

**MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL  
FULL TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of **Marlborough Town Council** which was held on **Monday, 14 December 2020** at  
7pm via videoconference

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**PRESENT**

Councillor Mark Cooper	Town Mayor
Councillor Bryan Castle	
Councillor Mrs Peggy Dow	
Councillor Nicholas Fogg	
Councillor Andrew Ross	
Councillor Alexander Kirk Wilson	
Councillor Guy Loosmore	
Councillor Noel Barrett-Morton	
Councillor Lisa Farrell	
Councillor Mervyn Hall	
Councillor Peter Cairns	
Councillor Susie Price	
Councillor Andy Wilson	
Councillor Donald Heath	
Councillor Vanessa Hillier	
Councillor Jo Waltham	

**ALSO  
PRESENT**

Mrs Shelley Parker	Town Clerk
Dawn Whitehall	Administrator
Nigel Weatherly	Grounds Manager
Fr. John Blacker	Mayor's Chaplain
Councillor Stewart Dobson	Wiltshire Councillor – Marlborough East
Councillor Jane Davies	Wiltshire Councillor – West Selkley
Mrs Susan Round	Marlborough.News
Neil Goodwin	Marlborough.News
Simon Carreck	The Adviser
Nicola Hinman	Gazette and Herald
Plus 57 members of the public	

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**PRAYERS**

Fr. Blacker opened the meeting with prayers.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Nine people (**Michael Reynolds** (*Marlborough parkrun*); **Chris Bradford** (*Marlborough Model Flying Club (MMFC)*), **Richard Pitts** (*Transition Marlborough*); **Adam Pensotti**, **Lucy Brenk**, **Amanda Palmer**, **Mark Ashley**, **Andrew Houchin** and **Jason Ahl**) referred to item 5: Call-in of decision 296/20 of the Amenities & Open Spaces (A&OS) Committee held 16 November 2020 where it was “**RESOLVED**: that the Town Council agrees to the request for a third pitch subject to (i) it being positioned as marked in blue on the MRFC (*Marlborough Rugby Football Club*) plan and above the existing pitches, (ii) that guaranteed playing hours are agreed to the satisfaction of Marlborough Model Flying Club and that (iii) no permanent posts shall be sited at the pitch when not in use” and asked Councillors:

- To consider the impact that proposed positions of the pitch would have on the current parkrun route and whether it would be acceptable for parkrun participants to run across a pitch corner

- To agree timings of use so that members of the Model Flying Club could plan their time, particularly at weekends, the only time some members could attend
- To consider very carefully whether the fundamental nature of The Common would be changed if the central pitch location were to go ahead
- To reconsider selecting an alternative location alongside Frees Avenue as put forward by the Town Council's Grounds Manager
- To commission a study of habitat and wildlife by an independent body such as the County Records (*Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC)*) prior to proceeding with any new pitch
- To explain why the decision has been called in and provide a Plan B if the decision was overturned
- Whether the Town Council recognised the need for sports development across the town and included it in its plans and where councillors placed the physical and mental health of residents on its list of priorities
- To explain why Councillors supportive of sports clubs had not been invited to a meeting with Common users held on 29 September 2020
- How much money the Town Council would make available to the proposal as a community
- What plans did the Town Council have to develop young sports players and help them to reach their potential
- Whether the Town Council had considered the likely extra traffic and pollution impact on the town if another pitch were to be added and the impact of more people and cars on The Common

The **Mayor** thanked everyone for their questions, all of which would be borne in mind when Councillors discussed the call-in at item 5 of the agenda. As a quick response to some of the questions he:

- Acknowledged that Councillors had received and read emails containing a lot of information relating to these questions
- Confirmed that agreement of times of use between MRFC and MMFC had been a key point in the original decision and would continue to be taken on board
- Confirmed that the Town Council did recognise the linkage between sports, physical and mental wellbeing
- Confirmed that the Town Council had been very supportive of sports clubs in the past and would continue to be – he gave recent examples such as agreement to extra storage space, a retractable canopy and advertising boards for MRFC
- Confirmed that the Town Council was keen to see The Common used and enjoyed by every member of the community
- Congratulated Mr Ahl on his son's success in progressing from Marlborough Rugby Tots to Bath Rugby Academy U18

**Val Compton** had been campaigning for a residents parking scheme for 20 years. With a new cinema, hotel and restaurant and homes soon to be completed in The Parade, she asked the Town Council to please keep the need for a residents parking scheme on the agenda. The **Mayor** agreed to do so and confirmed that the Town Council would try to help find a solution.

**Matthew and Anita Edwards** asked whether the Town Council would reconsider its plans for adding lighting at the Skate Park in consideration of the impact that light and noise would have on the health of nearby residents, particularly houses currently under development, whether it was the right use of the money and whether the Council would consider repeating its public consultation which had not included the 6 new houses. The **Mayor** thanked Mr Edwards and his comments would be considered at agenda item 8.

## **CRIME AND DISORDER**

No officer had been able to attend the meeting.

## **QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS**

**Councillor Dobson** – the Marlborough Recycling Centre would be open until 1pm on Christmas Eve.

**339/20**

### **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

**340/20**

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Councillor Ross** – agenda item 5 – Call in – non-pecuniary interest.

**Councillor Fogg** - agenda item 10 – Public art at Priory Gardens - non-pecuniary interest.

**341/20**

### **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Though there were a couple of budget meetings scheduled for later in the week, this was the last Full Council meeting before Christmas and the New Year. 2020 had been an unpredictable and difficult year for everyone but, as the Mayor had expected, Marlborough's communities rose to the COVID challenge and were coming through it. The town's amazing volunteers, Wiltshire Council, the Town Council and its staff, NHS, care workers, our teachers, the police and many more had been brilliant. He appreciated that things had been really difficult for local businesses and it had been inspirational to see how so many had adapted to a new way of working. It was now very important to keep on buying local. He wished fellow Councillors, staff and all residents of Marlborough a very happy and safe Christmas and a 2021 to look forward to.

Members would need to be aware that Marlborough Post Office was now closed until 24 December due to a member of staff testing positive for COVID19 and colleagues being required to self-isolate. Whilst this would understandably be frustrating for customers, there were some services available within One Stop and recently launched Post Office services to collect parcels from home or drop off points were available online if people were unable to travel to Post Offices in nearby towns and villages. The Town Council would share this information online as well as standing ready with Kennet and Avon Medical Partnership to help spread the word about COVID vaccinations.

**342/20**

### **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 7 December 2020 were approved as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor

**343/20**

### **CALL IN**

In accordance with Standing Order 30, **Councillor Fogg** with the support of **Councillors Dow, Kirk Wilson** and **Waltham** invoked the procedure to call in the decision recorded under Minute 296/20 of the meeting of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee on 16 November 2020. The resolution was:

**“RESOLVED:** that the Town Council agrees to the request for a third pitch subject to (i) it being positioned as marked in blue on the MRFC plan and above the existing pitches, (ii) that guaranteed playing hours are agreed to the satisfaction of Marlborough Model Flying Club and that (iii) no permanent posts shall be sited at the pitch when not in use”.

The **Mayor** was mindful of the questions raised at the beginning of the meeting and that many people wished to speak. He thanked them and assured them that each would be

given an opportunity to make their views known, after which he would invite Councillors to ask questions.

#### Points raised by members of the public and/or club representatives

During a suspension of Standing Orders, all those who wished to speak put forward diverse and sometimes opposing points which included:

- Calls for public consultation to capture as many views as possible
- Strong support to do whatever was possible to support young people wishing to play sport
- Recognition that MRFC and Marlborough Youth Football provided a valuable service to young people
- References to legislation covering common land and whether it was appropriate to give over large areas for designated sports or any other particular function
- References to other commons such as Southampton, Mitchinhampton and Hungerford where common land was left in its natural state with the exception of nature reserves
- Whether agreement to another pitch would set a precedent for the eradication of Marlborough Common as common land
- Biodiversity and wildlife: whether a proper study had been or should be conducted
- Concerns about the visual impact of a new pitch being in the middle of the Common: it would create a very considerable change of aspect
- Requests to ask the Town Council to reconsider the location proposed by the Grounds Manager which was to be in line with existing pitches adjacent to Frees Avenue for reasons of visual impact, proximity to the training area near the Cemetery, to have a reduced impact on Marlborough Model Flying Club, continued use and enjoyment of the central unmown area for others and a lesser visual impact
- Concerns about whether corporate views (e.g., sports clubs) would have more influence than those of other users (e.g., dog walkers, families playing, lone walkers, etc.)
- Whether the parkrun course could be altered
- That the Town Council appeared to be supporting more traffic and car parking at The Common but did not appear willing to consider a park & ride scheme or additional public car parking on there
- Whether the request should be considered as part of a wider review of all sports requirements rather than responding to ad hoc requests – for example plans to enhance sports facilities at St John's Academy were given as examples of opportunities to explore
- Two conflicting statements were made describing the nature of the central area of The Common – that it was a rich wildflower meadow with orchids and butterflies which would be threatened if the area was flattened and that it was a 'grotty' piece of land with ragwort

#### Marlborough Rugby Club response

Representatives from MRFC responded to some of the above as well as providing some clarification:

- The Club's core values were community-focused and aimed at promoting fitness and health for young people
- MRFC wanted everyone to be able to use The Common
- The requested pitch would have no posts or fences, and would be a flat area used for training, shared with other clubs (e.g. Marlborough Youth Football Club)
- 250 hours of use per year had been requested between September and May

- The proposal was to use the new training area for football on Saturdays 09:00-12:00 and rugby on Sundays 09:00-13:00
- MRFC would bear the cost of additional soil to level the land: the Frees Avenue location would require more soil and so come at a higher cost
- If an additional pitch were to be refused MRFC was unlikely to be able to find an alternative location
- MRFC's opinion that its preferred location had no merit in terms of flora and wildlife

The **Mayor** thanked everyone for their views. In answer to the question about car parking and traffic problems the **Town Clerk** reassured **Mrs Denyer** that the Town Council was investigating ways to improve parking: it was currently in discussions with Wiltshire Council for a Traffic Strategy across the town plus the emerging Neighbourhood Plan recommended additional informal car parking at The Common.

### Councillor Questions and Grounds Manager's Proposal

Having heard all views, Councillors asked questions including:

- Clarification of the costs and volume of soil required for all potential locations: MRFC quoted £35,000 for their two proposed locations, estimating an additional £13-£15,000 for the third Frees Avenue location
- Clarification of which pitches and training areas would be available to footballers
- Whether all other options to share existing sports facilities had been explored e.g., with schools and football clubs, and, if so, to understand why those options had been discounted
- Whether a letter from 2006 outlining legal obligations upon Marlborough College to share sports facilities tied to receiving S106 monies was being properly discharged; no representative had been invited to attend but it was known that many clubs and schools, including from nearby villages, had used its facilities on a regular basis.
- The College has confirmed in an email (circulated to all Councillors) that no pitches were currently available as all spare capacity had already been given to local clubs
- Whether the golf course could be reconfigured to free up space for training

The **Grounds Manager** put forward his reasons for proposing the location alongside Frees Avenue and answered questions:

- It would have less of a visual impact on The Common as a whole than it would in the middle of it (in answer to a specific question challenging that the proposed central area wouldn't make much difference as people could still walk on it when not in use for training, he replied that he believed it would make a significant difference: it would create a big green square in the middle of The Common rather than the natural, wildflower rich area that it was currently)
- There would not be as much encroachment into more natural areas
- Other events took place from time to time in the centre including circuses and historical re-enactments
- The central area would have a serious impact on Marlborough Model Flying Club
- He was confident that it would be possible to work with all parties to find an alternative route that would be acceptable for Marlborough parkrun
- That an additional pitch would mean nature-rich meadow habitat would be lost as there would not be enough time in the closed season for plants to grow, flower and set seed
- That car parking on The Common, particularly in winter caused damage to surfaces despite best efforts to maintain the ground. There had been cases where vehicles had to be towed out

- The Town Council had not investigated costs for all options, although the **Town Clerk** confirmed that the levelling of the area near the clubhouse had cost £16,000 in 2015 which had been paid for via a Section 106 agreement

### Discussion

With Standing Orders restored, discussion included:

- That the land was a legally defined as common land and registered as such
- As custodians of Marlborough Common, the Town Council must strike a balance and consider its use for all
- Strong support for MRFC and recognition of the importance of its contribution to the town and appreciation of its success and generous offer to contribute £35,000 to create additional training space
- Notwithstanding the above, the proposal carried with it major impacts on The Common which required careful consideration
- Whether it would be necessary to create a perfectly flat surface if the area was for training only
- Whether the success of the club and increasing number of people (and cars) attending matches or training created significant parking problems and if the proposal went ahead, whether it would be necessary to provide increased parking facilities
- Recent photographs had shown the extent of regular weekend parking problems as well as damage to some surfaces
- The Common was shared by many users including MMFC, runners, dog walkers, children playing, walkers – they all needed space
- There were already two rugby pitches, a football pitch and a training area
- Whether a change to the central area of The Common would profoundly change its nature especially as people could still walk over the training area when not in use
- If the new central training area would have the effect of cutting The Common in half
- Whether an opportunity had been missed by not facilitating more informal discussion between MRFC and other users of the Common
- Whilst it was commendable that there were now over 750 young people wanting to play rugby and football, whether one training area would be sufficient to provide training space for them
- That the Neighbourhood Plan consultation had highlighted a need for additional sports pitches for the Neighbourhood Plan area as well as adding more car parking space at The Common
- Whether the figures quoted had been verified or details provided for scrutiny (e.g. costs, number of young players)
- Whether sharing other, existing facilities such as Marlborough Town Football Club or schools had been properly explored
- Whether it was only vocal, but minority groups (e.g., *Transition Marlborough*, *Marlborough Flying Club*), objecting to the MRFC proposal for use of what was “currently scrubby land “
- Whether there would be objections to any additional pitch on The Common in any area
- Whether an offer to discuss compensatory planting by a MRFC club member with experience in wildflower meadows should be explored
- Whether to undertake a public consultation and if it should be limited to people who reside in the parish (Marlborough and Manton) and not users who live further afield

As **Councillor Fogg** had called in the decision, he gave his reasons for doing so as:

- The decision had dismayed a large number of people who felt entitled to have the opportunity to raise issues and have their opinions considered
- Whether the A&OS Committee had the authority to take the decision on behalf of the whole Town Council
- The Town Council should act as guardians of The Common, mindful of its special status and make decisions on behalf of all citizens of Marlborough
- That there were certain rights and legislation applying to common land
- That the right to roam freely took precedence over all other activities, notwithstanding that areas may have been set aside for sports use, with a right to access any part of The Common at any time
- Whether the Model Flying Club, with over 40 years of enjoyment at the Common, had legal rights that took precedence over the rights of others engaged in more recent activities
- That formal consent by the Secretary of State would be required before some works could be undertaken
- It was prohibited to lease rights away to others unless for a period of less than two years
- Whether a proper strategy should be drawn together rather than responding to ad hoc requests and to use it as a basis for future requests
- Whether to set up a working party to examine all implications and verify facts and figures, as well as to understand MRFC's plans for the future

The **Town Clerk** clarified that all members of the A&OS Committee had been invited to attend a site meeting on 29 September to discuss the proposals with other formal users of The Common although only two Councillors had actually attended. This was to follow up an August meeting with MRFC and a subsequent decision made at the A&OS Committee meeting of 1 September. Also, that before any works had been undertaken on The Common, advice and/or permission had been properly sought from the Common Lands Team at the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol.

**Councillor Fogg** had listened carefully to the points raised in public question time as well as during the discussion of this agenda item. He summarised the major issues to be considered when taking a decision as being wildlife, parking, other users (and uses – e.g., circuses) and calls for consultation and believed it would be unfair to certain groups and individuals if the Town Council did not consider the request taking full account of matters raised. He proposed this required a working party to undertake a proper study of the complex issues before a third pitch was permitted.

In a named vote it was proposed by **Cllr Fogg** and seconded by **Cllr Castle** and **RESOLVED: (i)** that Marlborough Town Council sets up a working party of Town Councillors to examine a fair resolution to the use of a restricted area of land available in full public consultation with all parties and conscious of the legalities of the case with the intention of devising an overall strategy that will ensure fair solutions to all users and the preservation of the character of Marlborough Common for future generations

**For (11):** Councillors Wilson, Castle, Dow, Fogg, Kirk Wilson, Loosmore, Cairns, Price, Heath, Waltham and the Town Mayor

**Against (5):** Councillors Ross, Barrett-Morton, Hall, Farrell and Hillier

And **RESOLVED: (ii)** that Councillors Fogg, Loosmore, Farrell, Hall, Heath, Wilson, Hillier and the Town Mayor were nominated to the Working Party

**The Mayor** thanked everyone for their patience and contribution. It had been a lengthy debate, but he was proud that Councillors could work together even while disagreeing. He was hopeful that a way forward would be found.

*Several members of the public left the meeting*

**344/20**

### **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) – EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT**

Councillors noted the External Audit report for 2019/20 and that a Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been posted on the Town Council's website as required under Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234) and the Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/404). **Councillor Ross** thanked the Town Council's excellent staff and the Town Clerk/Financial Officer for another successful audit.

**345/20**

### **CENSUS 2021**

Councillors noted a report by the Town Clerk and information about the Census scheduled for March 2021 which would be digital-led, although paper forms would be available. The Town Council would help provide information via the website and social media channels.

**346/20**

### **SKATEPARK LIGHTING**

Members noted a report by the Assistant Town Clerk and considered a recommendation to make amendments to the project for lighting the Skatepark at the Recreation Ground, Salisbury Road.

The planning application submitted was reviewed by Environmental Health at Wiltshire Council and the officer dealing raised concerns in relation to light spill and noise and the negative impact this would have on the new development of houses adjacent. Short of reducing the timings of the lights (which would render the project unviable), it would be very difficult to mitigate these issues due to the very close proximity of these new dwellings. The planning officer's recommendation was to refuse the planning application on these grounds. A decision was therefore taken to withdraw the planning application pending further investigation. During subsequent discussions with the case officer, some information came to light in relation to a potential solution. If lighting columns were installed at a height of no more than 4m (as opposed to 8 or 10m), planning permission would not be required and the installation would fall into the category of permitted development. Schedule 2, Part 12 of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 refers. The Assistant Town Clerk had investigated this further, checked the legislation and spoken with a town council who recently installed skatepark lights under permitted development rights in this very way and was now working with the town council's chosen lighting contractor on a revised scheme using 4m columns. Councillors were asked to consider whether to proceed on this basis. Discussion points included:

- A maximum height of 4m columns seemed an acceptable proposal
- An appreciation of the nearby development
- That the project to light the Skatepark had first been proposed around 10 years ago, much earlier than the housing development and the developers and planning officers would have been aware that they were building next to a skate park
- The lights would be on a timer and switched off by 9pm
- The lights would only be needed during the darker winter months
- Having met with schools and young people to canvass ideas it was clear that there was a desire for lighting from the young people of the town and the Town Council wanted to support the needs of young people for outdoor recreational activity

An objection had been raised during public question time and so the **Mayor** suspended Standing Orders so that members of the public could speak:

- A near neighbour reported on young people smoking and dealing drugs, playing loud music, using obscene language, using the car park for handbrake turns and generally making a nuisance. Adding lighting would mean this behaviour would likely continue during winter too, whereas neighbours currently enjoyed some respite from it
- Young children in neighbouring properties had been kept awake by this behaviour in the summer
- There was already light pollution from a security light
- A previous request for a barrier or gate to be erected to prevent vehicle access to the Marlborough Community & Youth Centre (MCYC) car park to help alleviate the situation was repeated – there was a general consensus of nearby residents that this would help
- Nearby residents did not want any lighting
- Whether 4m was still significant and whether the resultant light pollution was legal
- Whether people would make use of the skate park at night
- Whether it would be safe to skate at night, particularly if the concrete was wet and slippery
- Whether parents would be happy for their children to use the park after dark
- Whether the Town Council proposed any measures to mitigate against light pollution
- Disputed the statement that young people wanted the lighting and had not seen any evidence or data that this was the case
- Whether the objections of the Environmental Health officer were still valid with lights at 4m, notwithstanding that they could be erected within permitted development rights
- A neighbour had recorded noise at a maximum level of 85.7 decibels – this and other data was included in a report that had been posted to the planning portal against the original application
- Reference to recommendations by professional skaters to train indoors in the winter
- A belief that the light and noise resulting from the skate park would cause distress and be unhealthy for residents in the 6 new houses and particularly in their gardens
- That children in the 6 new houses would not be able to stargaze – a ‘wall of white light’ would be unhealthy and the existing security light was described as violent
- Whether the proposal was in contravention of Protocol 1 Article 1 of the Human Rights Act
- Whether the Town Council would consider providing a safe, indoor facility instead
- Whether the Town Council would reconsider its proposal for the benefit of nearby residents, especially in light of the comments by the Environmental Health Officer

Councillors were aware of anti-social behaviour but, felt this was caused by young adults using the car park/footpath near MCYC and not caused by younger skaters. There was general agreement that a vehicle barrier would help prevent a lot of the anti-social behaviour. However, there had already been wide public consultation including leaflet drops to the nearby care home, schools and online, albeit prior to the 6 houses being built. Councillors felt the lighting was long overdue and it was proposed that the project should proceed.

**RESOLVED:** to work with the lighting contractor on a revised skatepark lighting scheme using 4m columns and that the project going ahead under permitted development rights be confirmed by Planning Officer

347/20

### **SAFE RE-OPENING OF THE HIGH STREET**

At the Planning Committee meeting held 7 December 2020 members had deferred a decision on whether any changes were necessary to a new, temporary, road layout in the High Street to allow for safe social distancing of pedestrians. At the time of the meeting the changes had been in place for just a few days.

The Chair of Planning, **Councillor Price** noted that although there had been a lot of comment, mostly negative, on social media prior to and immediately at the time of the implementation there had been no issues reported with the road layout or traffic. The **Town Clerk** had canvassed the views of the businesses where trade was directly supported by the new layout and all were happy to continue with the scheme for longer. Kingsbury Street residents also favoured the new layout as it slowed down traffic. The hospitality outlet was a little nervous about making full use of the extra pavement space, but supported it remaining in place for longer. A new clothing shop soon to open in this area also supported the changes.

Councillors commented:

- Drivers continued to park illegally either on double yellow lines next to the temporary bollards or on the pavement at the Town Hall and this could present a risk to other road users
- Whether Wiltshire Council could be approached to increase patrols by Parking Enforcement Officers
- The reason for making the changes was to support businesses, and in the busy run-up to Christmas making safe space for pedestrians and supporting those businesses must be encouraged

**RESOLVED:** to feed back to Wiltshire Council that no changes were requested to the road layout at 143 High Street and that the situation would be reviewed in a month's time

348/20

### **PUBLIC ART AT PRIORY GARDENS**

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk and considered a request for a piece of public art to be permanently displayed at Priory Gardens.

