

## **Malmesbury Town Council**

Minutes of the  
**Full Council Meeting**  
Held via Zoom on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021** at 7.00pm.

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**PRESENT:** Mayor Councillor C M Ritchie

Councillors: S D'Arcy, C Doody, J M Exton, P Exton, L G Grant, E Hepworth, W Jones, K Power, P Smith, F Vandelli

Claire Mann (Acting Town Clerk), Gill Davie (Minutes)  
Kirsten Robertson – Wilts Gazette and Herald, Chris Smith – WOMAD

### **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The Mayor's Ball was a great success. Thanks were given to Cllrs D'Arcy and Smith for making the event happen. Over 200 people attended, and it has raised £3k, along with receiving excellent feedback.
- Three community groups were nominated for and received the Lord Lieutenant's Awards. This is a testament to the good work being undertaken in the community.
- The meeting with Lloyds Bank finally took place 3 days before the branch closed. The discussion was positive covering some practical ideas to improve the situation for the residents. Lloyds Bank have agreed to consider these ideas and report back with another meeting to be held before the end of April.
- A virtual social event will be held for Councillors and staff on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April. Invitations will be sent out soon.

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**2. APOLOGIES:** Cllrs C Hardwick, D Rogers,

**3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** None

**4. To receive and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021.**

**Action:** The Acting Town Clerk to circulate the draft schedule of meetings for 2021-2 for review at P&R.

**Resolved:** the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were received and adopted as a true record.

**Proposed:** Cllr Ritchie

**Seconded:** Cllr Smith

**5 To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

**Resolved:** the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 were received and adopted as a true record

**Proposed:** Cllr P Exton      **Seconded:** Cllr Jones

Cllr Grant provided an update on the discussions with Wiltshire Council about the landslip on Kings Wall and confirmed he would support the calling in of the 2 planning applications for Filands South, objected to by the Committee if that were required.

**Resolved:** the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were received and adopted as a true record

**Proposed:** Cllr P Exton      **Seconded:** Cllr Jones

**6 To receive and adopt the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021.**

Since the meeting, the Personnel Sub-Committee has approved the purchase of additional software from the HR provider. Cllr Jones also gave an update on the CCTV project.

**Resolved:** the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 were received and adopted as a true record

**Proposed:** Cllr Jones      **Seconded:** Cllr Grant

**7 To receive and adopt the minutes of the Extraordinary Burial Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

**Resolved:** the minutes of the Extraordinary Burial Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were received and adopted as a true record

**Proposed:** Cllr Smith      **Seconded:** Cllr Jones

**8. To receive and adopt the minutes of the Town Hall and Facilities Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

**Resolved:** the minutes of the Town Hall and Facilities Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were received and adopted as a true record

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

**9. To consider Town Council views on WOMAD 2021**

Chris Smith confirmed that the festival would be UK based artists. A licence for the festival would be given once an operating plan has been approved. An event management plan would be available for April 9<sup>th</sup> and a safety meeting would take place on May 24<sup>th</sup>. A final decision would be taken on June 14<sup>th</sup>. All would be relying on social distancing restrictions having been removed. Tickets sales in Malmesbury have been strong and positive

feedback has been received but WOMAD are aware that some concerns exist. Questions over ticket refunds were asked and it was confirmed tickets could be rolled over to next year or refunds given if necessary. Communication with the community will be key and Cllr Ritchie will write to WOMAD to explain how that can be facilitated in the town.

WOMAD's update was received and noted.

**10. To receive an update on planning and related matters in relation to the Wiltshire Council Local Plan and to consider any new proposed next steps (Cllrs Ritchie & Power)**

Cllr Ritchie went over the points in his report and explained the late distribution of the report was due to rapidly changing circumstances. Cllr Grant confirmed that Ed Davey would be meeting with Cllrs Ritchie and Power on March 26<sup>th</sup> to understand more fully the planning issues being experienced by communities such as Malmesbury.

**Resolved:** to ask for a meeting with the MP for North Wiltshire to discuss the future of Neighbourhood Planning in Wiltshire; that the Council should make a response to the NPPF consultation before 27<sup>th</sup> March; that the Council continues to engage with organisations within and beyond Wiltshire, including the Prince's Trust to improve the future of the Neighbourhood Planning Process

**Proposed:** Cllr Ritchie

**Seconded:** Cllr Grant

Cllr Power reported that there were questions around the reported shortage of the 5-year housing supply in Wiltshire. Work was underway to strengthen the Neighbourhood Plan and the working group was meeting fortnightly to do this.

The report was received and noted.

**11 To receive a report on the proposed action plan for the High Street based on the current Government Roadmap leading to social distancing no longer being required (Report Cllr Ritchie)**

A working group has been set up from P&R to address this. Several enquiries have been made with Wiltshire Council looking for a simple clear plan of the implications on removing social distancing. To date no information is available on timescales or costs. The working group will report back to P&R once these are available.

A question was raised on the siting of the bollards at the top of the High Street and Oxford Street, but it was confirmed these met highway regulations.

The report was received and noted.

**12 To note the letter from Luke Hall MP with regard to COVID 19 funding for Town & Parish Councils and consider response.**

Cllr Ritchie explained the background to the letter from Luke Hall which proved income might be available to Malmesbury Town Council. Cllr Grant explained the positive state of Wiltshire Council's funds.

**Resolved:** to send Luke Hall's letter to Wiltshire Council and ask for clarification. Also, to write again to Luke Hall to understand what proportion of the £1.6m tranche should be made available to Town Councils. Depending on the response to this, P&R to raise this issue with a range of scrutiny and auditing bodies.

**Proposed:** Cllr Ritchie

**Seconded:** Cllr Grant

**13 To receive a short verbal update from the councils' representatives by expressed invitation:**

**Wiltshire Association of Local Councils & Society of Local Council Clerks** – the Acting Town Clerk has organised 3 dates for new Councillor Training. They have also been providing advice on the implications of purdah.

**Market Town Forum** – Cllr Ritchie is writing a letter to find out what is happening with the forum.

**Malmesbury Town Team-** Cllr Ritchie said there would be a meeting next week for local individual businesses who rent buildings/premises, facilitated by Cllr Rogers. The fingerpost signage would be installed by April 30 and Explore Malmesbury would launch on April 15 when the shops reopen.

**Malmesbury & District Twinning Association** – monthly zoom meetings continue. A second virtual reception will be held on Sept 24<sup>th</sup>. A quiz will take place at the end of April.

**Community Area Transport Group-** had an overspend of £1.9k this year. Currently working on 20mph limits, Mill Lane, no parking sign for Baskerville and the one-way system in Cross Hayes car park.

**Malmesbury Climate Action Network-** Fruitful Malmesbury has now planted the trees on land by the Activity Centre and will also put in some fruit bushes. Funding is now in place for The Last Baguette environment project which will be filmed. When the library reopens there will be a hanging garden for fruit and vegetables there. Despite lockdown real progress has been made.

**Athelstan Statue-** is progressing as the planning application has been made.

**13. To receive an update from the Wiltshire Councillor Gavin Grant**

Cllr Grant reported:

- The final Area Board approved the £5k for the Cloister Gardens.
- Inspector James Brain is replacing Inspector Doug Downing on the Community Safety Forum and it would be useful to invite Inspector Brain to a Council meeting once he is in post. Cllr Jones reported local police have been in contact about the vandalism in the town and a walk around the town with them to discuss issues has been arranged.

- Several issues have been raised with Wiltshire Council about the state of roads and pavements in the town and a question was raised about the accuracy of the reporting mechanism regarding repairs being completed.
- Green Square, the social housing provider are in merger discussions now. It may be a coincidence but they are being awfully slow to sort problems particularly at Glovers Court. Cllr Grant has written to the CEO and has a meeting with them on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Significant concern was expressed about this.

The meeting ended at 9.21pm

Date of next Full Council Meeting: 20.4.21