

# Marlborough Town Council



## Planning Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held Monday, 25 July 2022  
in the Court Room, Marlborough Town Hall at 7pm

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**PRESENT** Councillor James Sheppard                      Chair  
               Councillor Nicholas Fogg  
               Councillor Andrew Ross  
               Councillor Mervyn Hall  
               Councillor Mark Cooper  
               Councillor Caroline Thomas  
               Councillor Kelvyn Shantry

**ALSO**

**PRESENT** Clare Harris                                      Assistant Town Clerk  
               Dawn Whitehall                                     Corporate Services Officer  
               Neil Goodwin                                        Marlborough.News

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### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

**Neil Goodwin, Marlborough.News** asked what the data from the Speed Indicator Device (SID) was used for; whether a comparison of speed data without a SID in place was possible, and whether Members were clear about this prior to making a decision to purchase a second SID. Also, referring to the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan referendum he was concerned that turnout may be very low with the poll date of 11 August and a requirement for those requesting postal votes to do so in writing by 27 July.

The **Chair** allowed Mr Goodwin more than one question. **Speed Indicator Device** – the data builds up factual evidence about different areas of the town, provides evidence to justify police spot checks, and/or evidence to justify the request for metro counts ahead of any considerations to change speed limits. At a planning meeting the previous year a report had set out location plans and recommendations to rotate the SID between them every two weeks. As the data builds up, this would be adjusted to focus on 'hot spots'. Data aside, the benefits of the impact of the presence of SIDs on responsible drivers had been well documented and proven to be effective in reminding drivers to slow down.

**Neighbourhood Plan** – the **Chair** believed that residents in more rural areas were more likely to vote by post rather than in-person; it would be interesting to find out the percentage split and/or whether the process to request a postal vote could be

streamlined. Whilst the dates and deadlines were not ideal, the mechanism had been in place for a long time (it was the same as for general elections) and had not previously been raised to the **Chair** as an issue.

The **Chair** read out a question on behalf of **Mr Shaw, Resident**: “Given the hazardous speeds and narrow pavements, would the council please consider the installation of a SID device on Herd Street to monitor traffic speeds, particularly the downhill side of the carriageway”.

All present agreed that it was a good idea to locate the SID in Herd Street. The current SID was set up in Herd Street as part of the regular rotation cycle, but there were restrictions on exactly where in Herd Street it could be placed. These restrictions included physical barriers (for example, it could only be mounted on certain types of lamp columns; there were limitations for staff with installation/removal due to location) as well as rules about location (for example, a requirement to be placed a minimum, clear distance away from traffic signs). Agenda Item 13 recommends the purchase of a second SID device including an option for solar powered models. Should a purchase be agreed, options for SID locations and frequency of rotation would be improved.

The **Assistant Town Clerk** would reply to Mr Shaw to confirm that Members were in favour of placing a SID on Herd Street and that officers would investigate the practicalities concerning locations.

**103/22 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from **Councillors Allen, Barrett-Morton, Cleasby, Davies, Heath and Waltham**.

**104/22 DECLARATIONS**

**Councillor Fogg** – agenda items 7(b) and (c) – planning applications at The Green – non-pecuniary interest.

**105/22 CHAIR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**106/22 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held 27 June 2022 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair

**107/22 ACTION LOG**

Members noted the updated action log.

**108/22 PLANNING DECISION NOTICES**

Members noted the Planning Decision Notices that had been issued by Wiltshire Council.

**109/22 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a) **PL/2022/04194** – Proposed single storey rear extension with associated internal alterations and timber garden building at 87 London Road, Marlborough for Mr & Mrs Barter

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

*Councillor Fogg took no part in discussions for the following two items and did not vote*

- b) **PL/2022/04419** – Minor external and internal alterations at 29 The Green, Marlborough for Ms Julia Tyler

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

- c) **PL/2022/04997** – Minor external and internal alterations at 29 The Green, Marlborough for Ms Julia Tyler

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

- d) **PL/2022/04686** – Change of use from agricultural to residential and erection of a timber framed greenhouse in garden with concrete base at Manton Weir, Bridge Street, Manton for James Farrell

**RESOLVED:** that Marlborough Town Council objects to this application on the grounds of insufficient justification for change of use

- e) **PL/2022/05013** – Two storey and single storey rear and side extensions. Garden room at 7 Dando Drive, Marlborough for Mr & Mrs Rachel Dowdell

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

## **110/22 WORK TO TREES**

Members noted one application:

**PL/2022/05538** – 1 – Lawsonia tree – fell. 2 – 3 x Horse Chestnut trees – pollard 50% at Priory Gardens, Figgins Lane, Marlborough for Marlborough Town Council

## **111/22 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE**

Members noted the data downloaded from the Speed Indicator Device (SID) which had been collected in George Lane between 22 June and 9 July 2022. Discussion points included:

- The data demonstrated that the speed limit in George Lane was generally being well observed
- The addition of a second pedestrian crossing may have helped to slow the traffic
- Whether to update the SID rotation plan to prioritise other locations
- Whether speeds were now low enough to meet the requirements to request a change of speed limit to 20mph
- Whether to request a metro count to confirm the average speed

**RESOLVED:** to update the SID rotation plan temporarily removing George Lane as a regular location, and to request a metro count for George Lane

## **112/22 LOCAL HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENTS**

Members considered a request to erect a street sign at Elcot Nurseries at a cost of £156 plus labour time for Council staff. Discussion points included:

- Elcot Nurseries is a private, unadopted road
- Whether, as there are several unadopted roads across the parish, meeting the request would set a precedent
- The Town Council is not under any obligation to provide street signs on public or private land
- The Highways Authority (Wiltshire Council) is not under any obligation to provide street signs on private land
- Whether it is right to use public money to pay for a sign on a private, unadopted road
- Whether local households could fund the signage between them, as the cost was modest

**RESOLVED:** that Marlborough Town Council declines the request to provide a street sign at Elcot Nurseries because the land is privately owned, and to be clear not to set a precedent about using public money for private purposes

## **113/22 MARLBOROUGH AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Members noted the update report. The referendum will take place on 11 August and there are public engagement opportunities via a videoconference meeting on 26 July and a pop-up stand at the Town Hall on 3 August.

**The Chair** thanked **Councillor Hall** and Steering Group members for their hard work. **Councillor Shantry** had found the presentation at the public meeting on 19 July very useful and asked whether a copy could be circulated.

**ACTION POINT:** **Councillor Hall** to circulate the presentation to all Councillors via the **Town Clerk**

## **114/22 TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES**

Members noted that, under section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Wiltshire Council had issued a blanket order for temporary road closures between 22 August and 30 September at various roads across the county.

## **115/22 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** not to exclude members of the public and press from the following item of business as it was in the public interest and commercial details would not be disclosed during the discussion

**116/22 PURCHASE OF SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE**

Members noted the **Assistant Town Clerk’s** report and considered the purchase of an additional Speed Indicator Device. Discussion points included:

- Comparisons between battery powered versus solar powered devices
- Technical requirements and costs associated with extracting data
- Whether to place one device permanently, or for a longer term, in Herd Street
- Whether to use the ‘spy mode’ of the current SID to capture speeds without drivers seeing any display
- A grant from the Area Board of £1,882.50 would offset purchase costs
- An extended width platform ladder would be required for Town Council staff to safely work at height and/or in difficult-to-access locations with heavy SID devices

A proposal to delegate to the Town Clerk to purchase a solar powered SID with surplus costs allocated to CATG and/or a request to the Finance & Policy Committee if there were insufficient funds did not receive a seconder.

**RESOLVED:** (i) to purchase a solar powered device from Company 1 at a cost of £1,870.34, using the Area Board grant of £1,882.50 to offset the cost

**RESOLVED:** (ii) to purchase a safety ladder at a cost of £235

**RESOLVED:** (iii) to set any surplus costs beyond the Area Board grant against the CATG (LHFIG) budget

The meeting closed at 7.53 pm

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Chair