

**MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY FULL TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of an **Extraordinary Meeting** of **Marlborough Town Council** which was held on **Monday, 16th January 2017** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7.00 pm

PRESENT	Councillor N. Barrett-Morton Councillor B. Castle Councillor Mrs P. Dow Councillor N. Fogg Councillor A. Ross Councillor A. Kirk Wilson Councillor Mrs M. Rose Councillor G. Loosmore Councillor M. Hall Councillor A. Light	Town Mayor
ALSO PRESENT	Mrs S. Parker Mrs D. Whitehall Mr N. Goodwin	Town Clerk Administrator Marlborough.News

440/16 APOLOGIES
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Dobson, Hannaford-Dobson, Allen, Farrell, Cook and Lam

441/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation

442/16 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Mayor welcomed Members to the Extraordinary Full Council meeting and reminded them that the budget and precept decisions to be made were among the most important of the year

Nomination forms for Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for 2017/18 had been provided and Members were asked to return any nominations to the Council Offices by midday on Monday, 23rd January 2017

Cllr. Fogg had been in touch with John Leggett, Mayor of Marlborough New Zealand, concerning five recent earthquakes in the region, measuring between 4.3 and 5.2 in severity. Thankfully, no loss of life had been reported although there had been destruction of property and aftershocks were continuing. The Town Clerk would write to express sympathy, concern and support.

On a happier note, former Mayor, Alistair Sowman, had been made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to local government in the 2017 New Year Honours. The Town Clerk would write a letter congratulating the former Mayor on his achievement.

443/16

MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of Full Town Council held Monday, 12th December 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor

444/16

BUDGET/PRECEPT 2017/18

Members noted the Town Clerk's report. The Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee, Cllr Andrew Ross, explained that each budget holding committee had set its budget and these had been reviewed by the F&P Committee.

The decision to consider 2017/18 budget and precept figures had been delayed in order to await the outcome of a consultation on a proposal to extend referendum principles to town and parish councils as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement 2017/18 and to enable the Council to properly consider any impact on budgets arising from Wiltshire Council's proposal to town councils offering 'bundles' of asset transfers and devolved services. (These would not be accompanied with funding.) As a result of these complexities it had been particularly difficult to quantify final figures when there were still unknown costs that could not be accurately predicted.

Main points of discussion were that:

- Since the recommendation made by F&P on 5th December for a precept rise of 13.16%, the costs of the refurbishment of the George Lane public toilets had changed so the size of the public works loan would now be reduced to an annual repayment of £9,850
- That as plans towards the opening of a new museum were being started, a budget line for £1,000 should be included as a contingency for this
- The recommendation from the Asset Transfer and Devolved Services Working Party which met on 10th January 2017 was that proper contingency should be made towards taking on additional assets and services from Wiltshire Council, but that the overall decision would be for the next Town Council. However, investigative work involving building surveys, legal searches, refurbishment requirements, etc. would incur costs, but were necessary before any decision could be made to commit the council to future assets and services. Additionally, urgent action may be needed in the next year to supplement Wiltshire Council street cleaning, for example, where the reduction in current service levels were widely felt. To meet this recommendation Members considered whether an additional £20,000 should be added to the existing budget line (4069) as a contingency for this
- If, for reasons of openness and transparency, a public meeting should be held to explain the 2017/18 precept in more detail together with information about the taking on of assets and services from Wiltshire Council

RESOLVED: (i) As recommended by the Asset Transfer and Devolved Services Working Party, £20,000 is added to the 2017/18 budget for the move towards asset transfers and devolved services from Wiltshire Council, but that the final overall decision on this rests with the next Council. Investigative work (building and condition surveys, legal searches, etc.) must continue so that next council will have

the full facts about the financial viability of taking on assets and services. This way with the facts in hand, the Town Council will be working towards being as ready and resilient as possible for the undoubted increase in services and assets to be devolved down.

RESOLVED: (ii) that the proposed 2017/18 budgets for the Finance & Policy, Amenities & Open Spaces, Planning and Property Committees are agreed and include the amended and reduced figure of £9,850 for the public works loan for the George Lane toilet refurbishment, a figure of £1,000 as contingency towards a new heritage project and £20,000 towards the taking on of assets and services from Wiltshire Council. Also, that the net budget figure for 2017/18 is £600,913 equating to an annual precept of £182.67 for a Band D property representing a 16.55% increase. This equates to an increase of £25.94 or £2.16 per month or 50p per week.

RESOLVED: (iii) that the Town Clerk issues a press release for wide circulation explaining the decision on the precept and possible transfer of assets and services from Wiltshire Council and that public discussion on this is invited at the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 24th April 2017

445/16

TO AUTHORISE THE FIXING OF THE COMMON SEAL OF MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL TO ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

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 Council

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Signed

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Town Mayor

Date