

Report No.4

Report to Policy and Resources Committee 13th March 2019

Mayoral Robes

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 To advise the committee of the cost of new mayoral robes.

2. Background

2.1 The Town Mayors of Malmesbury have for decades worn the traditional red robes of office and the Mayoral chain when attending Civic events.

2.2 On occasions the robes have been subjected to minor alterations from Mayor to Mayor.

2.3 Prior to 2013 the Town Mayor was selected by a Selection Committee and then that choice recommended to the Town Council for acceptance in April. Usually the Deputy Mayor would go forward as the new Town Mayor and there were few exceptions.

2.4 The arrangement was purely a local convention as the Local Government Act 1972 requires the Council to elect the Town Mayor at the first meeting of the new Civic Year, commencing in May.

2.5 The system now in place complies with the Local Government Act 1972 with the Mayor being elected in May and the formal Robing ceremony taking place at the end of the month so as to enable sufficient time for the incoming Mayor to invite guests to their special evening.

3. Proposal

3.1 The Town Clerk recently arranged a fitting with the current Deputy Mayor and the manufacturer of the robes to ascertain the extent of alterations required for the Mayoral robes.

3.2 The amount and type of alterations required would result in permanent changes to the robes and be nearly as expensive as a new robe.

3.3 The manufacturer measured the Deputy Mayor and has provided a quote £779.75 for lightweight robes but in a similar design to the existing.

3.4 During the meeting the Deputy Mayor commented upon Councillor Robes she had seen at Salisbury where the robes were trimmed in velvet and suggested that the Malmesbury robes should be altered. The price of the alteration for fifteen robes is awaited

3.5 It is essential that the Town Mayor is dressed appropriately and if it is determined that a new set of Mayoral robes should be purchased there will be a six to eight week delivery period.

3.6 The delivery timetable is such that it means if the robes are not ordered until after the election for Town Mayor in May if the Deputy Town Mayor becomes Mayor there will be a period of up to two months without robes of office.

3.7 The old robes were examined just in case they could be altered but were so badly affected with insect damage they have been disposed of to prevent spread to other fabrics.

4. Financial implications and risks

- 4.1 Traditionally the Town Mayor of Malmesbury has worn robes of office and the mayoral chain when attending formal or civic events. There is no legal requirement for the Town Mayor to be dressed as such but as an old historic town it would be elected that the Mayor would be appropriately dressed.
- 4.2 There is no specific budget identified for the cost of new robes and if approved the expenditure would need to come from either underspent budget codes or reserves.
- 4.3 Although it would be possible for the Town Mayor for 2019 to be selected in advance of the new Civic Year the formal election for this office would still need to be held at the first meeting of the new Civic Year.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 The committee is requested to consider the report and instruct the Town Clerk accordingly.

Jeff Penfold
Town Clerk
20th February 2019