

Wiltshire Council was awaiting two actions: Sustrans¹ had been commissioned to provide costs to continue the cycle path as far as Tesco, and plans for a suitable location wide enough to create a cycle path adjacent to a development at the former resource centre in Cherry Orchard (the current path was too narrow). **Councillor Davies** would write to the relevant officer to request an update and reply to Mr Goodwin by email.

CRIME AND DISORDER

Acting Police Sergeant Hardwidge, PC Rideout and PCSO Camilleri from Wiltshire Police attended and introduced themselves as members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and provided an update and answered questions including:

- Investigations ongoing into shoplifting
- Action being taken to address antisocial behaviour affecting residents at The Acres, how calls to 999 or 101 were handled when they related to the area in terms of response and increased patrols
- That CCTV footage was very helpful but some of the town cameras appeared not to be working
- Two officers were scheduled to inspect the area near the salt depot the following day (8 November) (mentioned during public question time)
- Locations for community Speedwatch
- An offer to set up a meeting between the Mayor, Town Clerk, Acting Sgt Hardwidge and the Traffic Team to discuss how to restart the residents Community Speedwatch team
- A new scheme to offer free kits to victims of burglary so they could mark replacement items with DNA 'smart markers', registered free online. Together with window stickers this was an effort to help victims reduce the risk of being targeted again when they replaced lost items. Kits would also be available to anyone to purchase. Information about this could be made available to share on the Town Council website
- The structure of the Neighbourhood Policing team and current staffing levels (it was under-resourced): the next rounds of intake were expected March-May 2023 but numbers for the area team were not known
- Advice on signs to look for in children and young adults that might indicate involvement with county lines drug gangs, and an invitation for the Police to visit a Youth Club session

The Police Officers left the meeting

QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS

There were no questions but the **Town Mayor** took the opportunity to thank **Councillors Davies, Thomas and Cleasby** for their assistance with a housing issue.

243/22 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from **Councillors Loosmore, Barrett-Morton, Heath, Waltham and Thomas**.

¹ Sustrans, a charity, is custodian of the National Cycle Network including the old railway path

244/22 DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations.

245/22 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members were reminded about upcoming events:

- Armistice Day on 11 November – attending Councillors to begin robing at 10.35 am
- Remembrance Sunday on 13 November – robing at 9.30 am
- Christmas Lights Switch-on – Friday 18 November.

The Mayor thanked the **Assistant Town Clerk, Office Manager** and the office staff for their work in organising events.

246/22 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held 3 October 2022 were approved as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor

247/22 ACTION LOG

Members noted the updated action log. Updates and discussion points included:

#95: Arrange a meeting between MTC/Police/Aster re ASB at The Acres: the **Town Clerk** had been informed that a meeting to discuss a live issue was not possible. However an inaugural Community Support Partnership meeting had taken place the previous week attended by police officers, the ASB co-ordinator from Aster Group, Wiltshire Council's Community Engagement Manager and a Councillor from Savernake Parish Council. It was hoped to hold these meetings twice a year. He was also aware that there are partnership ASBRAC meetings held at which it could be useful for him to attend as a representative of the Council.

There was still general agreement that a meeting should take place with Homes4Wiltshire and Aster Group to discuss the issues created by the ongoing sale of social housing stock in the town which was continually reducing supply for local families. **Councillor Cleasby** had been sent documentation relating to the contractual relationship between Aster Group and Homes4Wiltshire but had not had time to go through it: she appealed to Councillors to help read through it.

ACTION: Cllr Sheppard to email PCC to seek a view on whether local Clerks could be involved in ASBRAC meetings

248/22 SAVERNAKE EXPLOSION MEMORIAL

During a suspension of Standing Orders, Col. Ed Newman, Alan Tindale, Roddy Millar and other members of the project group gave a short presentation about the 2 January 1946 explosion and a proposed memorial to commemorate the gallantry of those involved in preventing a wider-scale disaster, and the 8 people who lost their lives.

- The memorial would consist of a Portland Stone tablet on a Sarsen Stone base, to be placed at High Walls on New Road

- The group was half way to raising the funds, and thanked the Finance & Policy Committee for recently awarding a heritage grant of £1,500 towards it
- Wiltshire Council had already given permission for the memorial subject to agreement by Marlborough Town Council
- A proposed unveiling date of St George's Day, 2023
- Options/ideas for an unveiling event and guest list

RESOLVED: that Marlborough Town Council supports the project to create a memorial for the 1946 Savernake Explosion, and authorises the installation at High Walls in New Road

249/22 JUBILEE CENTRE

RESOLVED: (i) to add the Jubilee Centre to the list of Outside Body organisations for Councillor representation

RESOLVED: (ii) that **Councillor Waltham** will be the Town Council representative to the Jubilee Centre for 2022-23

Members of the public left the meeting

250/22 TOWN SIGNAGE PLAN

Members noted the Tourism Officer's report and considered a proposal to allocate funding to support the implementation of new signage for the town. Discussion points included:

- That high quality signs would create an improved visitor experience and should last a longer time
- That the more traditional, high-quality signs were more in keeping with listed buildings and conservation areas
- To consider insuring the signs
- To continue negotiations on price for bulk sign orders
- A recent survey conducted by the Town Centre Working Party had identified a need for improved signage
- That the project met the criteria to receive CIL funds
- Whether local businesses could be approached to be involved in the project

RESOLVED: to request the Finance & Policy Committee to seek to identify £46K in the 2023-24 budget to support implementation of the Town Signage plan

251/22 COST OF LIVING

Councillor Cleasby reported on a positive meeting held 2 November, where the town was very well represented by many groups. Preparations for warm spaces were under way at St Peter's, which would be open every day, and Marlborough Library and more offers were coming forward. While it wasn't clear yet exactly what would be needed, groups were standing by and making plans in readiness. Minutes of the meeting were available upon request. Specific points included:

- A potential grant from the Area Board to provide facilitation
- A toy collection had met a good response

- The **Mayor** would be at Tesco on 20 and 27 November and 16 December to collect items for a food bank for the elderly and vulnerable and could provide a list of what items were required. Marlborough College was donating food and students were helping with posters. Any further ideas of ways to help the elderly at Christmas would be welcome – it was suggested that the Jubilee Centre might be able to provide advice
- The Mayor would set up a collection point at the Marlborough Community and Youth Centre for families to collect toys and food
- There had been an increase in people using both the Community Fridge and Marlborough Kids Meals
- An upcoming event at Rick Stein to support Marlborough Kids Meals

252/22 TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT AND APPRAISAL POLICY

RESOLVED: that the Training, Development and Appraisal Policy is adopted

253/22 OUTSIDE BODY REPORTS

Councillor Fogg hoped that a copy of a recent film about the Vicar’s Library, made by a filmmaker with local roots, would be offered to the Town Council. (The Vicar’s Library is a collection of 237 books bequeathed to the town by Rev William White in 1678 for the use by the Vicar of St Marys and under the trusteeship of the Mayor and Corporation of Marlborough. There are some extremely rare volumes housed there, all contained in individual moisture proof boxes and kept in a temperature-controlled room. Marlborough Town Council gave the collection to the Bodleian Library Oxford on permanent loan in 1985. Each Mayor as trustee of the collection is free to visit and inspect)

Councillor Fogg informed Members that Swindon 105.5 Community Radio had found a suitable site and submitted an application for a transmitter to be erected, so it was hoped that Marlborough would soon benefit from a community radio service. He would be attending another meeting soon and hoped to be able to organise a presentation to the Town Council.

The Town Mayor was in touch with Kennet and Avon Medical Partnership (KAMP) and hoped that a meeting could soon be arranged – Members were invited to send her questions or comments. The **Town Clerk** had invited a representative from KAMP to present to Full Council in January 2023.

Councillor Shantry had attended a videoconference meeting of the Patients Participation Group and was concerned that KAMP was unaware of perceived issues for the general public.

254/22 COMMITTEE MINUTES

In accordance with para 3.1 of the Scheme of Delegation, Members noted the approved minutes of the following committee meetings: **Planning** – 5 and 26 September 2022; **Amenities & Open Spaces** – 11 July 2022; **Finance & Policy** – 18 July and 1 August 2022 and **Property** – 4 July 2022

255/22 MEMBERS’ QUESTION TIME

No questions had been submitted.

256/22 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 commercial or confidential nature of the business to be transacted

Mr Goodwin left the meeting

257/22 GREAT WEST WAY

Members discussed Great West Way Membership and instructed the Town Clerk accordingly.

258/22 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 8.51 pm

Signed:

Town Mayor

Date: