

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting (All Electors) held in the Assembly Room Malmesbury on Tuesday 12th April 2011 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, Councillor P J Goldstone
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor S Cox
Councillors: W G Blake, A Carnegie, Mrs J Cavendish, Mrs C C Doody, I Henderson, J R Lawton, Mrs R Miles, R F Sanderson, M H Snell, A Stamp, C M Vernon and A C R Woodcock

APOLOGIES: Councillors: S Killane, J E F Poole. Two members of the public – James York Moore and Dave Witt had also asked that their apologies be noted.

IN ATTENDANCE: Sgt M Alvis (Wiltshire Constabulary), one member of the press and approximately 35 members of the public

MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

His Worship the Mayor, Councillor P J Goldstone welcomed fellow councillors, and members of the public to the Annual Town Meeting (All Electors).

1 MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING ALL ELECTORS 2010

The minutes from the meeting held on 13th April 2010 were noted. Ahead of the meeting, a member of the public had mentioned that issues regarding salary costs had not been covered in the minutes and the omission had been dealt with the enquirer

It was also noted that Cllr Thomson's name had been spelt incorrectly.

2 PRESENTATION BY SGT MARTIN ALVIS

Unfortunately, Sgt Alvis was delayed by a crime incident and thus gave his presentation later in the meeting. Below is the written copy of the presentation.

It gives me great pleasure as the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant to present this report to Malmesbury Town Council on the Policing contribution to the community over the past year.

I will start by saying Policing a Community like Malmesbury is a pleasure for my team and I. We live in an area where crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB) is very low compared with other areas of the country. However we know that it can be the small matters that cause a lot of alarm to people and that is why the team has worked very closely with the community to resolve the issues. As a thriving and vibrant community we very much rely on the people to be our ears and eyes and report information to us so we can take appropriate action. Over the past year this has been exactly what has happened and it is because of this we are able to make a difference to make this a better place to live, work and visit.

Anti social behaviour (ASB)

We are a diverse Community and people will have different needs and demands, there will be areas where people's life styles will conflict with each other. Our job is to ensure that people can go about their business in a normal manner without causing alarm and harassment to others. One of the main areas of concern a couple of years ago was the Station yard car park; this continued to be so for

some time. However over the last year following a lot of work involving our partners, calls to the area have greatly reduced. We do get some calls; being realistic we will never eradicate ASB forever. However what we can do is educate, enforce and engineer the issues out, this being the case for the car park. I would now actively encourage the community to use the car park at night, a time when we can see that parking in the town is at a premium.

Sgt Alvis took questions at this stage and informed us that the 20% reduction in budgets should not affect the front line police presence but improvements in business and back office operations will be made to increase efficiency and reduce costs.

Later on mention is made of an information leak within the council and he confirmed that the police had not been asked to investigate.

Licensed premises

We know from history and statistics that alcohol is a major contributing factor towards violent crime. I am determined to ensure that any premises that has the privilege of selling intoxicating liquor does so within the letter of the law. If this cannot be achieved it is my job to ensure swift and effective action is taken against the perpetrators and if relevant, present the evidence to the appropriate authority. I am very pleased to report that we have a good relationship with the licensees of the town. Violent crime associated with licensed premises is very low. A different story from when I attended a council meeting a few years ago. Again as with ASB we will never stop everything, but we are determined that alcohol will not be an excuse for poor behaviour. The team and I will continue to visit premises and work closely with licensees to achieve this.

Partnership working

As I mentioned, partnership working is very much the way in which your Neighbourhood Police team works. This is not just a partnership with the Community but with our statutory agencies as well. One of these that deserve praise is Westlea Housing. We have continued to work closely with them throughout the past year. This has involved the use of anti social behaviour contracts and civil injunctions. The disruption that a household can cause to a close or street can have a huge detrimental effect on the other residents. Westlea, Wiltshire Council and the Police are very keen to work with occupants to sign post them for support and educate them to live in harmony with the rest of the area. Unfortunately this is not always possible and residents fail to take on board the consequences of their actions. Following on from two evictions the previous year I am pleased to report that normality has been resolved in the streets concerned people have enjoyed a trouble free past year.

To conclude my team and I will continue to Police your community according to your needs, we very much want to hear from you on how we can improve your area and welcome contact from anyone.

3. STANDING COMMITTEES – CHAIRMAN’S REPORTS 2010-2011

3.1 Planning & Environment Issues Committee – Councillor R Sanderson

Below is the written copy of the presentation

Introduction

During the last year we have considered 91 plans which was a significant drop compared to the previous year when 154 were considered. The committee

continues to meet every three weeks and along with the planning applications, we have considered the following:-

Community Speed Watch

This now is at the final stages of being implemented with three roads being identified as speed risks. These are Whychurch Hill, Bristol Road, and the Sherston Road. All the areas have been risk assessed by Wiltshire Police. We have a number of volunteers who are prepared to be trained to use the speed equipment, and record the information gathered. We are awaiting dates for training from the Police.

Flooding

Recently I attended a seminar organised by the Environmental Agency, with the sole propose of developing a flood plan for the town. Two committee meetings ago we resolved to have a working group to look at the overall flood problems within the town, from rising rivers, blocked drains and gullies and water overflow. Once the findings have been concluded a flood plan document will be produced. Copies will be given to people at most risk (e.g. St Johns Street area).

CCTV

All three cameras are operating now, having had a major problem with one when the supply surged up to 500 volts, costing £1500 + to repair. We are investigating the possibility of claiming back the costs. We are hoping that the cameras will be monitored by volunteers on Friday and Saturdays when the Town Hall is open. These cameras have proved a success with crime reduction in certain areas.

Street Furniture

You will have noticed that our staff particularly Shaun and Graham have over the past few months been around the town painting litter bins and other street furniture, ready for the influx of tourists and visitors to our town. I would like to place on record the Council's thanks to them both. Often they go beyond the call of duty.

Bollards in Lower High Street

Having consulted with the residents of this area, we have developed a scheme to replace the bollards that were either knocked down or were no longer fit for service. The scheme has been approved by Wiltshire Councils Highway Department, and we are waiting their installing them.

Parking

This is still a major problem for the town, not only the town centre but also in residential areas. We have as a Town Council objected to the Off Street Traffic Regulations Order for Wiltshire. The proposed parking fee increase was opposed by a large number of residents, shop workers and traders, including the Chamber of Commerce along with this council. There were 28 letters of objection, compared with seven from Devizes, two from Marlborough, nine from Salisbury. The majority of the Town Councils in Wiltshire objected to the increases. Yet Wiltshire Council still approved the new charges with minor amendments. This is a great disappointment. Various sites around the town have been investigated as possible car parking areas but the only one for various reasons being pursued is the grass area at Hudson Road.

The Parking Enforcement Officers are working a more flexible working pattern, with teams on the streets early morning and late into the evening, resulting in owners being ticketed for parking on double yellow lines. It is a pity that they cannot ticket a vehicle causing an obstruction. We will continue to investigate additional car parking.

Environmental Issues

We have considered a large number of Environmental Issues including the proposed fortnightly waste collections, the erection and construction of new bus shelters. We are soon to have a solar panelled bus shelter in Corn Gastons. Consideration has been given to the Local Transport Plan, and the proposed changes to three town bus services, which only affects one route.

Street Light Reduction

Thanks to Cllr. Andy Stamp we were party to a plan to reduce the number of street lights on between midnight and 6.00am by 50% in the Western Side of the Town (i.e. Parklands and White Lion Park). This project is now on hold, because of the lack of funding, the £5000 set aside by Wiltshire Council through M&VCAP has been used in the villages like Sherston and Luckington. We are hoping to resurrect it next year.

The Proposed Eilmer Bridge

I know this Committee and Town Council were very disappointed when the proposed Eilmer Bridge plan fell at the final post through the rejection of the Performance Award Grant. I would on behalf of the Council thank Rob Mackie and the residents of Gloucester Road for their hard work in thinking and planning a much needed bridge. Let's hope all the efforts are not wasted, and we can resurrect it at a later date although the hike in parking charges in the long stay car park has proved somewhat of a disincentive for Rob and his colleagues as these increases will only incentivise motorists to park elsewhere.

We have also consulted with Wiltshire Council over the design of the Staines Bridge.

Last but not least.

Meetings with proposed Developers of various sites in and around Malmesbury

With the full approval of Malmesbury Town Council, following discussion at this committee on 25 January 2011 (full council adopted the minutes of this meeting on 15 March 2011) a working group from this committee was set up to invite a number of developers to seek from them as an information gathering exercise their intentions relating to the further expansion of our town. We have met with those concerned with the two sites in Park Road, and Gleeson with regards to West Filands. The four of us outlined in no uncertain terms, the strong objections of the residents and organisations within the town, about further development, until the infrastructure has been improved, namely roads, sewer system and of a greater importance the schooling. Yes this has gone against the grain with a number of organisations and residents, who are mostly members of those organisations.

We have been accused of not being transparent, I personally object to that. Yes we were late in getting out the notes of our first two meetings. This was due to greatly increased pressures within the Town Hall through holidays and sickness.

It is normal practice for Councils including Wiltshire to have meetings with people without the general public knowing. I am convinced that if these meetings had been held on a different topic like say CCTV the public would not have cared.

I am going to make one apology and that is to say sorry to Malmesbury St Pauls without Parish Council for not informing them of the meeting we held with Mr. Andy Nurden.

Finally can I thank my Committee for their support and hard work during the last year.

3.2 Joint Burial Committee – Councillor W Blake

Below is the written copy of the presentation:

The joint burial committee is a statutory body authorised to care for our Tetbury Hill cemetery and empowered to raise its own funding or precept to give it its proper name. It is staffed by an equal number of elected councillors from St Paul's Without and Malmesbury Town Council.

Administration and cemetery maintenance is carried out by staff from Malmesbury Town Council via a type of contract we place with them called a service level agreement.

We have had what I regard as a normal year. The extensive grass area has again been strimmed and cut and the yew trees trimmed. Observant individuals will also have noticed that the perimeter hedge especially that adjacent to Tetbury Hill Gardens has recently been reduced in height to make future hedge cutting easier and less costly. Much needed improvements have also been approved and are being implemented to the interior of the cemetery lodge. And we have held the precept for the new council year to what it was last year. No increase.

Also and in the interests of enhancing the local environment the committee has made a decision to set aside part of the cemetery for encouraging the growth of wild flowers and wildlife. This is already common practice in many churchyards.

However there is a very delicate matter which I do need to share with you, and which if I don't, nobody else will. I am referring to the fact that the number of burials is reducing year on year. As much as I dislike having to put this into the cold context of money the precept has to be increased to compensate.

The Wiltshire NHS or PCT as I prefer to refer to them are asking all communities to break the taboo which prevents our discussing end of life care. They are asking us to think about how we wish to be cared for in the last years of our life. To be blunt they are asking us to face up to our mortality and to record our wishes for use by those who are tasked with looking after us.

It is in this very sensitive context that I am asking our community and particularly those of mature years, to give some thought to being buried when the time comes in our cemetery, in the town and surroundings they have grown to love. And if they do to make this known to relatives and in their wills. It is not just the vicar's and funeral director's problem when it happens; it is also ours now. I am sure my wife will not mind me sharing with you the fact that we have already made our decision. We want to be buried in the cemetery but of course hope this will not be soon.

And one final point which is that burial is so much more natural and environmentally friendly than cremation. It was a persuasive point in making this choice.

This brings me to an associated problem. We have a rather nice looking cemetery chapel which is rarely if ever used. What are we to do with it? It costs money to keep it up together. The committee has been grappling with this matter for several years and are reluctant to come to a conclusion. Its intended use is obvious, but it could of course be used for other activities. Alternatively we could advertise it for sale in the hope that a rich American might want to buy it. But seriously, it is part of our heritage and therefore what should be done with it? You the community might like to ponder this and let us have your ideas.

That brings me to the end and I am sure you will understand if I tell you that I make no apologies for the delicate matter I have felt it necessary to put before you. Thank you for listening and for your attention.

3.3 Town Promotion and Tourism Committee – Councillor Mrs C C Doody

Cllr Doody introduced her presentation by thanking a small army of helpers plus Anne Durrant for the assistance both she and the committee had received over the past year.

Below is the written copy of the presentation:

Projects 2010/2011

1. Bloom in Malmesbury
2. Malmesbury Town Guide Publication
3. Reprint of Malmesbury Walkers Guide
4. Update and reprint of the Walks in Malmesbury Publication
5. Business Boards – used for Eilmer events and cinema

Events 2010/2011

- **St Aldhelm's Day Fair** – an ancient fair held yearly in the Market Cross area. An opportunity for charities and local traders to highlight their organisation.
- **Italian Market** – organised by Wiltshire Council with joint local marketing through Malmesbury Tourist Information Centre.
- **French Market** – a two day event held annually in the Market Cross area.
- **Farmers Market** – held every second and fourth Saturday in the month around the Market Cross area. Stall can vary in number due to some of the produce being seasonal.
- **Presentation Evening for Bloom in Malmesbury** – award evening for winners and runners-up in the category of street/area location.
- **Eilmer Events 2010** – Malmesbury Town Council working with partners to celebrate the 1000th anniversary of Eilmer flying from Malmesbury Abbey.
- **Airborne** – a poetry book, produced from a competition for all ages working together with Malmesbury Library Caroline Kennedy and Sue Chadd. Sponsors : Cotswold Airport and Malmesbury Carnival.
- **Flying Machines** – a project held through Malmesbury School, Barry Gustard and Dale Thompson. Sponsors: Warden & Freeman of Malmesbury.
- **Hidden Malmesbury Photographic Project** – with an exhibition in Malmesbury School / Malmesbury Library co-ordinated by Bob Browning, Jennifer Gardener and James York-Moore. Sponsors: Civic Trust.
- **Hot Air Balloons Work Shop** local children making hot air balloons assisted by Caroline Kennedy of Malmesbury Library and James York Moore. Sponsors: Rotary Club of the South Cotswolds (Malmesbury & Tetbury).
- **Malmesbury Kite Festival** – working group together with Malmesbury School, Buckley Barracks, Jon Caton, retired Chair of British Kite Organisation.
- **Eilmer Painting** – By Malmesbury Art Society for display on Information Board in the Long Stay Car Park.
- **Eilmer Flags** – for display in Malmesbury High Street etc. Designed by Polly Thacker of Malmesbury School. Sponsors: various Malmesbury Businesses.
- **Eilmer Merchandise** – various items for sale in the Tourist Centre were designed by Ruth Ayers of Malmesbury School.
- **Eilmer Dinner** – Initiated and organised by Councillor Mrs Catherine Doody helped by Mayoral Social Committee. Profits were given towards the cost of the Malmesbury Kite Festival.
- **Malmesbury Embroiderers' Guild** – As part of the Eilmer Celebrations the Guild wanted to do create a permanent display. Presently their work is on display on the

Eilmer Bar. The project was started in 2008 when members Heather Martin and Susan Sutton met with the late John Bowen, then Mayor of Malmesbury and me.

- **Beating of The Bounds** – an ancient event organised by this Committee involving the Mayor of Malmesbury and Churches Together in Malmesbury. Due to the bad weather the event has been cancelled for the last two years.

Tourist Information Centre

Last year we had a total of 15,383 UK visitors and 1,275 overseas visitors. 21345 enquiries 2013 telephone calls 2474 e mails, enquiries, telephone calls and email do not include figures between September and December 2010. Visitor numbers show an increase on previous year.

Figures for the first three months of 2011 already show an increase.

The Tourist Information Centre is pleased to display and sell local produced craft items, pottery, paintings etc.

Staff in the Tourist Information Centre produce a monthly event guide, updated weekly.

Local event posters are displayed on the Information Board within the Tourist Centre.

The Gallery

This is a great success and is booked by artists through to the end of 2012. All who use it think it is a great space.

3.4 Leisure and Youth Committee – Councillor S Cox

Below is the written copy of the presentation:

The Leisure & Youth Committee is empowered to incur expenditure where it has an allocated budget provision. This includes,

- Grounds Maintenance
- Recreation and leisure amenities owned or managed by the Town Council
- The general maintenance of play equipment at all play areas that are managed or owned by the Town Council.

Play areas and Open Spaces:

We monitor local parks and when we can try bring about improvements to them.

- Filands

There has been a delay in the transfer of the ownership of this park from Persimmon Homes/Wiltshire Council. It is anticipated that the equipment for the park will be installed and the park opened in the autumn. The local residents have done much to help in the design and choice of play equipment for the park. Cllr. Killane has been a key figure in progressing this new park

- Reeds Farm

The park continues to be popular with children of the area. However, the football pitch has become very worn and rutted. We would like to make it better by installing a synthetic surface and will put in a bid to the Area Board to try to obtain a grant for this purpose.

- White Lion Park

This is a successful and well used facility.

- **Newnton Grove**

Newnton Grove is not yet adopted by the town council. At present Wiltshire Council have overall financial responsibility. We are awaiting Section 106 funds from the Hawthorn development to provide some new equipment for the park. The wishes of local residents will be included in choosing the new equipment for this play space.

- **St Aldhelm's Mead**

New picnic benches have recently been installed in the park. Two new pieces of play equipment are due to arrive soon – an aerial runway and a large jungle climbing framework. These have been chosen with the intention of appealing to older children. Part of the path, near the playground, which is muddy and uneven, will soon be replaced by a more solid surface.

- **Cuckingstool Mead**

Cuckingstool Mead has been made more accessible by leaving the entry gates open. It was a delight to see it being used for a play during Malmesbury Carnival. New picnic benches have been installed.

Cycle Path:

A cycle path from Malmesbury to Cowbridge is being considered. A full and comprehensive report was produced by Sustrans detailing a proposed scheme. The report estimated the cost of establishing such a path to be in the region of £100,000. However, in these straightened economic times this cost appears unacceptable. Progress on this project has been slow throughout the last 12 months but a meeting is due to take place shortly. The next stage might be to establish a committee of interested parties from Malmesbury and St Paul's without to oversee the project.

Footpaths:

£1200 has been obtained to fund 'The Bridges Trail'. This is to be a new waymarked footpath that connects all the Malmesbury bridges together with an accompanying explanatory leaflet for users of the path. It is hoped that the trail will be launched this August.

A group of local residents, from Malmesbury and Sherston, are currently working together to establish some waymarked routes to and from the source of the River Avon to Malmesbury. A meeting is to be held on 13 April.

YMCA project:

An extensive survey was undertaken to determine the wishes of local youth with regard to leisure facilities in the area. At present the representative of Bath YMCA, Mike Fairbeard, is considering the results. He has asked for information about vacant premises in the town with a view to the *possible* establishment of a 'Youth Café'. Thanks must go to Kim Power for the enormous amount of work she put into interpreting and producing the statistical information obtained from the survey. This led to the comprehensive and detailed report which was recently handed to the YMCA.

Skate Park:

It is anticipated that work will soon start on an extension to the Youth Centre to provide space for a Skate Park. The funding for this comes from Wiltshire Council. and Wiltshire Cllr. John Thomson has been at the forefront of this project. A skate park has been a long held dream Malmesbury Youth for many years. Thanks also are due to Cllr A Carnegie for the work he has put into the project.

3.5 Town Hall Management Committee – Councillor J R Lawton

Below is the written copy of the presentation:

This year we have seen the Town Hall utilisation remain fairly steady with revenues slightly up on last year. This year has also seen the bringing on-board of Louise Arkley, our new Events and Facilities Manager responsible for the day-to-day running of the Town Hall; for improved utilisation and for events planning and management.

Louise has already organized a very successful Wedding Fayre which we hope will generate further bookings for the Town Hall and increase business for local suppliers. Louise is also actively planning a number of events through the year to showcase the Town Hall while at the same time bring you more entertainment.

New and not so new community groups are starting to make bookings and enquiries to use the Town Hall, prompted, no doubt, by our very affordable £5 an hour offer – Monday to Wednesday – 10am to 10pm for up to 3 hours a week.

We have streamlined our pricing policy for the Town Hall making it even simpler for you to work out just what it will cost to hire a hall. If you're interested, you can hire this Hall and bar for 5 hours on a Friday night, for just £125 plus VAT – though if you are a precept payer, you'd get a 20% discount – and don't forget, we have a liquor and entertainment license, so holding a fund raiser with live music, a disco and a bar is no problem, unlike many other local venues.

We are receiving many more enquiries and bookings for private parties and commercial bookings which all help offset the cost to precept payers.

We will finally be in receipt of our wedding and civil service license in the next few weeks from which point we hope to be able to offer couples a complete package for weddings with up to 150 guests.

Our kitchen will shortly be refurbished with better equipment and better ventilation, enabling caterers to more easily prepare meals for 150 guests.

The gallery continues to be very popular, with bookings through to Autumn 2013. While the space is free to hire, we do take a 20% commission on all sales and as such the gallery is providing both a small income and an enjoyable attraction for locals and visitors alike.

The Old School Room has been prepared for commercial letting and we are hopeful that a new tenant will be in occupancy before too long.

And finally the cinema which we brought to Malmesbury Town Hall has proved immensely popular, with sell out audiences to most of our shows. To date we've had 30 screenings with approximately 2200 tickets sold. I'd like to offer a big thank you to our partners in this at White Horse Pictures and also offer a big thank you to our 40 volunteers, who staff the bar, collect tickets and keep the audiences safe.

If you have any questions for me I'd be delighted to try to answer them.

3.6 Policy and Resources Committee – Councillor C M Vernon

Below is the written copy of the presentation:

When the budget for the year was prepared at the end of 2009 it was expected that as much as £30,000 might have to be taken from reserves. Happily this has not been necessary. During the year we spent £429,735 and generated £115,201 of income leaving a balance of £314,534 but £333,224 was received as “Precept” – the tax paid by residents. Therefore our general reserves actually increased by £18,690.

The main areas of expenditure were;

Salaries, pension contributions & National Insurance	£185,063
Subsidy for the Town Hall	£101,751
Refurbishment of Town Hall – Old School Room & kitchen	£29,415

The cost relating to Councillors, the Mayor’s allowance (the only Councillor to receive any expenses) and the ceremonial events including the granting of Freedom of the Town to 9 Supply Regiment totalled £2,834. We are particularly grateful to Wiltshire Council and some suppliers who enabled us to provide an excellent welcome home to the soldiers returning from Afghanistan with just £677 being borne by residents.

For 2011/12 we have kept the precept per house unchanged. However costs are increasing and it is unlikely we will be able to do this again next year.

