

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held in the Hobbes Parlour Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 14th December 2010 commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: His Worship the Mayor, Councillor P J Goldstone
Councillors: W G Blake, S Cox, Mrs C C Doody, J R Lawton, R Sanderson,
M H Snell, C M Vernon and C R Woodcock

In attendance: Councillor Mrs J Cavendish, one member of the press and six members of the public.

Public Question Time

Councillor Cavendish asked that the committee consider providing some degree of financial support for the Malmesbury Development Forum. The Chair replied that this request would be taken into account when the committee reached the appropriate item on the agenda.

.Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

29. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on the 12th October 2010 as circulated, be received and adopted.

Min 22 – Councillor Blake raise the issue of the transfer of the units in Park Road and advised that during a conversation with members of Wiltshire Council it was confirmed that the units were seen as a strategic asset by Wiltshire Council and would not therefore be transferred to the Town Council.

30. Income and Expenditure

The Town Clerk presented a report on the income and expenditure that was circulated as Report No.1. Councillor Blake requested that the trees in Cloister Gardens be examined and any necessary works undertaken. Councillors M H Snell and Mrs C C Doody volunteered to examine the ceremonial hats to ascertain requirements for cleaning or repair. The Planning and Environmental Issues committee had indicated a willingness to provide £2,000 from the Conservation budget to assist in funding the new bridge in the event that Wiltshire Council gives approval. The Policy and Resources committee RESOLVED that the expenditure be approved.

31. Town Council Budget for 2011/2012.

The Chair presented the draft budget for the next financial year and suggested that the Town Hall budget be altered to reflect the potential receipts from cinema ticket sales. It was also proposed and accepted that £2,000 be added into the budget of the Planning Environmental Issues committee for the purposes of strategic planning resulting from the Localism Bill. The alterations suggested resulted in an expenditure level of £371,518. The Town Clerk had previously reported on an increased number of Band D properties and it was agreed to RECOMMEND to the Council that the level of precept be retained at the same per household as for the current financial year with £28,638 being taken from balances if required.

32. Section 137 grant application.

The committee considered the request from St John's Ambulance and RESOLVED to provide a grant of £100 towards the project of purchasing new vehicles.

33. Closure of Town Council Offices Christmas 2010

The Town Clerk presented a report on options for closure over the Christmas holiday period and it was RESOLVED that the offices would close at 5.00pm on Thursday 23rd December 2010 and reopen on Wednesday 29th December 2010.

34. Discretionary Payments to Pension Scheme

The Town Clerk reported on the requirement to provide an annual policy in respect of those elements of the local government pension scheme whereby the employer has discretion to make certain enhancements. It was RESOLVED that the policy statement submitted by the Town Clerk within the report be adopted as the policy for Malmesbury Town Council.

35. Payment of Value Added Tax

Councillor Vernon presented a report on the underpayment of VAT to HMRC. It was RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be authorised to negotiate with the Internal Auditor to engage his services to ensure that the accounting for VAT is corrected and that systems are put in place to ensure the correct amount of VAT is paid to HMRC.

36. Repair of CCTV

Councillor Sanderson presented his report on the failure of a CCTV camera and the cost of replacement. It was RESOLVED that the replacement camera be purchased together with suitable protection devices and that electricity supplier be approached about the cause of the damage.

37. Future of the Standards Board for England

The Town Clerk presented a report on the proposed abolition of the Standards Board when Royal Assent is given to the Localism Bill later in 2011. The committee noted the report.

38. Exclusion of press and public

It was proposed and duly seconded and RESOLVED that members of the press and public be excluded for the next item on the agenda in view of the commercial nature of the subject under discussion.

39. Suspension of fees

The Town Clerk presented a request received from a commercial organisation that fees imposed by the Town Council be suspended for a limited period. It was RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be authorised to enter into discussions with the operator and subject to a suitable recovery plan being produced the fees be suspended until the end of March 2011.

The meeting closed at 21.10 hrs.