



MALMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 24th March 2026 at 7.00pm.

Present; Cllrs James, Hastings, I Wallis, Grant, Crawford-Price, Hughes, Paget, RP Jones, Exton, Sanderson, Power, M Akhtar, Drake & D'Arcy.

Also present: Claire Mann (Town Clerk)

MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr James stated that he had attended a Malmesbury and District Twinning Association committee meeting, he had met Malmesbury resident Mr Terry Fox to discuss pedestrianisation of the Market Cross, had met with a Times Radio journalist who recorded material for the Best Place to Live story and had hosted the Mayor's Charity Curry Buffet in the Rajah restaurant.

FC/26/27 To receive declarations of interest.

Noone received.

FC/26/28 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllrs O Wallis and J Akhtar of Malmesbury Town Council and M Smith of Wiltshire Council.

FC/26/29 Public participation on items of business included on the agenda.

None received.

FC/26/30 To receive an update from the Town Clerk in correspondence in the last month.

The Town Clerk updated members on external meetings she had attended.

FC/26/31 To receive and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 24th February 2026.

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

FC/26/32 To receive and note the minutes of the Policy & Resources meeting held on the 10th February 2026.

The minutes were noted.

FC/26/33 To receive and note the minutes of the Town Hall & Facilities meeting held on the 8th January 2026.

The minutes were noted.

FC/26/34 To receive and note the minutes of the Community Engagement & Town Promotion Committee meetings held on the 13th November 2025 and 15th January 2026.

The minutes of both meetings were noted.

FC/26/35 To receive and note the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting on the 17th February 2026.

The minutes were noted.

FC/26/36 To consider signing of Friendship Agreement with Fitjar, Norway.

Following discussion it was agreed that Malmesbury Town Council will sign a Friendship Agreement with Fitjar, Norway.

FC/26/37 To receive an update from the Town Centre Open Spaces and High Street Regeneration Working Group.

Cllr Power reported on the background of the Working Group and the improvements it has made so far to the Gant/Griffin Alley.

FC/26/38 To confirm allocation of Wiltshire Towns Funding as per the original breakdown for 2026/27 with authority to oversee the disbursement of funds delegated to the Town Centre Open Spaces and High Street Regeneration Working Group.

Following discussion the Council resolved to endorse the original proposal to P&R in October 2024 for the allocation of the Wiltshire Towns Funding Grant and for the Town Centre Open Spaces & High Street Regeneration working group to undertake the work within the scope of allocated funds.

FC/26/49 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 mentioned recent meetings during her correspondence update.
- ii. **Malmesbury Conservation Group**
Cllr Power reported that there has been no meeting recently
- iii. **Malmesbury Town Team**
Cllr Drake had circulated a report ahead of the meeting.
- iv. **Malmesbury & District Twinning Association**
Cllr Exton had circulated a report ahead of the meeting detailing recent and upcoming activity. Cllr Grant also stated that the Leader of Wiltshire Council is 'virtually' meeting with the President of the Cherkassy Region.
- v. **Operational Flood Group**
Cllr Sanderson reported that a meeting had taken place last week and that the Environment Agency is very active in the area.
- vi. **Local Highways & Footpaths Improvements Group**
There was nothing to report.
- vii. **Local Youth Network Management Group**
There was nothing to report.
- viii. **Movies @ Malmesbury.**
Cllr D'Arcy stated that the Cinema Volunteer meeting was taking place shortly. It was agreed that thanks should be expressed to the group for its commitment and hard work which is evident by the resounding success of the Cinema.
- ix. **Bus Service improvement**
There was nothing to report.
- x. **Health & Well-being Forum.**
Cllr not present to provide an update.
- xi. **Community Safety Forum**
No meeting has been planned yet.
- xii. **Joint Neighbourhood Plan**
Cllr not present to provide an update.
- xiii. **Cotswolds National Landscape Board.**
Cllr Sanderson will forward recent information from the Board.
- xiv. **Athelstan Statue**
There was nothing to report.

FC/26/40 To receive an update from Wiltshire Councillors. This may include urgent actions to be considered by the Council.

Cllr Grant stated that the Wiltshire Council (WC) budget has now been approved and that £29m had been saved. The WC Local Plan has been rejected by the Planning Inspectorate and a new one is being drafted, this will be fully compliant with Gypsy & Traveller Site inclusion and Reserved Sites, the lack of which in the previous Plan had contributed to it's failure, it also features an 83% uplift in housing numbers. Cllr Grant advised MTC to continue with its Neighbourhood Plan Review as a matter of importance.

The issues at the Secondary School remain and Cllr Grant asked the Mayor to write to Wiltshire Council to ensure that Directors work with School Contractors, G4S, to guarantee standards adherence.

Cllr Grant stated that proposed car parking charge changes will be consulted upon in the first instance and urges everyone, Councillors and members of the Public, to respond to the survey to ensure their views are made known.

Cllr Grant proposes that a 20mph speed limit across the whole of Malmesbury would be advantageous, he urged the Council to consider contributing to the scheme in future if public support is gained for the initiative.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm