committee as this is not democratic as such a Councillor will remain on this Committee for ever”.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs H. A. Cripps, seconded by Councillor R. J. Allen and –

RESOLVED: By 7 votes to 2 votes with 2 abstentions, that the longest serving Member is removed from the Selection Committee.

(h) S.O. 81 - Payment of Accounts – Councillor P. B. Cossey

“Responsible Financial Officer’s approval should contain appropriate order reference number before any action is taken”.

The Mayor stated that this has been normal practice since problems with the 2004 Committee accounts.

(i) S.O. 110 - Robes, Badges and Medals – Councillor Mrs H. A. Cripps

“Lady Councillors to wear dark clothing and white blouses, white gloves and tricorne hats to be worn correctly”.

RESOLVED: That this amendment is agreed subject to the words ‘are requested’ inserted after Lady Councillors.

(j) Appendix B - Complaints Procedure – Councillor P. B. Cossey

ADD NEW:

9. Council Members to be updated from time to time on all developments and decisions concerning (a) Employed Staff and (b) Council Members that are the subject of tribunal hearings

RESOLVED: That (a) above is included, but (b) is not.

(k) Code of Conduct - No.2 – General Obligations – Councillor P. B. Cossey

ADD NEW:

(d) All correspondence and directives must be channelled via the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: Agreed subject to the wording changed to ‘all Council business must be channelled via the Town Clerk’.

(l) Appendix D - Selection of Mayor and Deputy Mayor – Councillor Mrs H. Cripps

“The role of Mayor and Deputy Mayor is an honour. I would like to see all Councillors talk to persons whose name has been submitted. The honour of the position should then be bestowed on the person who all Councillors feel has worked hard for the Town and who would be a good ambassador for Marlborough Town Council”.

It was agreed that this would be brought back to Council at a later date.

478/04

SEALING OF DOCUMENTS:

Proposed by Councillor S. R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor W. B. Cavill and –

RESOLVED: That the Common Seal of the Town Council be affixed to all documents necessary to give effect to the decisions of the Marlborough Town Council.

479/04

MEMBER’S QUESTION TIME:

(a) Councillor N. J. Fogg – Wye House

Councillor Fogg asked for the number of private signs around Wye House to be discussed as an agenda item on Recreation and Amenities Committee – this was agreed.

(b) Councillor S. R. Dobson – Tsunami Appeal

Councillor Dobson offered thanks on behalf of the Council to the Mayor, Nigel Kerton, Joy Kerton, Janet Louth and all those who helped to organise the Tsunami Appeal Auction.

(c) Councillor R. J. Allen – Town Plan

Councillor Allen asked if consideration could be made towards producing a Town Plan for Marlborough. The Countryside Agency had offered millions of pounds in grants to assist in the production of town plans, but this was drying up. The Mayor said that Councillor D. L. Parker had this in-hand.

(d) Councillor R. J. Allen – Parking/Bus Services Savernake Hospital

Councillor Allen asked Marlborough Town Council to write to the Chief Executive of the Kennet and North Wiltshire Primary Care Trust regarding the lack of parking and regular bus services for Savernake Hospital. The Mayor agreed.

(d) Councillor R. J. Allen – Gazette & Herald Brochure

Councillor Allen congratulated the Gazette and Herald on the production of the brochure, which was included in last week's paper.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm