



Marlborough Town Council Full Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of **Marlborough Town Council** which was held in the Assembly Room,
Marlborough Town Hall on **Monday, 1 November 2021** at 7pm

PRESENT:	Councillor Mark Cooper	Town Mayor
	Councillor Nicholas Fogg	
	Councillor Andrew Ross	
	Councillor Noel Barrett-Morton	
	Councillor Lisa Farrell	
	Councillor Mervyn Hall	
	Councillor Donald Heath	
	Councillor Jo Waltham	
	Councillor Richard Allen	
	Councillor Kymee Cleasby	
	Councillor James Sheppard	
	Councillor Caroline Thomas	
ALSO PRESENT:	Richard Spencer-Williams	Town Clerk
	Dawn Whitehall	Administrator
	Father John Blacker	Mayor's Chaplain
	PC Ellie Porter	Wiltshire Police
	Neil Goodwin	Marlborough.News
	Plus 4 members of the public	

PRAYERS

Father Blacker opened the meeting with prayers.

PRESENTATION

The **Mayor** took the opportunity to thank former Councillors Peggy Dow, Susie Price and Andy Wilson for their past service to the people of the town, and to personally thank them for their support to him. Each had retired from the Council in 2021 along with Councillors Alexander Kirk Wilson and Peter Cairns, who were unable to attend the meeting.

Councillor Dow had twice been Mayor of Marlborough during her long service, and the Mayor recalled that it had been Councillor Dow who had presented his late father, Councillor Maurice Cooper, with his retirement gift when he had stood down. Councillor Wilson had been appointed Deputy Mayor in the previous year but had sadly been unable to fulfil any duties in that role because of the Coronavirus

lockdowns, and Councillor Price continued to involve herself in supporting the community despite having left the Council. Each were presented with a gift as a memento of their service.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

CRIME AND DISORDER

PC Porter gave a verbal update, highlights included:

- That reports of antisocial behaviour were quietening down now that the summer was over
- Officers had recently joined other agencies to hold an event at St John's for parents to talk about drug issues and ask questions
- A mobile Youth provision had been in Marlborough during half term and the event had gone well
- Upcoming engagement events included one with the Forestry Commission to offer crime prevention advice, and Operation Sceptre focusing on knife crime

Questions from Councillors included:

- How can the police respond to troublesome tenants in the community causing immediate neighbours to live in fear, and how can or do police work with housing associations to ensure other residents feel safe?
Routes available for the police included issuing community protection warnings, community protection notices where there were breaches, taking to court and serving injunctions and/or restraining orders. They could also flag certain addresses for immediate response when the police were contacted.
- Whether Councillors could act as advocates for vulnerable people who might be unwilling or unable to contact police themselves?
PC Porter confirmed that they could, and was happy for her contact details to be passed on via advocates to individuals who might be unwilling to report crimes or antisocial behaviour
- A plea for a close working relationship to be re-established between Wiltshire Police and the Town Council in order to address issues or support schemes such as Speed Watch
- A request to continue to patrol in Priory Gardens and the Recreation Ground

QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS

- **Councillor Cleasby** asked whether there had been any progress in clarifying contractual arrangements between Wiltshire Council and housing associations. **Councillor Thomas** had not been able to find anyone within Wiltshire Council who could locate any contracts but would continue to ask questions; it appeared there was no direct relationship between the two as the correct route for tenancy complaints to be escalated was through the ombudsman rather than Wiltshire Council becoming involved. **Councillor**

Farrell suggested that it might be helpful to request a meeting with Homes4Wiltshire and the housing associations in order to address concerns on behalf of tenants. Other attendees were suggested, including the police and Wiltshire Council officers with relevant Wiltshire Council remits (for example safeguarding and/or antisocial behaviour) as well as the cabinet member. **Councillor Thomas** offered to approach Homes4Wiltshire to ask them whether they would be prepared to broker a meeting, and the **Town Clerk** was happy to make the arrangements. **Councillor Fogg** suggested that issues for tenants could be documented in a report to form the basis of a discussion, as well as raising the profile in local media. **Councillor Cleasby** had already begun documenting one case on behalf of a tenant.

- **Councillor Heath** asked for Wiltshire Councillors to help in raising awareness within Wiltshire Council that there was a security and safety risk at the former Postern House/Adult Learning Centre site in Cherry Orchard. He understood that Wiltshire Council planned to develop the site in due course. Security fences had been damaged allowing access, and local youths were throwing stones and metal posts, some of which were landing on an electrical substation. Although a security guard checked the gates once a day the fences did not appear to be checked and Councillor Heath had not received any response after attempting to contact an officer to raise his concerns that someone could get hurt. **Councillor Sheppard** suggested that the risk with the transformer should be reported to the relevant electricity supplier but agreed to feed Councillor Heath's concerns back to the relevant department.
- **Councillor Hillier** asked through the Mayor when the electric vehicle (EV) charger points in George Lane car park would be reinstated? **Councillor Thomas** reminded Members that a new strategy referred to updating charger points across the county. Although Wiltshire Council provided the rights to the locations, it was the responsibility of the providers to upgrade the equipment and she suggested a direct approach to the manufacturer might bring forward the date.

