



communication and audibility at meetings for members, officers and members of the public in attendance. There is an item on tonight's agenda to discuss and resolve that very issue.

### **CRIME AND DISORDER**

There was no representation from **Wiltshire Police** in attendance. It was noted however that at the previous meeting, lots of questions were asked and taken away by the PC in attendance.

**ACTION:** The **Town Clerk** to follow up and seek responses to previously posed questions.

### **QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS**

**Councillor Cleasby** raised a question regarding Wiltshire Council's contracts with housing associations (Aster in particular). Councillor Thomas confirmed that she has been unable to obtain an answer at present but will persist. She has logged a formal complaint to Aster Housing Association for their lack of response (bar emails promising a response) and put a request in to the cabinet member for housing for a response.

**Councillor Hall** asked a couple of questions of **Councillor Clewer** in relation to neighbourhood planning; the lack of a five-year land supply and the unachievable 2-year target for reviewing plans. **Councillor Clewer** responded, as frustrated as **Councillor Hall** with the ever-changing requirements around the five-year land supply, which currently sits around 4.7 years. A large development in the Trowbridge area took two long years to come forward (now being developed) and this has had an impact on the demonstrable supply. He is hopeful that when the supply is recalculated later this year, Wiltshire Council will have its five-year land supply confirmed. He understands the frustrations around the requirement for plans to be reviewed after 2 years and the volume work required. It is hoped that the planning bill, coming soon (or a ministerial decision), will look to address this. In an ideal world, neighbourhood plans would be aligned with local plans in terms of timeframe and revisions.

The **Mayor** stated that the Library is set to open soon and wondered if any of the unitary councillors knew what the opening hours might be going forward. **Councillor Davies** to find out and report back.

184/21

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from **Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Farrell, Councillors Hillier, Loosmore and Ross.**

185/21

### **DECLARATIONS**

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

186/21

### **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Marlborough in Bloom judging day took place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July on a beautiful sunny day. The judge was very impressed, not just with our floral displays but the town in general, and he promises to return. The results will be announced at presentation day, in Weston-Super-Mare on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021. If any councillors wish to attend this event, please contact the **Assistant Town Clerk** who can organise tickets. Unfortunately, the **Mayor** is unable to attend as he is involved in the 4MI Freedom Parade through the town that same day.

187/21

### **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman

188/21

### **ACTIONS UPDATE**

**Councillor Fogg** asked for a Twinning Working Party meeting to be convened asap.

Members noted the remainder of the updates.

189/21

### **REQUEST FOR A CLOTHING BANK AT THE COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE**

Member discussed the request and whilst they fully supported the proposal, they would rather that a parking space is not taken up for this purpose. The car park is relatively small, and all of the spaces are required when the facility is in full use.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the request for the siting of a clothing bank, by Recycling Solutions on behalf of Wiltshire Air Ambulance at the Community & Youth Centre, in an alternative location other than a parking bay, on a three-month trial.

190/21

#### **FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF CATG REQUESTS**

Members discussed the Manton 5 Point Safety Scheme and a recent request submitted by the **Town Clerk** to the Wiltshire Council CATG officer seeking advice on whether it would be a suitable project for the Substantive Highways Scheme Fund. Unfortunately, the **Town Clerk** has not yet received a response, so no further update on this could be provided, however members were made aware that any works accepted as part of this scheme may require a contribution from the town council or another party. If we had a view from Wiltshire Council as to the estimated cost of such a project, the town council would be in a better position to make an informed decision on the level of contribution required. Members may wish to await this information so that a balanced decision can be made.

**Councillor Davies** confirmed that only fully worked up (and costed) schemes can be taken forward for consideration and so at this time, the Manton 5 Point Safety Scheme would not be deemed suitable. NB. The closing date for applications is 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

**Councillor Davies** had submitted by email two CATG requests for consideration at this evening's meeting however, she remains unsure of the correct process for the handling of these requests. **The Mayor** confirmed that currently CATG requests are submitted by members for consideration at the Planning Committee. If it is felt that Full Council is a preferred forum for these discussions, so that approval for proposals and funding contributions can be agreed in advance, then the existing process could be revised, to make the ongoing applications to CATG smoother. It was suggested that this could be raised for discussion at the next visioning workshop which is being held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

It was noted that there are already 3 x substantive proposals sitting with CATG, to include safe crossings at the High Street and on Port Hill and these should remain for consideration.

**Councillor Allen** gave some background to a proposal put forward for a safe crossing on the High St, with specific consideration given to usage by those with visual impairment, however the suggestion that came back from Wiltshire Council at that time, did not take this aspect into consideration. **Councillor Allen** requested and received permission from council to take this issue back up at CATG to ask for some revisions to this design.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- **The Town Clerk** to contact Manton residents with an update on the 5 Point Safety Scheme application to the Substantive Highways Scheme Fund
- The process for CATG requests is raised and discussed at the forthcoming visioning workshop on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
- **Councillor Allen** to go back to CATG at the next meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to seek a revision to the design submitted by Wiltshire Council for the safe crossing on the High Street

191/21

#### **ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR STONEBRIDGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

#### **RESOLVED:**

- **Councillor Waltham** is elected as representative on the Stonebridge Management Committee.

- **Councillor Heath** is elected as interim representative on the Allotment Association, until another Councillor can take up the role on a permanent basis.

#### 192/21 COMMITTEE MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** that in accordance with para 3.1 of the Scheme of Delegation, the following approved minutes of committee meetings were noted: **Planning** – 5<sup>th</sup> July, 26<sup>th</sup> July & 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021, **Property** – 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and **Amenities and Open Spaces** – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

In addition, members wished to note the issues raised by Neil Goodwin on the accuracy of the minutes of the Planning Committee minutes meeting held 5 July 2021 (Min. No. 108/21) which will be addressed by the **Town Clerk**.

#### 193/21 MEMBER'S QUESTION TIME

**Councillor Thomas** raised a question, previously to the Town Clerk with a request for a review of our Speed Indicator Device (SID) and the current process in place for its deployment and rotation. The **Assistant Town Clerk** confirmed that she is working with the **Town Clerk** on a report for a future agenda, as requested.

#### 194/21 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 about to be transacted.

*Mr Goodwin and Councillor Clewer left the room.*

#### 195/21 MICROPHONE SYSTEM FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

The **Town Clerk's** report was discussed, and the following points/questions raised:

- It was noted that any system purchased could be used as part of a hire package for users of town council venues, to recover costs.
- Any new system could be used for future civic events, such as Mayor Making etc.
- A wireless system would be preferable to a cabled system.
- There is a requirement for this new system to be able to interface with the existing sound system in the Assembly Room.
- Can the cost be justified for the length of time this equipment maybe required?
- Clear & effective communication in meetings is a fundamental part of democracy.
- Whilst some members were keen for meetings to return to the Council Chamber as soon as possible, negating the need for this equipment long-term, some members would prefer to continue meeting in the Assembly Room, with it's space and good ventilation.
- Could we approach someone local, in the town, who could give some guidance going forward as technology moves very quickly.
- There are portable PA systems on the market for less than £100, worth investigating – even if for public participation only.
- We have two portable wireless systems at the MC&YC which could be trialled for suitability, until a permanent solution can be found.
- At recent meetings, resolutions have been typed up and displayed on the large screen before voting takes place. A useful resource, especially with the existing poor acoustics, to ensure all members understand the proposal being voted on, which should become standard practice in all meetings. It was noted however that due to staff holiday and sickness, this was not possible for this evening's meeting.

**RESOLVED:** that neither quotation on the report were suitable, that alternative, more cost effective solutions need to be investigated and existing equipment trialled for its suitability before a decision is made.

#### 196/21 COMMON SEAL

It was proposed by **Councillor Fogg**, seconded by **Councillor Barrett-Morton** and

**RESOLVED:** that the common seal of Marlborough Town Council be affixed to all documents necessary to give the effect to the decisions of the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.01 pm

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