



MALMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 16th September 2025 at 7.00pm.

Present; Cllrs S James, G Grant, P Exton, Paget, J Akhtar, Crawford-Price, O Wallis, I Wallis, W Jones, RP Jones, Hughes, Drake, Power, D'Arcy and Sanderson.

Also present: Claire Mann (Town Clerk)

Minutes' Reflection

MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr James stated that Cllr Sanderson may speak from a sitting position if required. Since the last routine Council meeting Cllr James reported that he attended most Carnival events, notably Petticoat Lane and the Carnival Procession in his capacity as Mayor.

He had attended the commemoration of VJ Day on 15th August, a Malmesbury Stands with Ukraine reception to mark the anniversary of Ukrainian independence, and the presentations at the end of the HEALS summer programme on 29th August, when there was also held a Civic Reception for the visitors from Bad Hersfeld.

On the 5th of September together with Roz Savage MP Cllr James had visited St Joseph's primary school, and on the 6th attended the HEALS Sausage and Mash Quiz Night. On the 8th of September Cllr James opened Alltype Builder's Merchant in part of what was Knees on the High Street, and yesterday attended Malmesbury Community Choir's Musical Tea.

During the Athelstan Pilgrim Way walk from Malmesbury to Kingston upon Thames Cllr James met the Chair of the councils of Cricklade and Wooburn, a representative of the Mayor of Lechlade, the Mayors of Abingdon, Wallingford, Henley, Windsor and Maidenhead, Runnymede, the Deputy Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, and finally the Mayor and Bishop of Kingston upon Thames.

During the final day of the walk Cllr James met Rev Svein Arne Theodorsen, from the community of Fitjar on Norway. He brought a letter from the Mayor of Fitjar explaining that the Norwegian Viking King Haakon the Good was fostered as a young boy at the court of King Athelstan, they are interested in forming a relationship with Malmesbury Town Council to recognise the historical link between both communities. Cllr James has replied to Rev Theodorsen stating that the Town Council is interested in investigating this further.

FC/25/92 To receive declarations of interest.

None received.

FC/25/93 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllrs M Smith, Hastings and M Akhtar.

FC/25/94 Public participation on items of business included on the agenda.

None received.

FC/25/95 To receive an update from the Town Clerk on correspondence in the last month.

The Town Clerk stated the following;

- There has been contact with several Transport Companies requesting that they ensure their drivers are fully aware of the weight restriction in Malmesbury, it remains an issue.
- The Town and Parish Clerks meeting, chaired by David Redfern (Director - Leisure, Culture & Communities) stated that an LHFIG process review is underway and an update will be available at the next meeting, 18th Sept.
- The cost of the election in May is also hoped to be available on the 18th.
- A good response has been received to the Town Crier advert and also the advert for an additional Caretaker
- She had attended the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils on the 10th September.

FC/25/96 To receive and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meetings held on the 29th July and 9th September 2025.

It was noted that the word 'left' had been omitted from minute reference FC/25/94. Subject to this amendment, the minutes from both meetings were approved and signed as a correct record.

FC/25/97 To receive and note the minutes of the Policy & Resources meeting held on the 15th July 2025.

The minutes were noted.

FC/25/98 To receive and note the minutes of the Planning & Environment meetings held on the 22nd July and 12th August.

The minutes of both meetings were noted.

FC/25/99 To receive and note the minutes of the Town Hall and Facilities meeting held on the 3rd July 2025.

It was noted that Cllr Crawford-Price had been present and was amended at previous TH&F meeting. The minutes were noted.

FC/25/100 To receive and note the minutes of the Community Engagement & Town Promotion meeting held on the 17th July 2025.

The minutes were noted.

FC/25/101 To appoint Councillors to standing committees, vacancies on CE&TP, TH&F, Burial and P&E.

It was resolved to appoint Cllr Paget to the Planning Committee. Cllr James requested that other members consider filling remaining vacancies on Committees and the item will be discussed at the next FC meeting.

FC/25/102 To consider terms of reference for Asset Acquisition working group.

Following discussion it was agreed that Cllrs D'Arcy, Grant and I Wallis will convene a meeting of the working group to propose terms of reference to the next FC meeting.

FC/25/103 To consider terms of reference for Joint Neighbourhood Plan working group.

Following discussion it was agreed that Cllrs Power, Grant, Exton, Sanderson and Drake, together with members from Brokenborough PC and St Paul Malmesbury Without PC will convene a meeting of the working group to propose terms of reference to the next FC meeting.

FC/25/104 To consider terms of reference for Town Centre Open Spaces & High St Regeneration working group.

Following discussion it was agreed that Cllrs Power, Exton, O Wallis, Drake, Grant and D'Arcy will convene a meeting of the working group to propose terms of reference to the next FC meeting.

FC/25/105 To receive an update from representatives of Malmesbury Town Council on the following organisations;

- i. **Wiltshire Association of Local Councils & Society of Local Council Clerks**
The Town Clerk had covered the WALC conference during her correspondence item and stated that she will be going to the SLCC branch meeting in Marlborough on Friday morning.
- ii. **Malmesbury Conservation Group**
No update available to report.
- iii. **Malmesbury Town Team**
Cllr Drake had circulated an update.
- iv. **Malmesbury & District Twinning Association**
Cllr Exton reported that he had been unable to attend the meeting of the Twinning Association the previous week and reminded members that of the upcoming fundraising event.
- v. **Operational Flood Group**
- vi. No update available to report.
- vii. **Local Highways & Footpaths Improvements Group**
Cllr Exton stated that a meeting will be due shortly and asked if contact can be made with Steve Hind to request that meetings take place at a time that doesn't conflict with MTC meetings.
- viii. **Local Youth Network Management Group**
Cllr M Akhtar had forwarded apologies and was not in attendance.
- ix. **Movies @ Malmesbury.**
No update available to report.
- x. **Bus Service improvement**
No update available to report.
- xi. **Health & Well-being Forum.**
No update available to report.
- xii. **Community Safety Forum**
Cllr Grant stated that the group had been reformed and is waiting for a response from the Police.
- xiii. **Joint Neighbourhood Plan**
No update available to report.
- xiv. **Cotswolds National Landscape Board.**
Cllr Sanderson had forwarded his update
- xv. **Athelstan Statue**
No update available to report.

FC/25/106 To receive an update from Wiltshire Councillors. This may include urgent actions to be considered by the Council.

Cllr Grant reported the following;

- Wiltshire Council had just had its Finance Scrutiny Committee Meeting to discuss the first quarter forecast for the year end. It shows a £6.1m overspend mainly due to Adult Social Care and Children's Services.
- The free-swimming sessions, which the Activity Zone took part in during the school holidays, had been very successful with 900 young participants countywide. Wiltshire Council has also benefited as paying adults attended these sessions. Funding came from an unspent Public Health grant.

- There will be an increase in the 'Shared Lives' budget as this will ultimately assist in supporting vulnerable adults living with families and saving Wiltshire Council funding for adult social care.
- Cllr Grant is bringing forward proposals to end charges for Blue Badge Holders for car parking funded by unspent Area Board grants from the last financial year.
- There will also be a small-scale budget allocated to Visit Wiltshire. Both these proposals will go before Cabinet for approval and then to a vote at a full Wiltshire Council meeting.
- Cllr Grant is pursuing movement on the sale of the Riverside Community Centre to Malmesbury Town Council.
- Concerns have been raised by residents about a development on the land behind Waitrose which is being looked into, after previous planning applications have been rejected on this site. Cllr James requested that members are updated on this matter by email.
- Cllr Grant is undertaking work to bring appropriate Market Towns like Malmesbury together to examine issues and opportunities of mutual interest among themselves and Wiltshire Council.

Meeting closed at 7.51pm