



Cafes, restaurants, and pubs can apply for 12-month temporary pavement licences - Wiltshire Council is not charging for these and information about the application process was posted on its website. Alongside this, the Town Council was working with local businesses to provide a promotional video of High Street businesses and temporary promotional signage was to be erected on approaches to Marlborough.

Accompanied by the Town Crier and a Macebearer, the **Mayor** would be laying a wreath at the War Memorial on Saturday, 15 August to mark VJ Day. Due to Coronavirus, a formal event could not be held, but it was right to commemorate it. A representative from the Royal British Legion and a Standard Bearer would also be attending.

112/20

#### **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Extraordinary Full Town Council held 27 July 2020 were approved as a true record and signed by the **Town Mayor**

113/20

#### **RE-DESIGNATION OF THE MARLBOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA**

Councillors considered, as the qualifying body for the production of the Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan, the re-designation of the Marlborough Neighbourhood Area following the withdrawal of the parish of Preshute from the process.

**RESOLVED:** that, as the qualifying body for the Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan, Marlborough Town Council agrees to the removal of Preshute Parish from the Marlborough Neighbourhood Area and is happy to agree that it now comprises the parishes of Marlborough, Mildenhall and Savernake

114/20

#### **PROTOCOL FOR VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

Members considered adopting a protocol for running of Virtual Meetings under the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

**RESOLVED:** to adopt the protocol for Virtual Meetings with no amendments

115/20

#### **MOP FAIRS 2020**

Councillors considered the running of the Mop Fairs in 2020 against an uncertain environment due to Coronavirus. The Town Clerk provided an update following recent discussions with Public Health Wiltshire (PHW) which confirmed that, in the current pandemic, it could not support the running of the 2020 Mop Fairs in the interests of safety as the risk of transfer rates of COVID was assessed as high

The **Town Mayor** was sad that the traditional Mop Fairs, which were an integral part of Marlborough, would not be able to go ahead this year, but fully understood and supported the reasons for suspending them.

Councillors discussed alternatives so that this traditional annual event could still be properly marked. Discussion points included:

- Regret that the Mop Fairs would not be able to take place
- The Mop Fairs were an important part of the town's heritage and should remain so in future years
- That the Showmen's Guild's right to hold the Mop Fairs by statute (now and in future years) remained absolute and a token ride would not be needed to maintain that position
- That the cancellation of this year's event was purely a one-off caused by safety implications of the Coronavirus pandemic

- Whether to hold a token children’s ride and that this decision should rest with the Showmen’s Guild, but it may still present a risk to the health and safety of attendees
- The likelihood of the event attracting large crowds with no possibility of managing those numbers
- Whether to continue with the traditional opening ceremony, including a proclamation by the Town Crier with the Town Mayor and Showmen’s Guild representatives in attendance
- Whether to hold the ceremony on the steps of the Town Hall
- Whether to present a virtual reading of the proclamation
- Whether to honour Billy Whitelegg’s longstanding commitment to Marlborough with the unveiling of a plaque at the Town Hall
- That the Town Council remained committed to the traditional Mop Fairs taking place annually and that this was underlined by a 25-year agreement with the Guild.

**RESOLVED:** that Marlborough Town Council notes the guidance from Public Health Wiltshire and regrets that the 2020 Mop Fairs will not be able to take place due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Town Council will work with the Showmen’s Guild to maintain the tradition of the Mop Fairs with a ceremonial opening attended by the **Town Mayor**, representative(s) from the **Showmen’s Guild** and the traditional proclamation by the **Town Crier**, incorporating the unveiling of a plaque to honour William Whitelegg

116/20

**COMMON SEAL**

Proposed by **Cllr. Castle** and seconded by **Cllr. Dow** 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

117/20

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

All members of the press and public left the meeting.

118/20

**TOWN COUNCIL-OWNED PROPERTIES**

Councillors noted a report by the Town Clerk and considered a new lease and rent arrangements for one commercial property.

**RESOLVED:** to follow the recommendations of the Town Council’s agent with regards to renewing a lease for one commercial property

The meeting closed at 7.43 pm

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Town Mayor