

**MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
FULL TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of **Marlborough Town Council** which was held on **Monday,
7 December 2020** at 8.04pm via videoconference

PRESENT	Councillor Mark Cooper	Town Mayor
	Councillor Bryan Castle	
	Councillor Mrs Peggy Dow	
	Councillor Nicholas Fogg	
	Councillor Andrew Ross	
	Councillor Alexander Kirk Wilson	
	Councillor Noel Barrett-Morton	
	Councillor Mervyn Hall	
	Councillor Peter Cairns	
	Councillor Susie Price	
	Councillor Andy Wilson	
	Councillor Donald Heath	
ALSO PRESENT	Mrs Shelley Parker	Town Clerk
	Dawn Whitehall	Administrator
	Councillor Jane Davies	Wiltshire Councillor – West Selkley
	Mrs Susan Round	Marlborough.News
	Plus 2 members of the public	

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Caroline Thomas asked whether the Town Council was committed to increasing the number of electric vehicle charge points in the town for residents and visitors in the light of air pollution outlined in the Neighbourhood Plan studies and the 638 spaces available across 8 car parks in the town. The **Mayor** thanked her for her question and confirmed that the Town Council had recently declared a climate emergency and that a newly formed Climate Emergency Working Party would be meeting regularly to create an action plan: he felt sure this would be an area that would be addressed.

328/20 APOLOGIES
Apologies for absence were received from **Councillor Waltham**.

329/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations.

330/20 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Mayor endorsed comments expressed by **Councillor Price** at the Planning Committee meeting earlier in the evening that it was never acceptable for members of the Town Council's staff to receive abusive correspondence and that the Town Council would always fully support its staff when such incidents occurred.

331/20 MINUTES
RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2020 were approved as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor

332/20 MARLBOROUGH AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (MANP)

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk and considered agreement about next steps for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Hall, Chairman of the MANP Steering Group, introduced the draft Pre-Submission Plan, draft Site Assessment Report and independent Sustainability Appraisal. He explained more detailed information would be available to support these documents and, as Marlborough Town Council was the Qualifying Body for MANP, agreement was now needed from Councillors that these documents be published on the Town Council's website for pre-submission public consultation – a requirement under Regulation 14 of the Town and Country Planning, England, Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The steps would include:

1. Pre-submission (*Regulation 14*) public consultation, starting on 8 January 2021. The usual consultation period would be extended to allow for COVID19 conditions. Methods of publication would include the Town Council's website and social media channels, leaflet drops and a short video as well as video conference open meetings via the Zoom platform. It would not be possible to hold the usual public meetings under current COVID19 restrictions, but question and answer sessions could be arranged via videoconferencing instead.
2. A period to review the responses and update the plan based on the views received
3. Submission to Wiltshire Council for public consultation (*Regulation 16*)
4. A public referendum to agree the plan, hopefully at the time of the next elections

Points arising from the discussion included:

- As the Qualifying Body for MANP it would not be possible for the Town Council to respond to its own consultation as a body. Each Councillor could comment on the consultation as an individual
- Members would welcome an informal meeting to discuss the plan in more detail
- A Neighbourhood Plan is a planning document and once in place would be referred to when relevant planning decisions were to be taken
- The Plan would also aim to protect the environment and heritage of its area as well as meet the needs of the community (e.g. affordable housing, car parking, cemetery space)
- A Neighbourhood Plan could not address non-planning issues such as Highways

Councillor Kirk Wilson recognised that it had been a huge undertaking to get to this stage and the outcome was a fine piece of work. He thanked all involved for the hard work they had put into getting to this stage. The **Mayor** endorsed this and thanked **Councillors Hall** and **Cairns** and all involved.

RESOLVED: that Marlborough Town Council, as the Qualifying Body for the Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan, agrees to the publication of the Pre-Submission Plan, Site Assessment Report and Sustainability Appraisal for the pre-submission consultation under Regulation 14 of the Town and Country Planning, England, Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

The meeting closed at 8.17pm

Signed: Date:

Town Mayor

DRAFT