

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in the Meeting Room, Fire Station, Malmesbury on Tuesday 11th March 2008 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, Councillor J R Lawton
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor A C R Woodcock
Councillors: W G Blake, J A Bowen, B Denley, S Cox, Mrs C C Doody,
P J Goldstone, S Killane, J E F Poole, R F Sanderson,
M H Snell and C M Vernon

APOLOGIES: None received

NON ATTENDANCE: Councillors Mrs A L Davis and M J Thomas.

IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the press.

Prayers were offered by The Deputy Mayor, Councillor A C R Woodcock.

MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- His Worship the Mayor announced that he would be holding a charity event at the Rajah Restaurant in aid of the Mayor's Appeal Fund on 30th March 2008.
- Other charity events would include a concert to take place at the Town Hall on the 30th May 2008 and the Ex Mayor's Ball on the 31st May 2008.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Councillor J A Bowen queried if an invitation to Mayoral Sunday will be sent to the Fire Service with a request for them to escort the Town Mayor to the Abbey. The Town Clerk replied that such an invitation would be considered at the appropriate time.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

57. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 8th January 2008, as circulated, be received and adopted.

Min 45 The Town Clerk reported that a response had been received from County Councillor J Thomson indicating he had requested funding to paint the railings be considered for inclusion in the budget for 2008/9.

58. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Resolved that the minutes of the Planning and Environmental Issues Committee held on the 15th January, 5th and 26th February 2008 be received and adopted.

Min 6(26/2) – The Town Council was informed that North Wiltshire District Council had agreed that parents transporting students to school by motorcar could, by agreement, park in the nearest public car park free of charge for a limited period. The Town Clerk to contact the District Council to request that schools be reminded of this option.

59. MINUTES OF THE TOWN PROMOTION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

Resolved that the minutes of the Town Promotion and Tourism Committee meeting held on the 7th February 2008 be received and adopted.

Min 80 - Production of the 2008 calendar attracted a grant to assist with printing costs. The Mayor expressed surprise that members had stated they had not seen the new site when links and information had been sent to all members of the Town Council.

Min 81 - The committee had resolved not to enter the South West in Bloom competition for 2008.

Min 84 - Letters had been sent to all traders about Fairtrade and the application form for the award of Fairtrade Status will shortly be submitted.

60. MINUTES OF THE JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE

Resolved that the minutes of the Joint Burial Committee meeting held on the 11th February 2008 be received and noted.

61. MINUTES OF THE LEISURE AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

Resolved that the Minutes of the Leisure & Youth Committee meeting held on the 10th January and 21st February 2008 be received and adopted.

Min 39 - Councillor W Blake requested information about progress with Cloister Gardens and the Town Clerk replied that he would receive a written response. Councillor Snell commented upon the clearance work undertaken both at Cloister Gardens and St Aldhelm's Mead and the Mayor requested that the team be complimented upon their hard work.

Min 50 - The Town Council was advised that the Youth Centre would not be operating when the Youth Cafe was open.

Min 52 - A meeting would be held with the Action for Children on Reeds Farm to discuss the play facilities for the area.

62. MINUTES OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Resolved that the Minutes of the Selection Committee meeting held on the 12th February (reconvened on the 20th February 2008) be received and adopted.

Min 01 - It was unanimously agreed that Councillor A C R Woodcock be elected Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2008/9.

Min 02 - It was unanimously agreed that Councillor Mrs C C Doody be elected Deputy Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2008/9.

Min 03 - The membership of Standing Committees for the Civic Year 2008/9 as proposed by the Selection Committee was agreed subject to Councillor P J Goldstone being included on the Town Promotion and Tourism Committee and not on the Leisure and Youth Committee.

It was also agreed that the membership of Outside Bodies for 2008/9 would be as recommended by the Selection Committee.

63. MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Resolved that the Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 27th February 2008 be received and adopted.

Min 35 - Councillor C M Vernon presented the recommendations from the Policy and Resources Committee and it was unanimously resolved that all approved users of the Market Cross be subject to a £5 daily fee. It was also resolved by a majority vote that a £1 handling fee be added to all transactions for tickets purchased through the Town Council Offices and an additional payment of £1 per transaction for use of a debit/credit card when the facility becomes available.

Min 36- Councillor C M Vernon presented the recommendations from the Policy and Resources Committee and it was unanimously agreed that no further consideration be given to the transfer of ownership of the Newnton Grove Play Area until such time as all outstanding issues had been satisfactorily resolved. It was also resolved that the Town Council would take over the responsibility for the proposed play area on Reeds Farm subject to £5,000 of the project cost being set aside for future maintenance

Min 37 – His Worship the Mayor reported on the Town Hall Project and advised the Town Council that the offices would be ready by the end of March and the new Tourist Information Centre completed a few weeks later. The Commercial Letting Agent had advised that interest had been expressed in the ground floor accommodation and the Council agreed the choice of suitable tenant be determined by the Chair of the Town Hall Project Board, Chair of Policy and Resources Committee and the Town Clerk. Councillor Bowen suggested that previous Town Mayors and Chairs of Committees may wish to consider sponsoring a new chair for the Council Chamber.

64. REPORT OF THE ACCOUNTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Councillor C M Vernon, Chair of Policy and Resources Committee reported that the Accounts Sub-Committee had met earlier to examine the accounts that were found to be in order.

65. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor C M Vernon reported on the latest meeting of Wiltshire Association of Local Councils where Dr Robinson, Chief Executive of Wiltshire County Council had spoken about the proposals for Area Boards and the possibility of devolving functions to Town and Parish Councils. The Deputy Leader of the County Council would be invited to a future meeting of the Town Council to discuss the progress being made in the transfer to Unitary Status.

Councillor Mrs C C Doody attended a recent Transport Meeting and advised the Town Council that new bus timetables would commence soon and that easy access buses would be introduced over the summer.

Councillor R F Sanderson advised that following the recent acts of anti-social behaviour in the town centre a multi agency meeting would be held after the bank holiday.

Councillor A C R Woodcock advised that he would be attending the meeting of ASPIRE to be held on the 12th March 2008.

66. CORRESPONDENCE

His Worship the Mayor advised the Town Council that he had received an offer of grant from Westlea Housing Association Community Improvement Fund to assist in the refurbishment of the Market Room kitchen. He had also received an enquiry about the availability of ambulances within Malmesbury.

The Town Clerk advised that a letter of resignation from the office of Town Councillor had been received from Miss E A Davis.

67. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions

Meeting closed at 21.25 hrs.