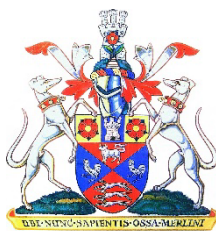


Marlborough Town Council



Finance and Policy Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee which was held Monday, 14 February 2022 in the Court Room, Marlborough Town Hall at 7pm

PRESENT Councillor Andrew Ross Chairman
Councillor Mark Cooper Town Mayor
Councillor Nicholas Fogg
Councillor Noel Barrett-Morton
Councillor Mervyn Hall
Councillor Kymee Cleasby
Councillor James Sheppard

ALSO PRESENT Richard Spencer-Williams Town Clerk
Dawn Whitehall Administrator
Councillor Jo Waltham
Neil Goodwin Marlborough.News

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

388/21 APOLOGIES
Apologies for absence were received from **Councillors Loosmore and Davies.**

389/21 DECLARATIONS
There were no declarations.

390/21 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Chairman would discuss agenda items in a slightly different order.

391/21 MINUTES
RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held 6 December 2021 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman

392/21 ACTION LOG
The action log was noted. Updates included:
Councillor Sheppard was awaiting a response about whether existing infrastructure in the High Street was suitable for use for EV charger cables.

Councillor Cleasby had identified four potential suppliers for enamel badges. Information such as quantity and design would be required to request pricing.
ACTION POINT: Councillor Cleasby and the Town Clerk to liaise

393/21 **TOURISM OFFICER'S REPORT**

Members noted the Tourism Officer's report. Discussion points included:

- Members agreed it was a good report, and asked for a regular agenda item so they could stay up to date with tourism
- Whether Marlborough should take note of Bradford on Avon and consider initiatives that might be good for Marlborough, for example aiming to be a plastic free town, installing water fountains and items for sale in the Tourist Information Office
- Whether Councillors could be given a longer notice period for any future social media 'takeovers' or campaigns

394/21 **DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Members considered the draft Development and Action plan and the prioritisation of Finance & Policy Committee projects. The **Chairman** invited a general discussion for each Member to share their thoughts, which included:

- The purchase of works of art, and/or displays of collections, and securing locations for these e.g. sculpture park versus paintings
- Whether a committee or steering group should be formed to consider the acquisition and display of works of art
- Supporting the Amenities & Open Spaces Committee in managing The Common
- Culture and events linked to improving tourism, e.g. providing public access to the Town Hall cells
- Whether to set a goal for the Town Council to be carbon neutral

It was noted that some of the suggestions were additions to the current draft development plan.

Consensus on the priorities was reached for:

- To support the provision in Parks and Open Spaces by ensuring a resource plan that specifically supports the development of the Salisbury Road Recreation Ground, Wye House Gardens and The Common
- To support the work of the Amenities and Open Spaces committee in the development of policies for the management of The Common
- To support the Council as a whole in the development of cultural developments and events

RESOLVED: that three priority projects for the Finance & Policy Committee were: (1) a resource plan to support development of Salisbury Road Recreation Ground, Wye House Gardens and The Common (2) to support the development of policies to

manage The Common and (3) to support the advancement of cultural developments and events

395/21 REQUEST TO USE TIN PIT FENCING EMR FOR COOPERS MEADOW

Members considered a request from the Amenities & Open Spaces Committee for money set aside in Ear Marked Reserves (EMR) for fencing at Tin Pit to be transferred to a new EMR to meet a more urgent need to replace fencing at Coopers Meadow.

RESOLVED: to vire Tin Pin EMR to Coopers Meadow Fencing EMR

396/21 BUDGET REPORT Q3

Members noted the report to month 10. Points to note included:

- The overall income and expenditure was broadly on track to meet the budget
- It was expected this would be the last financial year where the Coronavirus pandemic had an impact on finances
- Large expenditure items still to come included machinery for the Grounds Team, repairs to the Town Hall roof and some legal fees
- The impact of the closure of Barclays Bank on staff time and travel costs; and that the local Post Office had agreed to take cash deposits
- Whether to consider adding contactless payment to public toilets
- Expenditure on Maintenance for Open Spaces was over budget but not unexpected

397/21 INTERIM AUDIT REPORT

Members noted the interim audit report and that there were no matters arising or recommendations. The Chairman thanked the Office Manager and Responsible Financial Officer for their continued good management.

RESOLVED: to add an agenda item to a future meeting to explain the policy for appointing auditors and the processes that were used

398/21 EAR MARKED RESERVES

Members noted the list of allocated EMRs.

Members also considered the virement from savings within the 2021-22 budget for Climate Emergency work and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

Three projects were now broadly complete with small sums unspent: Neighbourhood Plan (£1.44), Dark Skies Festival (£62.07) and Skate Park (£3,912.17). It was proposed that these could be combined with £3,975.68 vired to create a Climate Emergency EMR. Members also agreed with the principle of allocating a dedicated reserve from 2021-22 budget savings to support the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations although no sum was discussed.

The **Chairman** reminded Members that consideration of priority EMRs for 2022-23 would be covered after the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED: to vire £3,975.68 to a dedicated Climate Emergency Response EMR and to create a Jubilee Celebrations EMR

399/21 CIL AND s106

Members noted the s106 funding report and considered the use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds in support of 2021-25 business priorities and projects. Members also noted that potential funds were available via the North Wessex Downs AONB's 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' programme should Council be minded to designate land at Rabley View as a wildlife and conservation destination.

Projects would qualify for CIL funding as long as they provided infrastructure. A list of possible projects was suggested in the report and Members considered these as well as suggesting others:

- Wye House Gardens
- Youth provision at Marlborough Common
- Child's play area at Marlborough Common
- Town signage
- Resurfacing paths at Priory Gardens
- Whether insulation of the Town Hall roof would meet the criteria
- Electric Vehicle charger points

Members noted that expert advice from an electrical engineer would be required before EV points could be agreed (e.g., voltages required for charging electric cars versus other uses such as an alternative to diesel to power Mop Fair rides).

There were no recommendations or specific resolutions.

400/21 CORPORATE IDENTITY POLICY

Members considered the draft Corporate Identity Policy specifically dealing with the use of the Town Crest.

RESOLVED: to recommend to Full Town Council the adoption of the draft Corporate Identity Policy

401/21 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

This agenda item was not required.

402/21 STAFFING COMMITTEE REPORT

This agenda item was not discussed as the Staffing Committee meeting had not gone ahead.

The meeting closed at 7.51 pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: