

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting**

Held via Zoom on **Tuesday 22nd September 2020** at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Mayor Councillor C M Ritchie

Councillors: S D'Arcy, C Doody, J M Exton, P Exton, W Jones, K Power, F Vandelli

Richard Spencer-Williams (Town Clerk), Gill Davie (Minutes)

Danielle Blake, Detached Youth Worker, The Rise Trust gave a brief overview of the work undertaken in Malmesbury this summer. She reported that good relationships had been built up with the young people. Overall, it had been a positive, worthwhile experience and there was evidence it was beginning to get results. It is planned to continue through the winter, with funds from the Area Board supported by the Local Youth Network.

MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The accessible toilets were opened last month. The operating regime for them is working well and congratulations were given to the Town Clerk for managing this project
- Certificates were presented to the Red Bull. The service finished at the end of August with over 4 thousand meals delivered.
- Awards for the Children's Art and the Gardening Competitions as part of Malmesbury in Bloom were presented on Friday Sept 18th.
- The Council's entry into the Carnival was well received on the night
- There will be a virtual Friendship Civic Reception on Friday Sept 25th with Malmesbury's twin and friendship towns when it is hope 80/100 people will be present.
- There will be a Mayor's Charity Event on Sat Oct 31st – Virtual Halloween Extravaganza, searching for the missing charter

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

2. APOLOGIES: Cllrs L G Grant, C Hardwick, E Hepworth, D Rogers, P Smith,

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: There were no public questions

4. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 21st July 2020.

Resolved the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 21st July 2020 were received and adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Ritchie

Seconded: Cllr Jones

5. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on the 3rd June 2020 and 8th July 2020

Resolved the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 3rd June 2020 were received and adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Jones **Seconded:** Cllr Power

Resolved the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 8th July 2020 were received and adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Jones **Seconded:** Cllr Power

6 To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meetings held on the 14th July, 4th August and 25th August 2020

At the 14th July meeting 7 planning applications were considered, along with a crossing and bollards in Reeds Farm

Resolved the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on the 14th July 2020 were received and adopted as a true record

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

At the 4th August meeting 10 planning applications were considered, along with support for cycleways provision, discussion on litter problems at Daniel's Well and Park Rd correspondence noted

Resolved the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on the 4th August 2020 were received and adopted as a true record

Proposed: Cllr P Exton **Seconded:** Cllr J Exton

At the 25th August meeting 7 planning applications were considered, along with an update from the Dyson contractor on the new roundabout at Hullavington, discussions on flood resilience funding and objections to changes to off street parking

Resolved the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on the 25th August 2020 were received and adopted as a true record

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

7. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Town Hall and Facilities Committee Meetings held on the 15th July 2020

The meeting on 15th July focused on the reopening of the Town Hall with an update on Movies@Malmesbury and the Jackdaw. Play areas and wildflower planting were discussed and a Cloister Gardens Working Party was set up

Resolved the Minutes of the Town Hall and Facilities Committee Meeting held on the 15th July 2020 were received and adopted as a true record

Proposed: Cllr D'Arcy **Seconded:** Cllr P Exton

The Town Clerk gave a brief update on current usage in the Town Hall. The impact of the "Group of 6" restrictions along with the announcements earlier today are being discussed. This means facemasks will need to be worn throughout the Town Hall and a QR code will need to be displayed for the Jackdaw cafe

8. To consider the need to update CCTV capability in Malmesbury and consider proposals on appropriate next steps (Report No 1 Town Clerk)

The Town Clerk explained the background to a recent meeting with a CCTV provider where proposals were discussed which could result in a cost between £30-50k depending on what solution was taken up. This would require a thorough procurement process, including other suppliers (possibly including the current IT supplier). Questions were raised about the old CCTV system but it was agreed this was old technology and not fit for purpose in this digital age. Other questions were raised over consultation with the community, clarity over who would monitor the system and the basis of partnership with the police.

Resolved: to refer the question of CCTV provision to the P&R Committee with a mandate to get further quotes, to test the technology solution currently suggested and to consider the other issues raised and report back to the Council as quickly as possible

Proposed: Cllr Ritchie **Seconded:** Cllr D'Arcy

9. To update on the operation and consider proposals on the future of the Covid 19 related Malmesbury Town Council and Heals Partnership in the context of the latest information available (Report No 2 Mayor Ritchie)

Mayor Ritchie reported the partnership had done an incredible amount of work, successfully meeting the needs within the community from March until now.

