

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held 5 October 2020 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair

242/20 PLANNING DECISION NOTICES

Members noted the planning decision notices that had been issued by Wiltshire Council.

243/20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) **20/08715/FUL** – Proposed erection of detached dwelling and associated works including dropped kerbs and parking arrangement at land south of Kelham Gardens, Marlborough for C Taylor

- Members expressed their disappointment to see that Wiltshire Council had sold this land to a private developer after the Town Council had made a considerable effort to acquire it to provide much-needed public car parking for residents of Marlborough
- It was not clear from the plans whether the right of way to access Thames Water equipment would be preserved
- Whether there were adequate proposals for dealing with the significant contamination at the site, especially around disposal methods and making the dwelling safe
- Concern that a longstanding aspiration to create a riverside walk linking Stonebridge Meadow with the town centre may be threatened by the proposal
- Whether the dropped kerb for access provided enough space for safe use, and if not, concerns that the 3 much needed roadside 2-hour free parking spaces would be lost

RESOLVED: that Marlborough Town Council objects to this application on the grounds of the removal of a vehicular right of way for Thames Water or its contractors, concerns about the risks from contamination, highways safety at the access point and possible risk of the loss of roadside parking spaces

b) **20/08171/FUL** – New pitched roof on existing flat roofed extension. External door to become window. Remove two chimneys. New vehicle access. Replacement windows. New shed and home office in garden at Blaen Blodau, 2 St Davids Way, Marlborough for Debbie Ryman

RESOLVED: that Marlborough Town Council has no objection to this application

c) **20/05379/LBC** – Removal of two leaning and bowed chimneys at Wye House, Barn Street, Marlborough for Mrs Tricia Klisby

RESOLVED: that Marlborough Town Council objects to this application. The removal of the chimneys would deface an important listed building and they should be replaced with like-for-like stacks

244/20 WORK TO TREES

a) **20/08091/TPO** – T1 – Sycamore tree – fell. T2 – Oak tree – reduce the crown by 20% at 9 Kelham Gardens, Marlborough for Mrs Watson

RESOLVED: that Marlborough Town Council has no objection to this application

b) **20/08213/TPO** – Lime (T1) – Crown lift tree to 3.5m. Lime (T2) – Crown lift tree to 3.5m. Sweet Chestnut (T3) – Crown lift tree to 3.5m at 1 Cardigan Road, Marlborough for Kirby-Johnson

RESOLVED: that Marlborough Town Council has no objection to this application

c) **20/08790/TCA** – Weeping Birch – reduce canopy overall by 2 metres at 77 High Street, Marlborough for Mrs Annabel Harvey Evers

RESOLVED: that Marlborough Town Council has no objection to this application

245/20 DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER POLICE STATION AT GEORGE LANE, MARLBOROUGH

Members noted an update report by the Town Clerk and considered feedback on points raised

about the associated planning application (20/07915/OUT) and the naming of the proposed development.

Safeguarding of school children

Members noted an update and that there would be no visible permeability at ground level; they hoped the developer would consult with the school as their concerns about overlooking should be taken seriously once plans progressed beyond the outline planning stage. There would be another opportunity to comment when the proposals reached the reserved matters planning stage.

Name of development

Members discussed possible names to put forward for the development. Discussion points included:

- Members welcomed the suggestion by Wiltshire Police that the Town Council's involvement in selecting a name for the development could be controlled in the design guide passport documentation if necessary
- Members noted that it would be important to agree on a name before marketing material was prepared for the dwellings
- That a letter had been received from a member of the public with suggested names
- Whether Marlborough police officers had been invited to suggest a name, and whether to approach them if not
- Whether to consult with the public
- That a shortlist would be drawn up for agreement at the next meeting on 16 November

Names already proposed, or suggested at the meeting, to go forward included:

- Copper Close
- Copper's Close
- Constable Close
- Constable Court
- Constabulary Court
- Peel Place

The use of 'Beat' or 'Walk' as part of the name was suggested to tie in with police vernacular. "Neville Court" had been discounted as it was not usual policy to name a street after a person still living.

RESOLVED: to reply to Wiltshire Police to welcome their suggestion and pass on Councillors' comments. Also to ask local police officers for suggested names and to agree a final shortlist at the meeting on 16 November 2020

A member of the public joined the meeting

246/20

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Members considered a recommendation from the Planning Working Party discussions about responses to two government planning consultations.

Planning for the future – The Planning White Paper

The Working Party had suggested responses to most questions, but Members were asked to consider responses to questions 20 and 23.

RESOLVED: (i) that responses suggested by the Working Party were agreed with two amendments

Transparency and competition – a call for evidence on data on land control

Rather than comment on individual questions, an overall statement had been proposed:
“Greater transparency is to be welcomed on land registry documentation as well as easier access to them. This will help to ensure development takes place in the right areas as current systems allow for the unsatisfactory practice of land banking making purchase of land to meet local needs more difficult”

RESOLVED: (ii) to submit a statement in response to this consultation

247/20

AREA BOARD BOUNDARY REVIEW CONSULTATION

Members noted a briefing note from Wiltshire Council and considered a response to a consultation about Area Board Boundaries to bring them into line with Electoral Divisions.

During a suspension of Standing Orders **Wiltshire Councillors Dobson** and **Davies** shared the general concerns of Town Councillors about the reduction from 4 to 3 members, but both felt it would be workable and had seen other Area Boards which already only had three Councillors manage very well.

Members noted that where there was a risk of not being quorate there was the potential to bring in Councillors from neighbouring Area Boards (Pewsey and Tidworth were mentioned). There was agreement to strongly object to this use of substitutes. If there were cases where there had to be substitution, Members felt that only Pewsey was appropriate. There was also concern about maintaining a balance to avoid potential manipulation along political lines, particularly where financial decisions were involved. It was noted that up to a fixed financial limit of £5,000 the Community Engagement Officer could use delegated powers to make financial decisions.

RESOLVED: to respond to the Area Board Boundary Review consultation as agreed at the meeting

248/20

SAFE RE-OPENING OF THE HIGH STREET

Members noted the Town Clerk’s report and considered any feedback and/or changes to pass to Wiltshire Council about the initiative for pavement widening in the High Street. Members also considered contributions towards social distancing measures in Kingsbury Street and providing more free parking in the lead up to Christmas.

Kingsbury Street

Wiltshire Council’s Principal Engineer (Traffic and Network Management) had provided a scheme to enable social distancing by creating temporary additional pedestrian space outside the Barber Shop and Costa Coffee and part of the Marlborough Bike Shop with the aim of keeping two-way traffic. This could be removed quickly if not working well. The maximum contribution for the Town Council would be £1,750. A decision on whether the Area Board would fund the remaining costs (approx. £5,000 in total) would be made on 2 November 2020. Members discussed:

- Whether there would be enough space for the safe retention of two-way traffic
- The need for warning signs for drivers approaching the bend from Kingsbury Street
- The impact of illegally parked vehicles or delivery vehicles in that area
- Whether there would be additional risk when HGVs (which should not use this stretch of road) attempted the bend with reduced carriageway available
- That traders felt it would help, particularly on the corner where queues often build up for the barber and the bike shop and it was not possible to maintain social distancing
- That a one-way scheme would be preferable
- To trust the engineer’s scheme and remove it quickly if it was found to be unworkable

RESOLVED: (i) to go ahead with the social distancing scheme for Kingsbury Street and make a contribution of £1,750 towards it

Free parking in the lead-up to Christmas

Free parking Fridays in George Lane had been funded by the Town Council between 28 August and 16 October as compensation for the temporary loss of free parking in the High Street to make space for temporary pavement widening to support traders and shoppers returning to a new normal after the Coronavirus lockdown was lifted. A suggestion for free parking in the High Street to continue to support traders in the Christmas shopping period had been investigated. Key points were:

- Following a request from Councillors at the Planning meeting of 5 October, traders had been canvassed and the majority supported free parking on Fridays and the High Street car park as the location
- The cost to the Town Council to fund free parking in the High Street one day a week between 20 November and 18 December would be circa £11,000
- There was no planning budget available to fund the proposal although with major events having been cancelled or postponed in 2020 it may be possible to use the event budget to pay for it
- Coronavirus had also created a loss of income from Town Hall and Youth Centre hire
- Whether the cost represented a good use of taxpayer money
- That since the summer there had been a change in behaviour and town centre car parks were now already generally very busy with shoppers but space was usually available
- The original scheme had been to encourage people back into town after lockdown. With car parks now regularly busy, Members questioned whether the incentive would have any impact on increasing the number of shoppers in town
- Whether, with COVID cases on the rise, it was the right time to incentivise people to visit Marlborough from other locations

RESOLVED: (ii) not to progress with a free parking proposal

Councillor Castle left the meeting during the following item

249/20

CATG/HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT REQUESTS

Members noted a report from the Town Clerk and a Highways Improvement Request and signage at George Lane.

Kingsbury Street

Members considered a Highways Improvement Request for traffic calming measures on Kingsbury Street, Marlborough and during a suspension of Standing Orders the applicant summarised the request. Members discussed:

- There was already a 20mph speed limit in place
- Whether anyone had notified the police about speeding vehicles or asked them to monitor and enforce the speed limit
- To progress current plans to find a suitable location to mount a Speed Indicator Device. As well as raising speed awareness with drivers this would also provide data which could be used to support future proposals
- Whether the street was wide enough to support two-way traffic and on-street car parking
- That a one-way system would be preferred by residents but there were concerns whether this would add to traffic problems in Barn Street and Herd Street

- Whether a Highways Engineer would be likely to recommend additional no parking areas to alleviate the problem
- Whether a priority chicane could be installed
- That speed bumps were not likely to be an option on a bus route
- That progressing to CATG at this stage would likely result in a 3 year wait list as CATG budget was currently prioritised for COVID schemes
- Whether to seek informal views from a Highways Engineer

RESOLVED: (i) to seek advice from a Highways Engineer about traffic issues in Kingsbury Street

George Lane

Councillor Waltham had raised an issue about inadequacy of signage at George Lane:

- Whether the word 'school' could be added to 'slow' on the carriageway near the entrance to Marlborough St Marys
- Whether the school sign at the Salisbury Road mini roundabout could be resited

The Town Clerk had discussed this with a Highways Officer who had expressed doubt about additional painting on the carriageway. A response was still awaited on whether a more visible location for the School warning sign could be found.

RESOLVED: (ii) to await a response from Wiltshire Council Highways about location of signage

Some members of the public left the meeting

250/20

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk about reinstating Community Speed Watch (CSW) in Marlborough, and considered requesting more metro counts as well as purchasing appropriate camera equipment.

Councillor Farrell had volunteers ready to take part once Wiltshire Police were ready to recommence training. She had a long list of locations that were candidates for CSW

- An update on CSW was expected at the Area Board on 3 November
- Metro counts would be needed as well as risk assessments on locations prior to any CSW activity taking place
- Whether to purchase a camera to avoid delays through sharing one with another parish (grants may be available to help fund this)
- An additional SID would cost approx. £2,000. Hand held camera costs had not yet been obtained

RESOLVED: to delegate to the **Town Clerk** and **Councillor Farrell** to identify suitable locations for metrocounts/CSW and in principle to support the purchase of a hand-held CSW camera

251/20

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

A consultation about redesignation of the Neighbourhood Area was still ongoing.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed: Date:
Chair