ACTION POINT: The Town Clerk and Councillor Thomas to liaise in setting up a meeting to discuss social housing

264/21

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from **Councillors Loosmore** and **Hillier**.

265/21

DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

266/21

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

It had been a busy month, beginning with a Peppercorn Rent ceremony to mark the 30th anniversary of The Merchant's House Trust attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire. There had been a Freedom Parade by 4MI to mark the 10 year anniversary of being awarded Freedom of Entry to the town followed by a dinner at Bulford. The Mop Fairs had returned and it had been fantastic to see it back in the

town, and in the previous weekend a fantastic Dark Skies Festival: highlights showed that 1,590 people had visited The Museum of the Moon at Marlborough College and 1,261 people had attended workshops. Thanks went to the Assistant Town Clerk, Clare Harris, and Councillor Heath, staff and volunteers past and present who had made it such a success.

Members were reminded that Remembrance Commemorations would take place for Armistice Day on 11 November and a Parade on Remembrance Sunday on 14 November, and the Christmas Lights Switch-on event was taking place on Friday 19 November with a Christmas Market returning to the High Street along with street entertainment and Santa's sleigh. All might feel a little different to previous events to ensure they would be covid-safe events.

267/21

MINUTES

Councillor Allen asked that his attendance at the meeting on 6 September be recorded. **Councillor Thomas** asked for an amendment to read: "(Questions to and from Wiltshire Councillors): **Councillor Cleasby** raised a question regarding Wiltshire Council's contracts with housing associations (Aster in particular). Councillor Thomas confirmed that she had been unable to obtain an answer at present but will persist. She had logged a formal complaint *to Aster Housing Association for their lack of response (bar emails promising a response)* and put a request in to the cabinet member for housing for a response."

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meetings held 6 September and 11 October 2021 were approved as true records with two amendments and signed by the Town Mayor

268/21

TOWN CLERK'S ACTION LOG

The Town Clerk's Action Log was noted.

269/21

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Members noted the Town Clerk's report and considered proposals to celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee on 2 June 2022.

National plans included:

1. The May Bank Holiday weekend will be moved to Thursday 2 June and an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3 June would see a four-day weekend to celebrate the Jubilee between 2-5 June 2022
2. Communities across the nation, UK Overseas Territories and the Commonwealth were being invited to participate in beacon lighting in recognition of the Queen's long and selfless service.

Local ideas expressed to date included:

- A community picnic on The Common, possibly with some fun organised team challenges and games, ending with the lighting of the beacon
- Promoting a themed Platinum Jubilee Bake via the various hospitality outlets across the town
- The Amenities & Open Spaces Committee (Min. No. 178/21, 31 August 2021) was considering suitable locations to plant trees to commemorate the occasion
- 4MI Battalion had notionally expressed interest in supporting any Council event

Discussion points/suggestions included:

- That Marlborough had arranged 22 events for a previous celebration: an assortment of events which had been very successful – to replicate this would mean starting to plan now
- That the environment and climate change should guide events, and that planting commemorative trees was an ideal way to get people involved
- Whether to create a working party
- To invite schools to participate, for example a drawing competition
- A street party/cream tea in the High Street
- An exhibition of photos of Marlborough during the Queen's reign, with public contributions
- To invite the community to suggest events
- That the Beacon ceremony to mark 100 years since WW1 had gone well and that an event on the Common linked to Beacon lighting would be good
- Whether to hold an open event for the community to drop in and express interest in becoming involved in organising events – this would then guide the formation of a working party which could then appoint its Chair
- To enlist the help of media to raise awareness and encourage participation

RESOLVED: (i) to form a working party to plan the events

RESOLVED: (ii) to hold an open evening to gauge community interest and identify membership of the working party

The **Town Clerk** reminded Members that some things could be agreed outside of the Working Party, such as national Beacon commemorations and tree planting.

270/21

DEVELOPMENT PLANNING WORKSHOPS

Members considered the outcomes of Development Workshops, and noted that Committees were in the process of reviewing which outcomes could be taken forward under their remit. There would inevitably be some overlap.

The **Mayor** suggested that Full Town Council might consider adopting:

- Civic services and program
- Influence and enabling
- Partnerships
- Devolution of services

There was debate about whether Town Centre Plan should sit with the Planning Committee or Full Town Council; also whether to wait for all Committees to submit their proposals and adopt any outstanding projects.

RESOLVED: that Full Town Council should be the sponsoring body for the Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan

The next stage would be for the Town Clerk to create a draft document for Full Town Council to consider and agree Committee ownership at its meeting in January 2022

271/21 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE PROTECTION POLICY

Members considered the Environment and Climate Protection Policy and how it could be used to positively influence services and activities that fall under the remit of Full Council.

RESOLVED: that Full Town Council adopted the Environment and Protection Policy Statement on 28 June 2021 and will consider how it can be used to positively influence those services and activities that fall under the remit and scope of the Full Council.

The **Mayor** confirmed that the **Town Clerk** would include consideration of the policy in any future reports and recommendations.

272/21 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

273/21 COMMON SEAL

Proposed by **Councillor Fogg** and seconded by **Councillor Ross** 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 meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Signed:

Date:

Town Mayor