As it had relevance, at this stage, Cllr Vernon covered points made ahead of the meeting in writing by a resident. We had been asked what portion of the so called S106 £16million outstanding funding had been due to Malmesbury. Cllr Vernon mentioned that there was little due although it was only at this stage that Persimmon’s funding re Filands is being used to build a play area there.

This same resident’s second question concerned warding in the town. The legislation here relates to the Local Government & Rating Act 1997 - this states that electors can request the formation of a Parish Council but warding (if not done at the time of the Council being set up) is carried out as part of the Parish Review process. In view of the North Wiltshire Parish Review 2008, when our request to increase the town's boundaries was refused, it is unlikely that a further opportunity will arise for some years (again Wiltshire Council has said they will not review parish boundaries in the discussion about Neighbourhood Plans).

4. TO CONSIDER HOW THE TOWN OF MALMESBURY MAY CELEBRATE THE QUEEN’S DIAMOND JUBILEE IN JUNE 2012

The Mayor mentioned that these celebrations are due to take place during the first weekend in June and asked for views although no firm ideas were presented at the meeting.

All are encouraged to submit ideas to the town and/or its committees.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORATE OF MALMESBURY ON MATTERS AFFECTING TOWN AFFAIR

- A local resident enquired ahead of the meeting about progress on various suggested developments in Malmesbury and had been provided with a written reply, the details of which were covered anyway in tonight’s meeting. This led to the meeting being told that White Lion Land has just put in outline planning for the

site along Park Road which was subject to a public exhibition and much resistance in 2010. The plans suggest that there will be 77 houses, a commercial building and public open space. The Mayor outlined that once the plans are received we will fight this application vigorously and no doubt that there will be a large audience at the relevant town council planning meeting. The same resident had also mentioned about the so called proposed Waitrose Supermarket at Malmesbury Garden Centre. He was advised that in our discussions with Mr Nurden – the landowner – that no supermarket had been mentioned as this was commercially sensitive information.

- Taking up the same issue in Park Road, another resident questioned our being surprised that an application had been submitted and that meeting the developers was wrong as refusing a meeting would have expressly conveyed the community's hostility. She also felt that the notes of the meeting had not included comments about flooding, sewerage etc whilst some of the comments made by the Environment Agency were factually incorrect. Similarly last week's meeting with Hunter Page had not covered water and sewerage issues whilst the notes of both meetings did not include Section 106 issues. Cllr Sanderson was asked if he had received a copy of the flood risk assessment and he felt he had not although Cllr Vernon said one had been presented at the meeting with White Lion Land. However some weeks after the meeting, whilst Cllr Sanderson was attending a Flood Risk Assessment seminar, one was made available.
- The meeting was then advised that there are plans for some twenty houses on the old allotment in Park Road next door to the site above and behind White Lion Park. We met the developers (Hannick) and Hunter Page last week and have again advised them strongly that we will resist any application submitted.
- At this stage Cllr Vernon outlined in details the way the planning process is evolving and how developers are trying to influence this when of course it is the "duty" of the town itself to take responsibility along with local residents, town council, interested organisations etc in developing a strategy for the future.
- Another resident felt that the way the council has dealt with developers was done in a secretive and underhand way without the consent of the council and using his extensive local government knowledge was concerned that perhaps our own standing orders were breached and that an officer should have done the notes of the meetings – which in fact was the case.
- The Mayor freely admitted that on reflection the town council "got it wrong but for the right reasons". Our involvement of those outside the council was not good.
- It was agreed that the Mayor would contact Gleeson and Hannick expressing the views firmly taken this evening regarding their potential developments.
- The Mayor was asked if the identity of the councillor/staff member who had leaked the Nurden proposed development to the press had been discovered. Unfortunately whoever had breached their trust is not known.
- The final question covered the need for fresh employment in the town and whilst we are a net importer of staff (mainly through Dysons) it was recognised that employment should be an important part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

6. Closure of Meeting.

There being no further item of business raised by those attending the meeting the Mayor thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.