**Councillor Fogg** introduced the request, which on behalf of the Marlborough Arts Association was to present Marlborough with a high quality piece of art to commemorate the Marlborough International Jazz Festival. Priory Gardens had been a significant venue for the festival. Discussion points included:

- The artwork would be a fitting tribute to the Jazz Festival
- The Jazz Festival had put the town on the cultural map
- There were currently no public works of art in the town

**RESOLVED:** to accept, on behalf of the town, the generous gift of public art to be placed in Priory Gardens. The exact location should be discussed with the Amenities & Open Spaces Committee.

349/20

### **S106 ALLOCATION – DEVELOPMENT OF FORMER POLICE STATION AT GEORGE LANE**

Councillors considered a request from Wiltshire Council to identify a target site for S106 financial contributions of £8,234 for open space and £26,069.76 for equipped play linked to the development of the former Police Station at George Lane. To qualify the site would need to be within 240m of the proposed development and at this stage Councillors were only required to name the site, not what the funds would be used for.

The Salisbury Road Recreation Ground and Coopers Meadow both met the requirements. Proposals already known to Councillors that might benefit from funding included a vehicle barrier (discussed earlier in the meeting), a flagpole, lighting, or improvement of the existing car park at Salisbury Road as possible open space projects and an aspiration for a multi-use games area for young people for the larger sum. It was noted that this money would not be forthcoming for sometime.

**RESOLVED:** that S106 contributions associated with the George Lane development should be directed to the Salisbury Road Recreation Ground

350/20

#### **RECRUITMENT OF TOWN CLERK/RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Following a recent recruitment programme and interviews Councillors were asked to ratify a decision by the Staffing Sub-Committee for the appointment of a new Town Clerk/RFO.

From an impressive field of candidates, Mr Richard Spencer-Williams had accepted the job offer. He would work out his notice period and join the Town Council in March 2021. The **Town Clerk** had agreed to stay on so that there could be a handover.

The **Mayor** thanked all those Councillors who had been involved in the recruitment process and also thanked the **Town Clerk** for agreeing to stay on and acknowledged and valued her capabilities very highly.

**RESOLVED:** that the decision of the Staffing Sub-Committee was ratified to appoint Mr Richard Spencer-Williams as Town Clerk/RFO

351/20

#### **OUTSIDE BODIES**

**Councillor Kirk Wilson** was stepping down as Chair of Kennet Community Transport. A new and capable Chairman was taking over but Cllr Kirk Wilson encouraged other Town Councillors to get involved. The **Mayor** thanked Cllr Kirk Wilson for his dedication and work on this important community facility.

352/20

#### **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

In accordance with para 3.1 of the Scheme of Delegation, Councillors noted the approved minutes of the **Planning Committee** on 25 October and 16 November, the **Amenities & Open Spaces Committee** on 1 September and the **Staffing Sub-Committee** of 8 June, 10 September, 28 September and 9 November.

353/20

#### **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

**Councillor Ross** had submitted a question:

"Mr Mayor, are you aware that Marlborough is quite unique amongst Wiltshire towns and villages having no Heritage Centre or archive? Do you agree with me that the vacating of the Recreation Ground workshops offers Marlborough Town Council a real opportunity to establish its own Heritage Centre, noting particularly that funds have already been set aside for improving the town's overall heritage offer?"

The **Mayor** thanked Cllr Ross for the question and agreed that the proposal was worth exploring and would be happy to add it to the agenda of the next meeting on 18 January.

354/20

#### **COMMON SEAL**

Proposed by **Councillor Castle** and seconded by **Councillor 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

**The Mayor** thanked Councillors and members of the public for their contribution to a very long meeting and wished everyone a safe and happy Christmas.

The meeting closed at 10.32pm

Signed: ..... Date: .....  
Town Mayor

DRAFT