

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting (All Electors) held in the Assembly Room Malmesbury on Tuesday 14th April 2009 at 7.00pm.

- PRESENT:** His Worship the Mayor, Councillor A C R Woodcock
The Deputy Mayor, Mrs C C Doody,
Councillors: W G Blake, S Cox, P J Goldstone, J R Lawton,
J E F Poole, R F Sanderson, M H Snell and
C M Vernon
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors: A Carnegie, P Dove, S Killane, A Stamp and
M J Thomas
- NON ATTENDANCE:** Councillors J A Bowen.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Three members of the Police force and three members of
the public.

MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

His Worship the Mayor, Councillor A C R Woodcock welcomed fellow councillors, the representatives of the Police force and members of the public to the Annual Town Meeting (All Electors)

He presented a brief report on the highlights of the last Civic Year and paid tribute to former Councillors B Denley and J Toogood who had both completed over 40 years of service to the town. A welcome was extended to the new Councillors who had recently been co-opted to the Town Council and staff and Councillors were thanked for their work over the last year.

90 MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING ALL ELECTORS 2008

The minutes from the meeting held on 15th April 2008 were noted.

91 PRESENTATION BY POLICE SERGEANT MARTIN ALVIS

Police Sergeant Martin Alvis introduced members of his team and provided a brief report on the issues impacting upon Malmesbury over the last year. He made reference to statistics indicating that whilst crime is falling the fear of crime is on the increase. Considerable debate ensued about the alleged anti-social behaviour issues involving nuisance from vehicles in Station Yard Car Park and travelling along Gloucester Street. Sergeant Alvis explained the powers available to the Police and that any solution would need the cooperation and involvement of a number of agencies.

Questions were raised by a member of the public about the operation of the Closed Circuit Television Cameras. Sergeant Alvis responded that the system had proved very useful in providing evidence, especially involving violent crime. Arrangements were in hand to move the monitoring facility to the Police Station and volunteers were being recruited to monitor the cameras at peak times.

A member of the public thanked the Police for the sensitive manner in which they were approaching the issues over vehicle nuisance.

Sergeant Alvis informed the meeting that since the decriminalisation of parking the parking in Market Lane was no longer a Police issue. However, he indicated that if an obstruction was caused and the Police notified at the time then there would be a response subject to staff being available.

His Worship the Mayor thanked Sergeant Alvis for his attendance and presentation and on behalf of the Town Council thanked him and his team for their work over the last year.

92 ISSUES FROM THE PUBLIC

A member of the public enquired about the method used for publicising the Annual meeting drew the Council's attention to the printing error on the timetable of meetings indicating that the Annual Meeting would be held on the 15th April and not the 14th as planned. The Mayor advised that there had been a printing error for which he apologised on behalf of the Town Council and explained that notices had been displayed on the usual boards and copies sent to the local press. The fact that the meeting had been held in a holiday period may have had an impact upon those attending. The Town Councillors agreed to look at how the information could be more widely distributed before next year's meeting.

A question was raised about the reduction in expenditure in some areas of the proposed budget for 2009/10. Councillor Vernon replied that in some service areas it had been possible to make modest reductions without impacting upon service delivery.

Meeting closed at 20.15 hrs.