

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting**

Held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 7.00pm.

Present; Cllrs K Power, G Grant, P Exton, L Wood, C Doody, S D'Arcy, R Sanderson, C Ritchie, E Whatton, W Jones RP Jones, F Smith, P Smith & R Hastings

Also present: Claire Mann (Town Clerk), Steve Heal (Head Teacher at Malmesbury Primary School), Laurence Musset (Malmesbury Primary School Governor) & six members of the Public

Mayors Announcements

- Cllr Power reminded members for their contributions in the MTC Newsletter
- The Freedom of the Town event is progressing well.
- Arrangements to celebrate His Majesty King Charles III Coronation are ongoing
- Thanks were expressed to those who helped with the Mayor's Ball the previous Saturday and that it was a very successful event.
- The Town Clerk had attended the High Sheriff's Rule of Law Service with Cllr Power & Cllr Doody.
- A positive update from Sergeant Katherine Smith will be forward to all members by the Mayor on Community Policing
- Cllr Power made Members aware of a letter from some concerned residents around Abbey House Manor of future development, particularly the proposed spa. It was noted that Malmesbury Town Council will only be able to consider any application at the site when proposed plans are received from Wiltshire Council.

It was resolved that the order of business would be changed so that members of the public present did not have to sit through other business whilst the Council considers its support in principle for the proposals at the Primary School

FC/23/22 To receive declarations of interest

Cllr RP Jones declared that he had been a School Governor at the time the School was notified of the intention of the James Dyson Foundation but has since stepped down from that role. The Town Clerk advised that his abstinence from voting on support in principle of the School expansion would not be required when the time came as he is no longer a Governor.

FC/23/23 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllrs Hastings, Vandelli & Whatton.

FC/23/24 To receive presentation from Steve Heal & Laurence Musset of Malmesbury Primary School

Steve Heal & Laurence Musset presented the proposed expansion of the CofE Primary School with funding from the James Dyson Foundation; The caveats involved, the anticipated timescale, the outline of the proposal, examples of the architect's previous

projects, the existing STEAM building at Gresham's School and a summary of the project benefits.

FC/23/25

Public questions on items of business included on the Agenda

Several questions were asked by Cllrs and members of the public and Steve & Laurence provided answers;

Q – Are there any caveats to the STEAM facility provision?

A – The James Dyson Foundation will retain naming rights and will use preferred architect

Q – What happens when the children leave the Primary School? Will the Secondary School be equally well equipped?

A – It is an open door; the Secondary School is currently supported by the James Dyson Foundation to some degree

Q – What percentage is the split of the grant between capital & revenue expenditure?

A – 100% capital, revenue will come from enhanced pupil numbers as a result of the expansion.

Q – What is the relationship between the School & Wiltshire Council? Is WC likely to support the application given that it had previously stated that expansion is not necessary and that expansion at Lea & Garsdon School was preferred by WC.

A – WC had been notified by the Governors that its figures were incorrect six years ago. Governors did not want to expand the Primary School at the time if the only option was to have mixed aged classes. The School has now changed its Admission Policy to ensure there is a random selection of children across the whole of the Town area

Q – Will the application affect the Nursery provision by Bloor Homes at the Filands development?

A – The School has no intention to make provision for Nursery aged children.

Q – Will the footpath linking the Backbridge development to the School be included in the forthcoming application, as mentioned in the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan?

A – There are safeguarding issues as it is a sensitive area, the footpath request may re-emerge in time.

Q – Is £6m enough for the proposal?

A – The James Dyson Foundation will not leave the project unfinished

Q – Has any thought gone into the refurbishment of buildings in existence once the project is completed?

A – Existing buildings are owned by a Trust, some internal refurbishment is included in the grant agreement but generally the current buildings are in good condition.

Q – What consideration has gone into increased traffic movement?

A – The best solution will be found. The School encourages walking and these routes will also be considered.

Q – The toleration of residents in Poole Road of pedestrian and vehicle traffic is at saturation levels, could the Town Council not make a decision until an Impact Analysis has been carried out.

A – There is a process to be followed, the Governors ask that the Town Council considers its 'support in principle'

Q – How 'shared' will the proposed STEAM facility be?

A – The School wants to be able to make that offer but will primarily be for the use of Malmesbury Primary School pupils.

Q – Why is there such a gap between the anticipated submission of the application and completion of the project?

A – This is due to realistic timescales; the tender process will be a lengthy event

Q – What will the effect of the expansion be to surrounding village schools?

A – It is not right to fill village Schools with children from Malmesbury, priority of Malmesbury Primary School is to provide spaces for the growing population of Malmesbury.

Cllr Power thanked Steve and Laurence for their attendance and for answering questions posed to them.

FC/23/26 To consider support, in principle, of the expansion of Malmesbury Primary School

It was resolved that subject to the consideration of;

- The Footpath
- Pedestrian & vehicular traffic
- Support of other Schools in the Town

Malmesbury Town Council supports, in principle, the expansion of the Primary School.

All members of the public left the meeting

FC/23/27 To receive and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 14th February 2023

The Minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

FC/23/28 To receive and note minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on the 7th February 2023

The minutes were received and noted.

FC/23/29 To receive and note the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on the 1st February 2023

The minutes were received and noted.

FC/23/30 To receive and note minutes of the Town Hall & Facilities Committee meeting held on the 26th January 2023

The minutes were received and noted.

FC/23/31 To consider and approve draft Emergency Plan, mainly contact details

It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

FC/23/32 To receive updates from representatives of Malmesbury Town Council on the following organisations;

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils and Society of Local Council Clerks

There is no update to report

Malmesbury Conservation Group

Cllr RPJones resigned as MTC representative on this group. Cllr Ritchie will act as representative in the interim until May.

Malmesbury Town Team

Events detailed previously are progressing well.

Malmesbury And District Twinning Association

There will be a Neibull visit between the 7th and 12th of September

Operational Flood Group

There has been so significant progress at this stage but Cllr D'Arcy will update as soon as possible

Local Highways and Footpaths Improvements Group

Cllr Exton reported that the dropped kerbs at Station Yard have now been completed but will write a letter asking why the damage to the path in the same area has not been repaired as that would have been an opportune time to action.

Local Youth Network Management Group

No update.

Movies at Malmesbury

Cllr D'Arcy reported that the projector is in dire need of replacement and may cease to function at any time. Movies at Malmesbury will seek funding from other streams to assist with the purchase of a new one.

Bus Service Improvement

No update.

Health and Wellbeing Forum

A meeting will take place shortly.

Malmesbury Climate Action Network (inc. Malmesbury Against Plastics)

No update.

FC/23/33

To receive an update from Wiltshire Councillor, Gavin Grant

Cllr Grant reported that the ASB actions from the Police are moving forwards, the Community Safety Forum is being resurrected and a meeting is taking place on the 3rd April, all local licensees, supermarkets & food establishments will be invited.

Capital grants from the Area Board can only be considered if the application is made by 'Friends of' groups, Town & Parish Councils can no longer apply. Some applications were missed due to WC regulations not allowing members of the Area Board to attend remotely and if one member has declared an interest, it requires a decision to be made by the three remaining members who may not all be able to attend in person.

The surface of the High Street is in an appalling state and Cllr Grant has raised the issue with Parvis Khansari,, one of the Directors at Wiltshire Council for immediate attention.

A further issue has arisen at The Malting's wall which will create another necessary closure of the footpath and could result in drastic collapse. Cllr Power will write to Parvis Khansari and the legal director at Wiltshire Council to highlight the grave concerns of the Town Council, the state of the High Street will also be referenced.

Cllr Grant stated that the Planning Department of Wiltshire Council is in a dire situation, made worse by the Planning System. Cllr W Jones suggested that a letter is written to the Secretary of State, imploring that this is addressed.

Meeting closed at 9.11pm