

Marlborough Town Council



Full Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Marlborough Town Council held Monday, 28 February 2022 in the Court Room, Marlborough Town Hall at 7pm

PRESENT Councillor Mark Cooper Town Mayor
Councillor Nicholas Fogg
Councillor Andrew Ross
Councillor Guy Loosmore
Councillor Noel Barrett-Morton
Councillor Mervyn Hall
Councillor Donald Heath
Councillor Jo Waltham
Councillor Kymee Cleasby
Councillor Jane Davies
Councillor James Sheppard
Councillor Mark Luson

ALSO

PRESENT Richard Spencer-Williams Town Clerk
Dawn Whitehall Administrator
Fr. John Blacker Mayor's Chaplain
David Andrews Visit Wiltshire/Great West Way
Belinda Richardson Tourism Officer
Neil Goodwin Marlborough.News
Plus 2 members of the public

PRAYERS

Father Blacker opened the meeting with prayers.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A Resident referred to problems that started roughly a year ago of antisocial behaviour on the railway embankment between Priorsfield and the Business Park. On several occasions not only was there drug taking, noise disturbance and litter, but also youths entering residents' gardens, climbing fences and on one occasion throwing a large rock which narrowly missed the resident. Despite reporting to Wiltshire Police and to Wiltshire Council, no action appeared to be taken by either party and the resident asked what steps could be taken, and who else he should turn to for help as so far nothing had been done. **The Mayor** thanked the resident, and sympathised with

him. It was unfortunate that no-one from Wiltshire Police was available to attend the meeting, but he assured him that the matter would be passed on and Marlborough's Wiltshire Councillors would also follow up his concerns. Points noted included:

- A request to keep the Town Council informed
- To report every incident to 101, and keep a record of the crime/reference numbers
- That fences to restrict access to the area had been removed

ACTION POINT: Follow up with Police/Wiltshire Council

CRIME AND DISORDER

No officer was available to attend the meeting.

QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Councillor Davies wanted to make Members aware of changes to funding routes for the Jubilee Centre and New Road Day Centre, now known as The Enablement Hub. Both received grants from a fund that was to be closed, and it was proposed to withdraw grant funding over a 2-year period and invite the clubs to apply for funding from an open framework. Both would be supported through the transition phase.

Discussion points included:

- Whether there would be a likely drop in funding
- Whether any reduction in funding would threaten either club
- That budget would be available via Adult Social Care to meet care needs (assuming assessments would confirm eligibility)
- Whether the Jubilee Centre would need to increase its charges
- Whether there would be a knock-on effect on Kennet Community Transport
- That both centres were excellent, and that **Councillor Davies** would continue to fully support them and help with fundraising

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Community Area Transport Group was Thursday, 3 March.

Councillor Sheppard believed the condition of the A346 was becoming dangerous due to potholes and was doing his best to push for repairs.

Councillor Waltham asked Wiltshire Councillors to clarify whether recent policy changes would result in the electric vehicle (EV) charger points in George Lane, redundant for several years, being repaired or replaced.

The Mayor was disappointed that car park charges were to be applied on Sundays and asked for clarification about what the charges would be.

ACTION POINT: **Councillor Davies** to check whether George Lane EV charger points would be replaced, and to clarify proposed cost of Sunday parking

Councillor Loosmore joined the meeting

GREAT WEST WAY

David Andrews (Chief Executive, Visit Wiltshire and Great West Way (GWW)) gave a presentation about the current status, future plans and tourism opportunities of the GWW touring route, and asked for input and feedback. Comments or questions arising included:

- Promoting sustainable tourism, and whether a lack of EV charger points would be a hindrance
- That the route planner on the website was an excellent feature and negated the need for an app
- That GWW was a company limited by guarantee, so not for profit. Anyone could apply to join the advisory board which already included bodies such as English Heritage, the Canal Trust and individual tourism businesses
- A Destinations Group, of which Marlborough was a member, would restart meetings that had halted during the Coronavirus pandemic
- The difficulty of obtaining feedback/evaluations from customers

The Mayor thanked Mr Andrews for his time; it was a great project and Marlborough was proud of what it had to offer visitors.

405/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from **Councillors Farrell, Allen and Thomas**.

406/21 DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations.

407/21 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Clare Harris, Assistant Town Clerk, on her invitation to a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May in recognition of her work to support the community throughout the pandemic. Councillor Hall had previously been recognised for his Mayoral Service, and his attendance had been rescheduled for 2023.

The Mayor thanked the Grounds Team for their work dealing with fallen trees during recent storms, both in Coopers Meadow and for helping to clear a fallen tree from the highway at St Peters Church.

The Mayor was sure that the situation in Ukraine was at the forefront of everyone's minds, and that all were keen to help with appeals or requests for donations. If Councillors knew of organisations helping in this way they were asked to share details with the Town Clerk.

408/21 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held 17 January 2022 were approved as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor

409/21 ACTION LOG

The action log was noted with no updates.

410/21 TOWN SIGNAGE

The Mayor thanked the Tourism Officer for a comprehensive report and proposals for improving signage across the town. Matters arising and feedback included:

- Once Members gave approval to the approach, proposals could be costed and a detailed proposal brought back for approval, possibly to be offered for tender as a single project
- To keep all signage consistent in terms of appearance
- That the style for information boards should match other signage
- To ensure clear, easy to read signage to direct people to car parks, especially George Lane
- That A-frames on the pavement were subject to planning permission
- Whether data was available to understand the questions that were asked most frequently by visitors
- Support for the proposed use of icons and accessibility considerations
- The project presented a real opportunity to showcase what made Marlborough special
- That QR codes were intended, and details would be included in later proposals
- Whether funding would be available from Wiltshire Council for QR codes

RESOLVED: that the proposals for signage were approved in principle subject to a fully costed proposal to be presented at a future meeting (the first meeting after Mayor Making was agreed)

411/21 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Members considered alternative options for meeting dates for 2022-23.

RESOLVED: that the calendar of meetings for 2022-23 was agreed as presented in Option A.

412/21 DARK SKIES

Members noted the evaluation report for the Dark Skies Festival that took place in October 2021. The **Mayor** thanked **Councillor Heath**, the **Assistant Town Clerk** and the **Town Clerk** as he appreciated how much work had been involved.

413/21 PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AND TREE PLANTING

Members considered the proposed approach and programme to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Councillor Luson highlighted that two sub groups still required volunteers to step forward to take a lead: the sub groups were those looking to involve and include children and older people. **Councillor Davies** agreed to take up the lead for the sub group for children's involvement.

RESOLVED: that the programme and approach for the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations be adopted.

The Tourism Officer left the meeting

414/21 HERBERT LEAF CHARITY

Members considered the steps necessary to establish a trust so that the Herbert Leaf Bequest, which currently stood at £69,738.64, could be accessed and administered for the benefit of the community.

RESOLVED: that the Declaration of Trust for the Herbert Leaf Trust be adopted

415/21 CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING PARTY

Members noted an update from the Climate Emergency Working Party and the proposed Marlborough Climate Day planned for 2 April, and that any offers of help and support on the day would be gratefully received.

416/21 ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

RESOLVED: that **Councillor Luson** be the elected representative for the Town Council at the Allotment Association

417/21 OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Fogg reported that good work by the public transport lobby group Option 24/7 had prevented major planned reductions in bus routes and frequencies. Plans were being drawn up for a 'super bus route' to link urban centres as well as to increase the frequency of the X5 service between Swindon and Salisbury. Other improvements to services were expected for the X76 service to Bath, which linked Marlborough, Calne and Melksham as well as a direct service between Marlborough and Devizes being reintroduced. **Councillor Fogg** would provide a report via the **Town Clerk** and suggested that Lee Fletcher of Option 24/7 be invited to present to a future meeting.

418/21 COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: that in accordance with para 3.1 of the Scheme of Delegation, the approved minutes of the following committee meetings were noted: **Property** – 4 October 2021; **Planning** – 10 January 2022; **Amenities and Open Spaces** – 10 January 2022 and **Finance and Policy** – 6 December 2021

419/21 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

No questions had been submitted.

420/21 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 9 pm

Signed:
Town Mayor

Date: