



MALMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 29th July 2025 at 7.00pm.

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

Also present: Claire Mann (Town Clerk), Cllr Martin Smith, Laurence Musset, Sue Alexander & Ian Randall.

Minutes' Reflection

MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr James stated that Cllr Sanderson may speak from a sitting position if required. Cllr James had engagements with St Jo's Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat in the Abbey, Roz Savage MBE MP, Gordon Williams re Town Crier, Photographed on Lime Down site, Malmesbury School Year 8 Science Fair, Business Planning Workshop, Gien Civic Reception and Farewell Dinner, Visited Abbey House, with owner, Malmesbury History Society 10th Anniversary, Malmesbury Community Fridge 3rd Anniversary, Abbey House Manor Open Gardens and a Teams meeting with WC re Riverside in the last month.

Ivan Randall from the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust gave a presentation about the importance of conservation in Churchyards and Cemeteries. Mr Randall thanked the Council for allowing him to speak at the meeting and described other local projects that are working successfully towards conservation in Cemeteries. The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is very supportive of these initiatives and lend equipment if they are able to. There are many ideas and activities to encourage children to become involved and generate interest from a young age.

FC/25/92 To receive declarations of interest.

None received.

FC/25/93 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllr Hastings.

It was resolved to move item 14 forwards in the meeting

FC/25/94 To consider Malmesbury Primary School expansion.

Cllr James explained to members that officials from Wiltshire Council had written to the Secretary of State requesting that their previous decision to expand the Primary School be rescinded, this took place without the knowledge of the current administration at Wiltshire Council. Cllr Grant stated that he has received a response to a letter that he wrote to the Secretary of State, noting that the regional division of the education authority is unlikely to change its original view, in favour of the expansion. Questions were asked about projected School figures, if the plan had been forwarded to other local Schools and why WC had changed its original support. Laurence Musset (Chair of Governors) replied that 'satellite' primary schools have been asked how they would like to access the proposed STEAM facility but no responses had yet been received. Mr Musset also stated that WC figures were from October 2024 and that house building numbers are not being projected but the

Malmesbury School is planning for the future and taking current and future developments into account.

Following discussion it was resolved that Malmesbury Town Council supports the proposed expansion as approved by the Secretary of State in 2024.

Laurence Musset the meeting

FC/25/95 Public participation on items of business included on the agenda.

This was included in the previous item.

FC/25/96 To receive an update from the Town Clerk on correspondence in the last month

The Town Clerk's update was noted.

FC/25/97 To receive and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 24th June 2025.

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

FC/25/98 To consider support for the Sherston Community Medical Hub.

Cllr Smith was introduced to members and was asked for the background at the Sherston Medical Hub and the implications to residents of Malmesbury if it were to close.

Following discussion it was agreed that MTC reaffirms its continued support for the Sherston Community Medical Hub to remain open and operating in Sherston.

Cllr Smith left the meeting

FC/25/99 To receive and note the minutes of the Policy & Resources meeting held on the 17th June 2025.

The minutes were noted.

FC/25/100 To receive and note the minutes of the Planning & Environment meetings held on the 10th June & 1st July 2025.

The minutes of both meetings were noted.

FC/25/101 To receive and note the minutes of the Town Hall & Facilities meeting held on the 12th June 2025.

The minutes were noted.

FC/25/102 To receive and note the minutes of the Community Engagement & Town Promotion meeting held on the 19th June 2025.

The minutes were noted.

FC/25/103 To appoint member to Policy & Resources Committee following resignation of James Slade.

Cllr James asked members if they wished to put themselves forward to be appointed. It was resolved to hold a secret ballot and Cllr O Wallis was voted onto the Policy & Resources Committee.

FC/25/104 To consider review of CCTV (Cllr James)

Cllr James stated that the CCTV had been operating for one year and it would be timely to conduct a review. Following discussion it was agreed that a working group, to report to P&R will be formed, comprising membership of Cllrs Sanderson, D'Arcy, Crawford-Price and I Wallis. Terms of Reference will also be agreed at next P&R meeting.

FC/25/105 To consider waiving of late cancellation fee for hirer.

Following discussion it was agreed that terms and conditions must always be applied in the event of any cancellation.

FC/25/106 To confirm working groups under Full Council and membership.

The following was resolved;

- Asset Acquisition Cllrs D'Arcy, Grant and I Wallis and the Town Clerk
- NHP Review Cllrs Exton, Power, Grant, Sanderson and Drake with J Bartholomew, C Carpenter, Cllr M Smith and Cllr R Budgen. Catherine Doody, Campbell Ritchie and James Slade will be asked if they would like to remain on the group.
- Town Centre Open Spaces and High Street Regeneration Cllrs Power, I Wallis, Grant and Exton with David Drake and Ilyia Shimbov. Campbell Ritchie, Frances Smith, Catherine Doody and Lesley Crawford-Price will be asked if they would like to remain on the group.
- Primary School Expansion This working group will be formed when further information is received from the Regional Director of the Education Authority.

FC/25/107 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 reported that the newsletter had been circulated to all and highlighted the WALC conference details in September.
- ii. **Malmesbury Conservation Group**
Cllr Power had circulated an update.
- iii. **Malmesbury Town Team**
Cllr Drake had circulated an update.
- iv. **Malmesbury & District Twinning Association**
It was noted that the recent visit from Gien had been very successful and enjoyable.
- v. **Operational Flood Group**
No update.
- vi. **Local Highways & Footpaths Improvements Group**
Cllr Exton asked that reports were published on the MTC website as soon as soon as possible.
- vii. **Local Youth Network Management Group**
No update.
- viii. **Movies @ Malmesbury.**
No update.
- ix. **Bus Service improvement**
No update.
- x. **Health & Well-being Forum.**
No update.
- xi. **Community Safety Forum**
No update.
- xii. **Joint Neighbourhood Plan – to consider correspondence to MP or Wiltshire Cabinet Member**
It was noted that changes in the Planning System around Neighbourhood Plans are currently underway.
- xiii. **Cotswolds National Landscape Board.**
Cllr Sanderson will forward a report to all members shortly.
- xiv. **Athelstan Statue**
No update.

FC/25/108 To receive an update from Wiltshire Councillor, Gavin Grant. This may include urgent actions to be considered by the Council.

Cllr Grant reported the following;

Announcements:

- The Wiltshire Connect on-demand bus service has expanded to include Malmesbury and the surrounding areas. This service, already successful in the Pewsey Vale, allows residents to book journeys via an app or phone for flexible and affordable travel. The service also connects Malmesbury with the Orbital Shopping Park and Great Western Hospital in Swindon. Booking: Journeys can be booked via the Wiltshire Connect app or by phone (01225 712900). Areas Served includes Malmesbury, Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade. There are links to Swindon, including the Orbital Shopping Park and Great Western Hospital as well as Royal Wotton Bassett and Cricklade.
- 10 Free Swimming for sessions FUEL participants and free school meal secondary students at the Activity Zone pool during the School summer holidays being run as a pilot
- Bremilham Road application called in.

Resolutions at Wiltshire Full Council meeting

- Lime Down opposition – carried
- HGV weight restriction enforcement – carried
- "Ask Angela" promotional campaign – carried
- Refutation of Climate Emergency Declaration 2030 targets – rejected

Malmesbury Area Boards Responsibilities, Grants & Resolution:

- Vice Chair.
- LYN.
- Co Convenor with Councillor Threlfall of the Malmesbury Area Community Safety Partnership with Wiltshire Police.
- Resolution calling for extra Policing resources for Malmesbury Area – carried
- HEALS Summer Programme grant application - approved

Meeting closed at 9.03pm