Resolved: To note the report, to support a civic reception to say thank you to the volunteers and businesses who supported the partnership likely to be held in 2021/2 now, to conclude the partnership from the end of September 2020 accepting it may need to be restarted if the situation changes, to promote Heals fundraising events along with those of other organisations within the town

Proposed: Cllr Ritchie **Seconded:** Cllr Jones

10. To update on the operation of the Covid 19 related High Street Safety Scheme and associated matters introduced in June 2020 and to consider proposals for any developments including parking arrangements at Station Yard, the Old Bell and Cross Hayes, in the context of the latest information available and guidance and support being offered by Wiltshire Council and HM Government (Report No 3, Mayor Ritchie)

The Mayor gave an overview of the work that had been undertaken working closely with the Town Team and Wiltshire Council. He reported that it is clear now that the installation is in a failed state, particularly regarding maintenance of the bollards. Wiltshire Council had also not addressed the parking issues. In the light of the recent Government announcements that restrictions could be in place for 6 months, urgent active engagement with Wiltshire Council is required. The Mayor has written to them recently looking for action to meet safety and parking issues including better bollards and planters, time limited bays, a proper plan for Cross Hayes, implementing free on-street parking outside the Old Bell and in Old Station Yard.

Significant discussion followed on the detail of how improvements could be made to the High Street recognising this is a public safety issue. Concern was

expressed that these issues needed to be addressed before the run up to Christmas, especially as the look and feel of the High Street needs to be improved to support the retail businesses. Discussion also took place around the issues involved in working with Wiltshire Council who are ultimately responsible for maintenance and implementation of road safety issues.

Resolved: To note the report, to support the efforts being made to engage with Wiltshire Council, to recognise and support the list of Phase 2 options (adding in clearer signage about no right turn out of the Market Cross) recognising some may have cost implications for Malmesbury Town Council and to support further communication to Malmesbury Residents and retailers about the public safety aspects of the decisions being taken.

Proposed: Cllr Ritchie

Seconded: Cllr Doody

11. To receive a report on the activity of the Malmesbury Town Team and Malmesbury Town Council Task Group related to the promotion of Malmesbury High Street and local businesses in response to the impact of Covid 19 (Report No 4 Mayor Ritchie)

The Mayor gave an update on the work of the Town Team in promoting the benefits of shopping locally in Malmesbury including a high-profile shop local campaign, improvements to the Cloister Gardens, the TIC refit and Explore Malmesbury

Proposal: to note the significant work undertaken by the Malmesbury Town Team and Malmesbury Town Council in support of local businesses, to note the progress of the current shop local campaign, to note the work of the Town Team in support of virtual events that would otherwise have been cancelled, to note that future work with the Town Team will be influenced by the High Street Safety Plan

Proposed: Cllr Ritchie

Seconded: Cllr Power

12. To exclude the press and public for item 13 on the grounds of commercial sensitivity and confidentiality

Proposed: Cllr Ritchie

Seconded: Cllr Jones

13. To consider support for the Jackdaws' tenancy

A rental settlement was proposed from August to September and from October to December.

Agreed/ Action: the Town Clerk is mandated to negotiate a rental settlement for the last quarter of 2020, with further discussions for the first quarter of 2021

Proposed: Cllr Ritchie

Seconded: Cllr Power

14. To receive an update from the Wiltshire Councillor Gavin Grant

As Cllr Grant was unable to attend the meeting, he had sent an update by email earlier in the day. Some of the items had already been discussed but the update also included:

- Bloor is seeking to remove the designation next to Filands View that it should be used for educational purposes. Malmesbury Town Council have been given until 23rd Oct to try to identify a credible educational use for the site. This will be discussed at the Full Council meeting on Oct 20th before a proposal is taken to Wiltshire council.
- Low flying aircraft have been buzzing Reeds Farm to the annoyance of the residents. This issue is being pursued.

The meeting ended at 9.40pm

Date of next Full Council Meeting: **20.10.20**