

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting**

Held via Zoom on **Tuesday 15th December 2020** at 7.00pm.

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

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

MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Mayor reflected on 2020 and stated that a lot had been achieved, and some significant projects had been delivered. As it looked likely that the current emergency would be around for a while, he believed the Council was well placed for what would be required in 2021.
- He confirmed that the Town Clerk had resigned to take up a post at Marlborough Town Council and is likely to be leaving at the middle/end of February 2021. Cllr Ritchie passed on the Council's congratulations and best wishes with appreciation for all the work that has been achieved.

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 the 24th November 2020.

Resolved: the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 24th November 2020 were received and adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Ritchie **Seconded:** Cllr Vandelli

Cllr Ritchie informed the meeting that the question of the Aldi Section 106 payment had gone to the P&E Committee for clarification and follow up. The money has been allocated to the Parish who have firm views about how it will be spent exclusively within the Parish. The P&E Committee will follow this up in January.

5. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on the 4th November 2020

Resolved the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 4th

November 2020 were received and adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Grant

Seconded: Cllr Vandelli

6. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meetings held on the 18th November 2020

Resolved: the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on the 18th November 2020 were received and adopted as a true record.

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

7. To agree the Council budget and precept for 2021/22 (Report No 1a and 1b)

The Town Clerk covered the essential points for consideration, reporting on behalf of the P&R Committee who were recommending a 2% rise in the precept as outlined in the reports. Extensive and lengthy discussions on the budget and reserves had taken place at the last P&R Committee meeting and the recommendation was made considering the pressures likely to be felt by residents.

Questions were asked about the £41k transferred from the Joint Burial Committee into Council funds and it was confirmed that this money would be used for any large projects that might arise. A rise in the precept was questioned but the impact of drawing down significant amounts from the reserves makes the rise a balanced decision.

Resolved: to accept the P&R Committee's recommendations for the budget and 2% rise in precept for 2021/22.

Proposed: Cllr Ritchie

Seconded: Cllr Grant

8. To update on the operation of the Covid 19 related High Street Safety Scheme including parking arrangements at Station Yard, the Old Bell and Cross Hayes (Report No 2 Town Clerk)

The Town Clerk provided an update on the High Street Safety Scheme. The recent changes have made the High Street look neater. He suggested it would be useful to have a plan over where the planters would be sited once they are removed from the High Street as they are extremely heavy to move.

A question was raised about the tight space for loading at the top of the High Street.

Action: the Town Clerk will seek an adjustment to the loading space at the top of the High Street.

The Town Clerk's report was noted and received. The TH&F Committee will consider the future location of the planters.

9. To receive a verbal report on Covid 19 related adjusted Malmesbury Town Council and Malmesbury Town team activity in the run up to Christmas (Cllr Power).

Cllr Power gave a short summary of the recent activities including the Big Malmesbury Christmas Get Together on November 28th which had 4,300 live streams and 545 views on YouTube. A successful, feel good community event.

The free parking has been quite successful with 50% of people parking aware of it from the advertising.

Jason Durr's advert on shopping local has reached about 10k people.

There are 2 competitions on the High Street designed to bring people into the town and foster community spirit.

Cllr Hepworth provided an insight into activity on the High Street.

A vote of thanks was given to Cllr Power and the Town Team who have worked extremely hard and achieved a vast amount. Thanks were also given to Cllr J Exton for her work on Light up Malmesbury

Proposal: to note the verbal report and the vote of thanks

Proposed: Cllr Ritchie

Seconded: Cllr Vandelli

10. To receive an update on recent announcements by Wiltshire council on strategic planning matters including residential land supply and the development of the Wiltshire Local Plan (Report No 2, Mayor Ritchie)

Cllr Ritchie advised the meeting that Wiltshire Council has not recovered a 5-year land supply for the next planning period. Wiltshire Council is launching the next iteration of the Wiltshire Local Plan covering 2016-36. This strategy is focusing on building in the larger towns in the County. As such Malmesbury will only need to build 24 more houses given current plans. However, without the 5-year land supply these plans may not be relevant and the consultation over potential sites around Malmesbury may further complicate matters.

The Steering Group for WALPA are meeting this week and will continue to raise these matters in the New Year.

Resolved: That this report is noted, and Malmesbury Town Council continues its efforts at all levels, (as agreed at Council in November 2020), to ensure planning decisions are taken in accordance with the made Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan.

Also, for P&E to consider and report the appropriate response by Malmesbury Town Council to the Wiltshire Local Area Plan, including encouraging and supporting community engagement in the consultation process.

Proposed: Cllr Ritchie

Seconded: Cllr Doody

11.To receive a short verbal update report from the Council's representatives

Malmesbury Town Team- the first banner will be put up at the end of the week. Consideration is being given to further advertising around the town A meeting will be held in January to look at how the Council can work with the Town Team next year. Plans are being made for a Retail and Small Business Summit in February to look at practical issues facing the High Street.

Community Area Transport Group – Cllr P Exton reported that a recent meeting had taken place.

Local Youth Network Management Group – The Rise Trust continues delivering youth work and this is work in partnership with the Area Board.

Movies@Malmesbury – there is a meeting next week to decide if operations should be suspended in January.

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

Cllr Grant had 4 issues to report:

- For Covid restrictions, Wiltshire Council had been placed in Tier 2 and this is unlikely to change this week. Financial support is available to all businesses affected by Covid. Applications will close at the end of this week. It was confirmed that the Jackdaw café has applied for a grant.
Action: the Town Clerk will make an application if appropriate this week.
- Regarding the planning issues and the failure around land supply, a significant contributor to this is Persimmon who have not moved forward with the plans for Back Bridge and so this development does not count towards the shortfall in land supply. Bloor Homes have made a request for all documentation relating to land disputes and nursery provision.
- The final meeting of the Area Board this year is in March and it was suggested the Council should seek funding for the planned work in Cloister Gardens from this year's funds. The Town Clerk confirmed he had approached Ollie Phipps about funding for the CCTV project next year.

Action: the Town Clerk to flag up with Ollie Phipps possible funding for Cloister Gardens from this year's funds.

The meeting ended at 8.42pm

Date of next Full Council Meeting: **19.1.21**