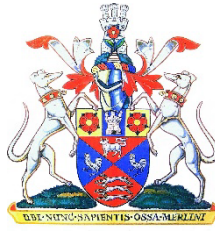


Marlborough Town Council



Annual Town Meeting

**Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting, held Monday, 28 April 2025
in Marlborough Town Hall at 6pm**

PRESENT	Councillor Kym-Marie Cleasby	Town Mayor
	Councillor Mervyn Hall	Chair of Property Committee
	Councillor Mark Cooper	Chair of Amenities & Open Spaces Committee
	Councillor James Sheppard	Chair of Planning Committee
	Councillor Kelvyn Shantry	Member of Finance & Policy Committee
	Richard Spencer-Williams	Town Clerk
	Clare Williams	Deputy Town Clerk
	Sue Fry	Office Manager
	Dawn Whitehall	Corporate Services Officer
	Andrea Millar	Civic, Cemetery & Engagement Officer
	Emma Cook	Information Officer
ALSO		
PRESENT	Neil Goodwin	Marlborough.News
	Six Councillors and 28 members of the public	

- 479/24** *In the Court Room*
MINUTES
The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held 17 April 2024 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor
- 480/24** **MEET THE TOWN MAYOR & COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND FIND OUT ABOUT THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL IN 2024 25**
The Town Mayor and Committee Representatives were available to explain information displayed in the Court Room and to answer questions:
- Full Town Council**
- The Marlborough Community Support Forum – what it is, how it works and who can join
 - Who closes the road to Swindon?
 - There is a need to get more people to take up property flood resilience
 - A discussion about flood risk with a new resident

- Suggested sending posters advertising the VE Day 80 event details to all OAP homes
- What is happening with York Place?

Property Committee

- Questions about changing places within public toilets; accessibility and that some people also require hoists to use the toilet, and plan their day according to where they can go knowing these facilities will be available
- That engagement with young people is improving, and it is good to see the youth centre getting more hirings
- The extension to the workshop
- Whether people could get flood alerts by text, how can they be kept informed of what is going on during a flood?
- Frustration at the planning process for individuals, when developers seem to get whatever they want
- Traffic, and the difference to traffic flow when the A346 was closed; that lorries still tried to use the route even though the road was closed
- Date of next Town Council meeting

Planning Committee

The Vice Chair (Councillor Mervyn Hall) and Chair (Councillor James Sheppard) answered questions to confirm the status of three planning applications:

- PL/2025/03165 Former Police Station, George Lane – under consultation. A resident expressed their opposition to this development, citing a missed opportunity to build affordable housing at the location.
- PL/2023/03305 York Place, St Martins – planning permission had very recently been granted. A resident was dismayed that it had taken so long: they felt people had been moved out of their homes too early, and the empty site had become an eyesore.
- PL/2021/04663 change of use from Agricultural to Equine Clinic with associated buildings, access and landscaping improvements. Permission had been granted.

Amenities & Open Spaces Committee

- When was the Beacon first placed on Marlborough Common
- How many properties does the Town Council own

Finance & Policy Committee

- Who sets the Council tax banding?

In the Assembly Room

481/24

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARDS

Town Mayor Kym-Marie Cleasby announced the Community Champion Award Winners. The category winners were:

Educator of the Year: awarded to Cheryl Heuston, Marlborough Academy of Dance & Drama (MAD). Demonstrating Cheryl's dedication, she was unable to attend the

event because she was teaching students who had an imminent exam. MAD Students accepted the award on her behalf.

Business Community Engagement Award accepted on behalf of Genevieve Clarke by Mary-vere Parr, Marlborough Lit Fest.

Arts & Culture Advocate awarded to Caroline Goodfellow for decades of support to The Merchants House. There was a special mention in this category too for Roger Grant recognising his contribution in this category for MantonFest, other concerts, support to High Street events and much more.

The Community Spirit Award went to Action for the River Kennet as an organisation, with Anna Forbes accepting on its behalf.

Two awards went to people who have supported Marlborough Rugby Club over a number of years: Ben Fawdry picked up the Youth Leader Award and Dave Pittams was recognised as Sports & Recreation Champion.

The Environmental Stewardship Award went to Val Compton for supporting the town in many ways, from Marlborough in Bloom and the Waterfront Garden through to being renamed 'Flood Val' for her contribution to flood planning and recovery.

Health and Wellbeing Hero Tracey Lavis was unable to attend on the night, and Frances Barrone accepted the award on her behalf. Tracey was nominated to recognise her unstinting, flexible person-centred care services.

Youth Person who has made a difference went to Thomas Pratchett for his charity fundraising and love of helping others.

Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Catherine Williams for her work behind the scenes of Love Marlborough Kids Meals, with a special mention in this category to Pauline Berryman - nominated for her year-round support of others in many ways.

After presenting the awards, the Mayor presented gifts to retiring Councillor Andrew Ross, who stood down from the Council at the end of 2024-25.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Signed:
Chair

Date: