

MALMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Policy and Resources** Committee Meeting

Held in Malmesbury Town Hall on **Wednesday 7th February 2024 at 7 pm**

Present; Cllrs S D’Arcy, P Exton, F Smith, R Hastings, C Ritchie, L Crawford-Price, J Slade & G Grant.

Also present: Claire Mann (Town Clerk), Steve Heal (Head Teacher – Malmesbury Primary School), Laurence Mussett (Chair of Governors – Malmesbury Primary School), Martin Smith (Wiltshire Council), Cllrs K Power & C Doody.

PR/24/09 To receive Declarations of Interest

None declared.

PR/24/10 To receive apologies

None received.

PR/24/11 To consider MTC response to the Government’s decision to approve a Dyson grant towards expansion of Malmesbury primary School (Steve Heal & Laurence Mussett in attendance)

Cllr D’Arcy welcomed Laurence Mussett and Steve Heal to the meeting and requested an update on the project since recent approval by the Secretary of State. Steve Heal stated that the School will now be engaging with all stakeholders to progress the planning process/application, this will include St Joseph’s and outlying Village Schools as there had been a great deal of concern for them. Additional class spaces will only become available when demand requires it. It is hoped that the facility will open in 2027.

Cllr D’Arcy asked if there is anything that that the Town Council can do to assist progression and was advised that a letter written to Persimmon, inviting them to engage would be helpful. There is a section of land that is outside the Neighbourhood Plan in the vicinity and options for this could create opportunities for all parties.

Steve Heal explained that the School will now draft letters to all stakeholders requesting their views and that the expansion of the School should in no way be to the detriment of St Joseph’s Primary School.

Cllr Martin Smith stated that he was very concerned about the impact the expansion would have on the village Schools and is looking forward to Malmesbury Primary School’s desire to engage with other Schools.

Thanks were expressed on both sides for attendance and support.

Steve Heal, Laurence Mussett, Cllr Doody & Cllr Power left the meeting.

PR/24/12 Public question time in respect of items included in the Agenda.

There were no questions.

PR/24/13 To approve minutes of the meetings held on the 3rd January.

It was noted that minute reference PR/24/07 should have also stated that it was agreed to put the final approval of the precept request will take place at the Full Council meeting in January. It should also have noted that a request will go to Wiltshire Council asking why the tax base changed from that originally circulated.

The Minutes were approved and signed subject to noted amendment.

PR/24/14 To receive income & expenditure report and note accompanying summary.

The report was noted by Members. Cllr Ritchie asked about salaries and whether a projection can be made to the end of the year overall.

PR/24/15 To confirm meeting dates for the coming year.

It was resolved that the Town Clerk and Cllr Exton would work together to present a re-formatted proposal to Full Council on the 27th February.

PR/24/16 To consider grant funding request from Carer Support Wiltshire.

It was resolved to request more information from the organisation; how many people from Malmesbury attend the Café held in the Abbey and how much of the money will be used for Malmesbury residents, before a decision is made. It was also agreed that no more than £500 will be allocated would be granted subject to satisfactory response from Carer Support Wiltshire on the questions forwarded.

PR/24/17 To review and comment on the draft budget for the Malmesbury Folk and Roots Festival 2024 (report Cllr D'Arcy).

The draft report was considered and it was noted that £2k would be retained for 2025 and that all remaining profit would be distributed between the Mayor's charities.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm