

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held in Malmesbury Town Hall on **Tuesday 15th June 2021** at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Mayor Councillor P Smith

Councillors: G Davies, P Exton, L G Grant, R P Jones, C Ritchie, R Sanderson, F Smith,
E Whatton, S Darcy

ALSO PRESENT: Claire Mann (Acting Town Clerk), Gill Davie (Minutes)

MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Wiltshire Council have been contacted about the removal of the social distancing arrangements on the High Street. No reply has been received yet.
- Waitrose have confirmed that they are dealing with the steps. They have contacted the firm who installed the steps and are awaiting action to replace the rotting timber.
- A meeting has been organised with James Gray MP on Sat July 3rd.
- A letter will be sent to all the schools asking them to raise awareness of the litter problem in the town with the pupils and to encourage them to take litter home with them.

FC/21/22 **Declarations of interest:** None

FC/21/23 **Apologies:** Cllrs K Davies, C Doody, J M Exton, W Jones, K Power, F Vandelli

FC/21/24 **Public Questions on items of business included on the agenda:** None.

FC/21/25 **To receive a presentation from the Rise Trust, one of Mayor Cllr Paul Smith's chosen charities.**

Deb Skilton gave a brief overview of the work of the Rise Trust. They are a local charity whose mission is to Reach, Include, Support and Enable children and families across North Wiltshire. This work has become more important with the economic and psychological pressures caused by the Covid pandemic.

FC/21/26 **To receive and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on May 20th & 25th and June 8th, 2021.**

There was some discussion around membership of TH&F and P&R committees, and it was agreed to defer a decision on both to the next Full Council meeting

Resolved: the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on May 20th 2021 were received and adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr P Smith **Seconded:** Cllr Grant

Resolved: the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on May 25th 2021 were received and adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Grant **Seconded:** Cllr F Smith

Resolved: the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on June 8th 2021 were received and adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr P Smith **Seconded:** Cllr P Exton

FC/21/27 **To receive and note the minutes of the Extraordinary Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on May 4th & the Policy & Resources Committee Meetings held on May 20th & June 2nd 2021.**

The minutes of the Extraordinary Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on May 4th were received and noted at a previous Full Council meeting. The minutes from the meeting held on June 2nd have not been approved by the Policy & Resources Committee and so will come to the next Full Council meeting.

Resolved: the Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on May 20th, 2021 were received and noted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Grant **Seconded:** Cllr Ritchie

FC/21/28 **To receive and note the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on June 1st, 2021.**

These minutes need to be approved by the Planning & Environment Committee and so this item is deferred to the next Full Council meeting

FC/21/29 **To note the decision of P&R with regard to conduct of Malmesbury Town Council as expressed in an email from James Gray, MP on May 20th (letter to be sent by Acting Town Clerk)**

As a meeting with James Gray has been arranged, it will be possible to talk to him about a range of issues important to Malmesbury. It should also be possible to agree with him that he was factually incorrect in his comments in his email. If he does not rescind his allegations, then the matter should be taken back to P&R at their meeting on July 7th to take forward their resolution.

Resolved: not to send the letter to James Gray pending the meeting on July 3rd. A report of the discussion with him to be made to P&R Committee on July 7th when a decision can be made on any suitable action.

Proposed: Cllr Ritchie **Seconded:** Cllr Grant

FC/21/30 **To note the decision of P&E that the Mayor writes to James Gray MP to re-emphasise the need of Malmesbury Town Council to meet him.**

Resolved: to deal with this issue at the meeting on July 3rd

Proposed: Cllr P Exton **Seconded:** Cllr Grant

FC/21/31 **To consider and note the Internal Audit Report for 2020/21**

There were no issues of concern within the report which was duly noted.

Resolved: that the recommendations within the report are taken to the P&R Committee for further consideration and possible adoption.

Proposed: Cllr Ritchie

Seconded: Cllr Grant

FC/21/32 To approve the Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21

The Acting Town Clerk explained the portion of the form relevant for the Council which if approved would be signed by the Mayor. All Councillors agreed with Points 1-8 on the form which was duly signed.

FC/21/33 To approve the Accounts Statement of the 2020/21 Annual Governance and Accountability Return

Resolved: that this is a true and accurate record of MTC's Statement of Accounts. The valuation of the lodge to be included in next year's figures.

Proposed: Cllr Grant

Seconded: Cllr Ritchie

FC/21/34 To appoint a representative on the Operational Flood Working Group

Resolved: that Cllr D'Arcy will be the representative on the Operational Flood Working Group

Resolved: Cllr P Smith

Seconded: Cllr P Exton

FC/21/35 To receive updates from representatives of Malmesbury Town Council on the following organisations:

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils & Society of Local Council Clerks – nothing to report.

Market Town Forum – in Cllr Power's absence, Cllr Ritchie reported that no further information has been received. Wiltshire Council have been asked for a date for the next meeting of the Forum.

Malmesbury Conservation Group – nothing to report.

Malmesbury Town Team – Cllr Ritchie reported that Emily Hepworth has joined the team. The signposts are in place. A lot of work is on-going with businesses and retailers and the Gift Card will be re-launched over the summer. The vacant properties on the High Street, especially the Barclays and Lloyd's properties are proving difficult to re-let.

Malmesbury and District Twinning Association – Cllr P Exton thanked the council for the grant this year and said all would be returning to normal once the roadmap allowed.

Operational Flood Group – are hoping to work with the Malmesbury Flood Working Group (Cllr Sanderson is the Chair of this) on issues in the town.

Community Area Transport Group – Cllr P Exton explained they are still waiting for a date for their first meeting.

Local Youth Network Management Group – Cllr Grant has been reappointed as Chair. No meeting date has been set yet.

Movies at Malmesbury – nothing to report.

Malmesbury Climate Action Network (inc Malmesbury Against Plastic) – Cllr Ritchie reported that the latest edition of the Jackdaw included the insert for which the Council had approved a grant. Links with other local parish councils are being set up to improve information on cycle networks. The Library of Things project is gathering pace.

Athelstan Statue Project Group – Cllr Ritchie reported that the planning application had been withdrawn following conflicting advice from English Heritage and also strong local opposition to what might happen to the silver birch trees. Both are being considered.

Joint Parish Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Grant spoke to Cllr Power's report, highlighting the issues with Wiltshire council's 5-year land supply and the Government's decisions on the

status of Neighbourhood Plans. The review is a significant piece of work, and this was commended. Both the report and its recommendations were duly considered.

Resolved: to agree the following proposals;

- a) That the Council agrees the amendments to the Malmesbury Area Neighbourhood Plan as per the draft reviewed Plan attached to this report.
- b) That the Council authorises the Chair of the Joint Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to instruct the Acting Town Clerk to notify Wiltshire Council and others of these amendments.
- c) That the Council agrees for the Joint Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to continue the process and in due course to scope the preparations and costs for a public consultation of the amended Neighbourhood Plan at a date in the future.

Proposed: Cllr Grant

Seconded: Cllr P Exton

FC/21/36 To receive an update from the Wiltshire Councillor, Gavin Grant

- Area Board Management Group met last week. Cllr Grant has been appointed as Vice-Chair. He is also the Chair of the Local Youth Network, which provides funding for the Rise Trust.
- There has been significant progress on the Maltings wall, with Wiltshire Council accepting responsibility for the costs of rebuilding the wall but they have not accepted as yet responsibility for the rebuilding of the steps or the cause of the fall. The timeline for the repair is 18 months.
- There was a recent constructive meeting of the Community Safety Forum. However, since then there has been an incident outside the Three Cups which is being investigated.
- A meeting of the Local Youth Network will be held shortly with enthusiastic participation from Malmesbury School.
- Any plans for new housing developments are likely to be heard by Wiltshire Council's Strategic Planning Committee rather than the Northern Area Planning Committee
- Every possible opportunity is being pursued to ensure Wiltshire Council support High Street Rejuvenation in Malmesbury
- Progress is being made with Green Square who have established a new process to deal with the concerns raised by Wiltshire Councillors and MPs.

Questions were raised over the need for a plan to remove the bollards and planters when the restrictions are lifted. It was agreed that the Mayor and Cllr Ritchie as Chair of the Town Team should send a written question to the Wiltshire Cabinet members in time for their meeting on June 29th to ask when such a plan would be drawn up.

Questions were also raised about the Welcome Back Fund for the High Street. To date no information has been provided by Wiltshire Council on how this money can be spent, even though it is 10 weeks since it was announced. It was agreed that Cllrs Grant, P Smith and Ritchie should lobby Cllr Chuck Berry to put pressure on Cabinet members to release these funds so that actions can be taken this summer.

The meeting closed at 9.04pm

Signed..... Date.....