

- There were capacity issues (high demand) rather than issues with access to partnership staff and services
- That the number of GPs and other medical staff, rather than the size of the building, was the main factor leading to capacity issues
- That there were multiple and complex reasons behind staff shortages
- The large geographical area served by the surgery
- The need for safe limits when demand outstrips supply, and the risks involved
- The different ways support was provided to patients (i.e. not necessarily always seeing a GP), and the different services that the public can use for different issues (e.g. online; 111; hospital departments)
- That the surgery is not contracted to deal with minor injuries
- Whether wider communication of the services available and signposting people to the correct point would create improved public perception and improve effectiveness for all

The **Mayor** and Councillors thanked **Dr Hook** for giving up his time to attend the meeting and thanked all NHS staff for the services provided to the community.

QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Councillor Hall asked whether Wiltshire Councillors were aware of issues emerging for tenants of social housing managed by Stonewater, which had been raised on social media and local TV news. Discussion points included:

- Issues included lack of heating and black mould
- That there was an Ombudsman to deal with issues that could not be resolved between tenants and housing associations
- Whether to make the relevant Cabinet Member and/or other Wiltshire Councillors aware
- Whether to arrange a meeting between the housing association, Homes4Wiltshire, Town Council and Wiltshire Councillors

ACTION: Councillors aware of any issues for tenants of Stonewater properties were asked to share details confidentially with the Town Clerk, who would compile a list.

ACTION: Town Clerk to approach Stonewater to request a meeting to include the **Town Clerk** and **Councillors Cleasby, Thomas, Hall** and the **Town Mayor**

Members congratulated **Councillor Thomas** on her appointment as Wiltshire Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Street Scene and Flooding.

254/22

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from **Councillors Ross, Loosmore, Heath, Allen, Davies** and **Shantry**.

255/22

DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations.

256/22

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that **Councillors Waltham** and **Allen** had resigned from the Town Council with immediate effect, and that **Councillor Heath** would also be standing down at the end of the 2022-23 Council year. All had served the community well. The Mayor commended **Councillor Heath** on his knowledgeable role serving as the tree warden and giving advice on applications for works to trees at Planning Committee Meetings. All would be missed; Members expressed thanks for their service.

Members would want to note changed dates and forthcoming events that they could take part in:

- A Coronation Clean-Up to include litter picking, planting/weeding and graffiti removal, 28 March to 6 April. Officers were currently planning the detail and more communications would be released towards the end of February
- A drop-in at the Town Hall on 2 February to gather residents' ideas for ways the town could celebrate the King's Coronation
- Mayor-Making had been moved to 2 May
- A Warm & Well drop-in event at the Town Hall on Wednesday 25 January
- The deadline to submit proposal forms to the Town Clerk for the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2023-24 was Thursday, 26 January

It was very good news that Wiltshire Council had agreed to a permanent asset transfer for the Marlborough Community and Youth Centre, currently managed by the Town Council under a 7-year lease.

The **Mayor** and **Councillors** expressed profound thanks to **Mr Nigel Kerton** and to a "Good Samaritan" member of the public for the return of the 'lost' Seal of the Borough Council. The Common Seal stamp (impressed into wax to officially 'seal' documents) had passed through various hands in the past 50 years after a former mayor had retained it. A civic-minded member of the public had taken it to Mr Kerton who had agreed that it should be returned to the Town Council, perhaps for display in the town's museum.

257/22

MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held 12 December 2022 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor

258/22

ACTION LOG

Members noted the updated action log. Verbal updates included:

#93: Traffic enforcement at Port Hill: **Councillor Sheppard** had spoken to the Police & Crime Commissioner who confirmed that this location was on the list for an enforcement team. **Councillor Thomas** reminded Members and the public that there was an opportunity to raise this matter at the Area Board 'all things road' meeting on 23 February.

#124: **Councillor Luson** was happy that this action could be closed as a crossing for the High Street was now on the list for LHFIG consideration.

#125: **Councillor Thomas** was in regular contact with Bradford on Avon regarding requirements for town traffic surveys

Other matters arising included:

- Whether the possibility of resurrecting Community Speed Watch could be discussed with the PCC, or perhaps at the 'All Things Road' meeting on 23 February
- Speeding: the police were increasing their focus on speeding and there were now an increasing number of prosecutions. A trial was to begin in Salisbury, working with Speed Indicator Device manufacturers, police enforcement teams and speed watch groups to create a central database which should help to divert resource to hot spot areas to focus on roads where speeding was an issue

259/22 TOURISM REPORT

Members thanked the Tourism Officer for a very comprehensive update report.

Matters arising included:

- It was hoped that the trial 'Mound walk' at Marlborough College in May would lead to increased public access so that similar events could take place during the summer months
- Tenders for updated town signage would be considered on 1 February – it was hoped that installation would be in the late spring

The Tourism Officer left the meeting

260/22 CIVIC WORKING PARTY

The **Town Clerk** gave a verbal summary of the most recent meeting, where Officers had made executive decisions to move the civic programme forward:

- Some meeting dates had changed (e.g. Mayor Making) to accommodate the King's Coronation and all Councillors had received emails with details
- Two meetings had taken place to plan for the Savernake Explosion Memorial installation and unveiling event (23 April 2023)
- Coronation Weekend: The Crown had very recently given an indication that the Sunday should be used as an opportunity for a 'Coronation Big Lunch' and the Monday as 'The Big Help Out'. The Town Council had already planned for a volunteering event at a Coronation Clean-Up in March and April. An open meeting had been arranged for 2 February for members of the community to share thoughts and ideas about how Marlborough should participate.

261/22 CODE OF CONDUCT RESPECT CAMPAIGN

Members considered whether to support the Positive Democracy Equals Positive Conduct Charter. Discussion points included:

- The Charter aimed to encourage all councillors to make a pledge to be positive ambassadors. Those who did so would receive a signature logo for correspondence
- In parallel, **Councillor Thomas** had reviewed the current Marlborough Town Council Code of Conduct as part of a Finance & Policy Committee (F&P) review of all policies. A proposed updated document, based on the local government model and in line with other Town Councils, was complementary to the Charter. It would be considered by the F&P Committee on 30 January for recommendation to Full Council for adoption
- That it would be for individual Councillors to decide whether to sign up to the Charter
- That it was important for all Councillors to behave in accordance with the Nolan Principles and that making a pledge would demonstrate their commitment to do so

RESOLVED: that Marlborough Town Council supports in principle the Positive Democracy Equals Positive Conduct Charter and invites individual Councillors and the Town Clerk to pledge their support

262/22 **COUNCILLOR TRAINING**

Members considered training needs for 2023 24. Discussion points included:

- The **Town Mayor** endorsed training for all Councillors new to the role
- A course run in-house for the previous Council to explain GDPR had been very useful, and may be worth repeating
- Whether to take up online training in the first instance or to arrange workshops, or to hold follow-on workshops after online introductory training depending on the subject matter
- **Councillor Hall** encouraged take-up of Planning training to understand the technicalities involved

RESOLVED: that Members should consider their own training needs and instruct the Town Clerk accordingly

263/22 **STAFF CHRISTMAS GRATUITY**

RESOLVED: that in future years the Town Council agrees in principle to pay for the staff Christmas breakfast

264/22 **OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Cleasby reported that all bodies involved with the cost-of-living group were seeing rising demands for help from the community.

265/22 **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: **Planning** – 5 December 2022 and **Amenities and Open Spaces** – 10 October 2022

266/22 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

No questions had been submitted.

267/22 COMMON SEAL

Proposed by **Councillor Fogg** and seconded by **Councillor Barrett-Morton** 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 8.44 pm

Signed: Date:
Town Mayor