

Marlborough Town Council



Full Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Marlborough Town Council held Monday, 22 June 2026 in the Assembly Room, Marlborough Town Hall at 7pm

PRESENT	Councillor Mark Luson	Town Mayor
	Councillor Emily Trow	Deputy Mayor
	Councillor Nicholas Fogg	
	Councillor Mervyn Hall	
	Councillor Mark Cooper	
	Councillor Susannah O'Brien	
	Councillor Caroline Sadler	
	Councillor Abi Beaumont	
	Councillor Nicholas Awbery	
	Councillor Kim Wakeham	
	Richard Spencer-Williams	Town Clerk
	Dawn Whitehall	Corporate Services Officer
ALSO PRESENT	Scarlet Walker	Information Officer
	Councillor Jane Davies	Wiltshire Councillor – Marlborough West
	Neil Goodwin	Marlborough.News

MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTION

The Mayor asked people to consider how best to care for the older generation who are more vulnerable to the hot weather predicted for later in the week, and to share their thoughts after the meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A written question had been received from a firefighter:

“With the recent news regarding potential fire station closures, and the loss of one of our appliances in Marlborough already, what are the town council going to do to support local businesses in allowing staff to respond to incidents? And what are the council going to do to assist in our recruitment of on-call firefighters at Marlborough?”

Discussion points included:

- The Mayor would be happy to write to local businesses to ask for strong support for Marlborough's volunteer firefighters, encouraging their existing staff to join, and to commit to releasing them when they are called to serve
- In the past Marlborough College had a strong association with the Fire Brigade, and it was noted that some of the estate staff were already on-call members and always allowed to leave immediately when paged

ACTION: Town Mayor to write to local businesses asking them to support the recruitment and employment of on-call firefighters

CRIME AND DISORDER

No officer was able to attend, but a written report had been provided and was tabled for Councillors. Comments included:

- The Further Action Taken rate at 54% was higher than both the whole Wiltshire force and nationally
- It was good to see retail theft was now being dealt with by arrest and imprisonment

ACTION: Write to the police to thank them for the update and congratulate them on their high outcome rate.

QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Councillor Hall asked whether there was any update on the proposed Wessex Mayoralty and timetable? **Councillor Davies** was not sure when it would happen and questioned whether it would remain a government priority.

Councillor Davies left the meeting at 7.12pm

64/26

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from **Councillors Farrell, Shantry, Wrench**, the **Mayor's Chaplain** and the **Chair of Marlborough Youth Council**.

65/26

DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations of interest.

66/26

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced two local events and asked Councillors to spread the word and encouraged them to attend themselves:

- Sunday 28 June: Marlborough Open Gardens. Stonebridge Allotments would be included this year.
- Saturday 18 July: "Waters of Change" at the Town Hall, documenting Marlborough's journey towards resilience

67/26

MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meetings held 23 March and 11 May 2026 were confirmed as true records and signed by the Town Mayor

68/26

ACTION LOG

Members noted the updated action log. Discussion points included:

#293: investigate a parking compromise for future years at Avebury during summer solstice. As a year had passed since the 2025 Summer Solstice with no action taken and the 2026 Solstice had recently taken place, it was agreed to close this action.

#316: investigate changes in parking at Kennet Avenue. **Councillor Wakeham** explained the background: the changes had been made by the National Trust because the former, informal parking in the layby and on nearby grass verges had been damaging the archaeology, which is very close to the surface in the Avebury landscape.

#351: parking issues at Lower Prospect garages. Although the Town Clerk had contacted Aster, the Police and WC Parking Services on behalf of residents, all could act within their areas of responsibility but there was no obvious collective body to help to resolve the issue, such as a Community Safety Partnership. Without this, while the Town Council could continue to lobby on behalf of residents there was little else it could do within its own powers.

69/26

INTERNAL AUDIT 2025-26

Members noted the final internal audit report for 2025-26.

70/26

ASSET REGISTER

Councillor Hall asked how the Merchant's House valuation had been arrived at: the asset register had been updated on the advice of the internal auditor for the specific purpose of the external audit, although this meant that valuations and depreciation anomalies were apparent. **Councillor Beaumont** clarified that the valuation should be shown at the historic, i.e. purchase, cost, and this should be shown in the accounts although other columns could be added for clarification; e.g. it was noted that the values shown on the asset register would be different to resale values for all items, or values after depreciation, or insurance rebuild costs. The **Town Clerk** advised that a review of the register and process should be undertaken by the Finance and Policy Committee.

RESOLVED: that the updated asset register was approved, to be reviewed by the Finance & Policy Committee before the end of the current financial year

71/26

AGAR 2025/26 SECTION 1 – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

RESOLVED: that the Annual Governance Statement at Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was approved and signed by the Town Mayor and Town Clerk

72/26

AGAR 2025/26 SECTION 2 – ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

RESOLVED: that the Annual Accounting Statements at Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was approved and signed by the Town Mayor and Responsible Financial Officer (Town Clerk)

73/26

YOUNG PEOPLES' DIGITAL COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Members considered the draft policy which had been agreed for recommendation to Full Council by the Finance and Policy Committee on 13 April 2026. It was noted that the policy stated that it would be amended as required in line with changes in government legislation.

RESOLVED: that the Youth Council Digital Communication and Social Media Policy is adopted

74/26

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Members considered the revised policy which had been agreed for recommendation to Full Council at the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting held 13 April 2026.

RESOLVED: that the revised Safeguarding Policy is adopted

75/26

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC)

Members noted the response to the Town Council's Freedom of Information Request regarding the PCC's legal position in respect of the sale of police assets, specifically relating to the former police station in George Lane.

Discussion points included:

- The police did not yet know where responsibility for the sale of assets would be handled after the office of PCC is abolished (*in May 2028*)
- The building had been empty for several years
- Whether there had been any offers to purchase the George Lane site following the recent deadline date of the site being advertised to invite bids
- Whether the requirement to comply with wider public law principles, specifically "*taking into account all relevant considerations (for example, operational need, financial implications, **community impact** and alternative options) and disregarding irrelevant considerations*" as stated in the reply was a serious consideration regarding the sale, and whether there was anything the Town Council could do to push for this consideration to be taken seriously

ACTION: to reply to the letter, asking specifically how the PCC would judge/weigh the sale against the social impact, and whether there was any update on where the responsibility for the sale would be handled after May 2028

During a suspension of Standing Orders, **Neil Goodwin** highlighted the unique, secure nature of the George Lane site. As it had been empty for several years and may remain so, he questioned whether the forthcoming change in structure to police forces would identify a need for this level of terrorist-secure holding facility by the future new force, such that the building may be reopened by the police. **Councillor Sadler** echoed the concern that such a secure facility might be needed in the future.

76/26

OUTSIDE BODIES

Members were invited to provide verbal updates on their representational roles to organisations and community groups:

- Following the resignation of Councillor Peter Morgan, the Planning Committee would be asked to appoint a replacement representative to the Wiltshire Council Area Board Local Highway and Footway Improvements Group
- **Councillor Beaumont** encouraged everyone to attend the open gardens on 28 June – as well as seeing some beautiful gardens, the event would raise funds to support The Merchant’s House

77/26 COMMITTEE MINUTES

In accordance with para. 3.1 of the Scheme of Delegation, Members noted the approved minutes of the Planning Committee on 20 April 2016.

PART 2

78/26 HERBERT LEAF CHARITY

Members noted the Town Clerk’s report and the financial position of the Herbert Leaf Charitable Trust. **Councillor Sadler** (Chair, Herbert Leaf Working Party) gave a verbal update, and discussion points included:

- The working party (WP) had been created in March 2026, comprising **Councillors Sadler, Hall and Wakeham** with the **Town Clerk**, and had met twice since then, with a further meeting set for 1 July
- The WP was working to define the objects for the trust, to be recommended to Full Council for consideration and adoption during the current municipal year. This would set out ways the money could be used while staying true to the original intention of the bequest
- Whether the money should be allocated in smaller units, or spent on one specific project
- That although the funds were attracting a small amount of interest the overall value was not keeping up with inflation; the WP was investigating whether there were other bank accounts to attract more interest

79/26 COMMON SEAL

Proposed by **Councillor Fogg** and seconded by **Councillor Hall** and

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

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm

Signed:

Town Mayor

Date: