

Marlborough Town Council



Full Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Marlborough Town Council held Tuesday, 8 April 2025 in the Court Room, Marlborough Town Hall at 7pm

PRESENT	Councillor Kym-Marie Cleasby	Town Mayor
	Councillor Emily Trow	Deputy Mayor
	Councillor Andrew Ross	
	Councillor Mervyn Hall	
	Councillor Mark Cooper	
	Councillor Caroline Thomas	
	Councillor Kelvyn Shantry	
	Councillor Susannah O'Brien	
	Councillor Caroline Sadler	
	Councillor Abi Beaumont	
	Richard Spencer-Williams	Town Clerk
	Dawn Whitehall	Corporate Services Officer
	Rev. Chris Smith	Mayor's Chaplain
ALSO PRESENT	Neil Goodwin	Marlborough.News

PRAYERS

Rev Smith opened the meeting with prayers.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Neil Goodwin (Marlborough.News) asked what pressure the Town Council could apply so that Wiltshire Council improves its internal systems to manage roadworks and congestion better.

The Mayor confirmed this would be taken up with Wiltshire Council.

Rev. Smith left the meeting

CRIME AND DISORDER

No officer was able to attend, but a police report had been provided and was tabled for Members. The **Mayor** highlighted concerns about illegal vapes being sold to

young people, including products containing controlled drugs, and that the police were engaging with schools on this matter.

QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Councillor Trow asked whether Wiltshire Council had any leverage with utility companies to hold them accountable for traffic disruption, and whether the Town Council could also write to Thames Water.

Councillor Thomas confirmed that Wiltshire Council did have powers, but they were limited. She explained the process of issuing permits and co-ordinating works and adding conditions (e.g. weekend/half term working) although this wasn't possible when the utility flagged access as an urgent requirement. It was questionable whether each of these really was urgent or just a way to get round their poor planning. She gave examples where companies had been found to be in breach of conditions and received fines as a consequence, but the maximum fine wasn't relatively very high and was probably still better value to the companies than the cost of abiding by conditions and allocating the right amount of staff to manage traffic and put up/take down traffic lights efficiently. It was hoped that in future legislation might change, allowing Local Authorities to 'rent' road space to utilities – with the resulting cost making it in everyone's interests for works to be completed as quickly as possible.

Councillor Thomas reminded Members about the recent traffic study and the predicted increases in traffic resulting in gridlock in Marlborough, as well as the expected increase in HGV traffic once the M5/A417 link road improvements were complete¹. It was hoped that funding might be found to conduct a cost/benefit analysis to de-prime the A346 in parallel with Highways England plans to improve the A350 South Coast/M4 route.

426/24 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from **Councillors Fogg, Farrell, Sheppard, Luson and Kohrt**.

427/24 DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations of interest.

428/24 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Mayor** thanked everyone for their support during the past year.

As it was his last Full Council meeting before stepping down, the Mayor took the opportunity to recognise **Councillor Andrew Ross's** more than 20 years of service to the community and to record the Town Council's immense thanks for all he had undertaken during that time. **Councillor Ross** thanked her and said he was looking forward to his retirement.

¹ more details in the minutes of the [Planning Committee held 21 October 2024](#), min. no. 226/24

- 429/24 MINUTES**
RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held 20 January 2025 were approved as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor
- 430/24 ACTION LOG**
Members noted the updated action log. Discussion points included:
- #276 – the Mayor had written to Stonewater following up on concern being raised by a school about a family’s accommodation. The response was that all that could be done, was being done and that due process was being followed.
- Other nearby councils were concerned about how residents were treated by housing associations and had expressed interest in joining together to discuss what they could do collectively to tackle the issues.
- Members discussed whether to request further meetings with Housing Associations and Homes4Wiltshire representatives.
- Councillor Thomas** would circulate details about an online GreenSquare Accord Q&A event taking place at 6pm on 9 April. She had recently written to Aster Homes about their policy to sell properties they considered too expensive to bring up to EPC-C standard, and questioned why they did not use the profit from those sales to bring other properties up to the required standard. Separately, she had written to the Cabinet Member to ask for a ‘locals first’ condition to be including in ongoing S106² negotiations about York Place.
- 431/24 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**
Members noted the proposed calendar of meeting dates for municipal year 2025-26, and that this would need to be ratified by the new Council in May.
- 432/24 CIVIC WORKING PARTY**
Members noted the update report on the Civic Working Party.
- 433/24 MODEL FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**
RESOLVED: that the Model Financial Regulations are adopted as proposed by the Finance & Policy Committee
- 434/24 MEMBERS’ QUESTION TIME**
No questions had been submitted.
- 435/24 OUTSIDE BODIES**
Councillor Thomas hoped Members would support and promote the Activity Day organised by Marlborough Youth Forum, which was taking place at The Recreation Ground on 31 May. The event would include sports, activities, food and fun and was free to attend. Volunteers would also be welcomed – **Councillor Cleasby** confirmed that she would volunteer again.

² <https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/dm/s106>

436/24 COMMITTEE MINUTES

In accordance with para. 3.1 of the Scheme of Delegation, Members noted the approved minutes of the following Committee meetings: Planning - 6 January, 3 February and 24 February 2025; Amenities & Open Spaces – 13 January 2025, and Finance & Policy – 25 November 2024.

437/24 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

Mr Goodwin left the meeting

438/24 COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARDS

Members considered the nominations put forward for Community Champion Awards, to be announced on 28 April.

439/24 COMMON SEAL

Proposed by **Councillor Ross** and seconded by **Councillor Hall** 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 8.24 pm

Signed:

Town Mayor

Date: