



MALMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Wednesday 17th December 2025 at 7.00pm.

Present; Cllrs James, Crawford-Price, Grant, M Akhtar, J Akhtar, O Wallis, Hughes, Paget, RP Jones, Power, Exton & D'Arcy.

Also present: Claire Mann (Town Clerk)

MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr James stated that since the last Full Council routine meeting he had attended the following events and meetings; Thomas Hobbes Dinner, a meeting with a representative of the Mayor of Fitjar, Norway, the Christmas Concert of the Good Afternoon Choir, Community Safety Forum, the Malmesbury Area Board, was a guest at the Town Team meeting, Malmesbury Concert Band in the Market Cross at which £240 in cash had been raised, Cllr James expressed thanks to all involved with the organisation of the band and attended the Malmesbury Stands with Ukraine Christmas Service.

FC/25/137 To receive declarations of interest.

None received.

FC/25/138 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllrs Sanderson, Drake , I Wallis & W Jones.

FC/25/139 Public participation on items of business included on the agenda.

None received.

FC/25/140 To receive an update from the Town Clerk on correspondence in the last month.

The Town Clerk reported that there was a Town & Parish Clerk's Meeting on the 20th November which focussed on winter resilience and the Town of Culture. Both presentations had been sent to members on the 25th November.

The SLCC Branch meeting in Amesbury received a presentation from Scribe, this will be forwarded once received.

FC/25/141 To receive and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 18th November 2025.

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

FC/25/142 To receive and note the minutes of the Policy & Resources meeting held on the 11th November 2025.

The minutes were noted.

FC/25/143 To receive and note the minutes of the Planning & Environment meetings held on the 4th and 25th November 2025.

The minutes were noted.

FC/25/144 To consider purchase of conferencing equipment (Cllr James)

The report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. Following discussion it was agreed to purchase the proposed equipment in the region of £2,069.00.

FC/25/145 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 is attending a networking session for WALC on Friday.
- ii. **Malmesbury Conservation Group**
Nothing to report.
- iii. **Malmesbury Town Team**
The report from Cllr Drake was noted.
- iv. **Malmesbury & District Twinning Association**
Cllr Exton is waiting for the last meeting's minutes to update members.
- v. **Operational Flood Group**
Cllr D'Arcy stated that the River Management Working Group has been set up and that Cllr Sanderson is the Chair of that group. Cllr D'Arcy proposed that Cllr Sanderson becomes the representative of Malmesbury Town Council on the Operational Flood Working Group, it was agreed to accept the proposal.
- vi. **Local Highways & Footpaths Improvements Group**
Nothing to report.
- vii. **Local Youth Network Management Group**
Cllr M Akhtar stated that the LYN meeting had taken place on the 24th November.
- viii. **Movies @ Malmesbury.**
Nothing to report.
- ix. **Bus Service improvement**
Cllr Grant stated that a grant from Central Government
- x. **Health & Well-being Forum.**
Cllr Power stated that she has a meeting with Cllr Berry (WC) and the Primary Care Centre in January.
- xi. **Community Safety Forum**
The first meeting had taken place earlier hat week to establish expectations from all parties. Andrew Jack will organise then next meeting in line with Area Board meeting.
- xii. **Joint Neighbourhood Plan**
Cllr Power circulates emails from central government to members as they arrive.
- xiii. **Cotswolds National Landscape Board.**
Cllr Sanderson not present.
- xiv. **Athelstan Statue**
Cllr Sanderson not present.

FC/25/146 To receive an update from Wiltshire Councillors. This may include urgent actions to be considered by the Council.

- Cllr Grant reported that there is local speculation over the provision of the Nursey at the Bloor site, that it may not be happening. Cllr Grant refuted this.
- Conversations and meetings had taken place over parking issues at Dark Lane and it is anticipated that a solution has been developed with no loss of parking space.
- WCs introduction of 'Booking System' at the Household Recycling Centre in Sutton Benger will be a pilot scheme starting on the 1st August 2026.
- The Area Board had met and agreed the grant funding applications submitted.
- The Wiltshire Local Plan has been suspended by inspectors, WC is waiting for a letter from the Planning Inspectorate that is required to be approved by the Secretary of State.

- Cllr Grant reported that he had met with the three Schools in Malmesbury; the Primary School is prepared to amend the expansion plan to include the footpath linking Backbridge. G4S is deficient and ineffective in its contract with the Secondary School to provide adequate catering, the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) system is failing the School in several ways. Cllr James will write to the Headteacher, the Leader of Wiltshire Council and the Chair of Governors noting Malmesbury Town Council's grave concerns on the effect this is having on an otherwise outstanding and highly performing School.

Meeting closed at 8.01pm