



# MALMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Planning & Environment Committee Meeting**  
Held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Tues 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

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**Present:** Cllrs: J Slade (Chair), R Sanderson (Vice Chair) P Exton, W Jones, I Wallis,  
K Drake

**Also present:** Claire Mann (Town Clerk), 4 members of the public

**PE/25/035 To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.**  
None received.

**PE/25/036 To receive apologies for absence.**  
Cllr R Jones

**PE/25/037 Public Questions in respect of items included in this agenda**  
Lacemakers Road and Filands footpath – this has been closed during the duration of works (with an extension applied for) and it has been clarified it will not be completed in this timescale.- relocation may be possible and it was agreed this should be investigated. Emails were requested to be forwarded to assist.

A bin has been removed by Bloor and it was agreed to request that this is reinstated. Cllr Exton advised there is an open dialogue with Bloor which is helpful.

Cllr R Jones had forwarded apologies for the previous meeting and this was noted. Cllr Drake requested working groups membership to be an agenda at the next meeting.

**PE/25/038 To approve minutes of meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025**  
The minutes were adopted and signed as a correct record.

**PE/25/039 To receive and note income and expenditure report**  
The report including LHFIFG payment was noted.

**PE/25/040 To consider accessibility of footpaths (particularly stiles) around Malmesbury and determine way forward**  
Cllr Exton stated an audit of all footpaths took place a few years previously, and he will pass file of information to the Town Clerk to assist with moving forward on what can be undertaken. Re accessibility it was agreed to work with neighbouring parishes and this could work well alongside signage and streetscene audit which is taking place on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Cllr Sanderson advised there is a legal requirement to register footpaths and their accessibility and this includes the actual route of the path, not just location of stiles.

**PE/25/041 To resolve comment re Lime Down Solar consultation (closing date 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025)**  
A draft statement had been prepared by Cllr Slade. Following discussion it was resolved that additional text is included in the statement and it was agreed by all present that the revised statement is submitted (see appendix 1)

**PE/25/042 To agree 3 street naming submissions for one (Punters Farm) location**  
Reviewing previous listing of potential street names and one new submission is was agreed to submit Curtis / Lester and Avis. Also at the next meeting there should be an agenda item to form a street naming future protocol.

**PE/25/043 To resolve comment of planning applications received since last meeting**  
The following comments were resolved:-

WC ref: PL/2025/02158 – The Nuttery, Blicks Hills, Malmesbury SN16 9HZ  
No objection

W/C ref: PL/2025/001410 – 37 Carnival Close, Malmesbury SN16 9FY  
No objection

W/C Ref: PL/2025/01776 – Land off A429m adj to Waitrose & Partners, Baskerville Hill, Malmesbury SN16 9NZ

Objection: Malmesbury Town Council objects to tree felling in this instance – we are sympathetic and support controlled and minimal pollarding in this case if required, felling being a last resort with a programme of replacement replanting. The Planning Inspectorate (APP/Y3940/W/23/3335927) dated 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 noted protected trees in this location and referred to the character and appearance of the area. We feel that would be beneficial for the Wiltshire Council tree officer to review this application.

W/C ref: PL/2025/00039 – 14 Gastons Road, Malmesbury, Wilts, SN16 0BE

This application was deferred to request information/documentation to allow consideration of the application at the next meeting. Extension to be requested with the planning officer.

**PE/25/X044 To note – update on standing items**

Triangle Junction

No update, Deputy Town Clerk is enquiring with Wiltshire Council re previous traffic surveys and appropriate traffic surveys to be commissioned moving forward.

Market Cross

Works will commence 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025, meeting arranged on site with Historic England and Izaak Hudson (surveyor) on 25<sup>th</sup> March which is expected to include mortar mix approval with the contractor Minerva Stone. Parking suspensions will be made for the Minerva, all businesses at Market Cross have been informed as well as the Friday market coordinator. Contractor has arranged for scaffolding tower will be assembled and taken down on a daily basis to allow access to the structure.

Wheeler Way

Still awaiting update and contact from the Rural Estates surveyor at Wiltshire Council, it was agreed correspondence so far will be forwarded to Cllr Grant to escalate.

Dual recycling bins

Delivery of bins has been confirmed as 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Dep Town Clerk is currently working on a schedule of removal of the old bins, installation of the news bins ( new concrete base has been laid for bin at Station yard) and a starting date for the recyclables collection.

Meeting was closed at 8.18p.m.



## APPENDIX 1

### Proposed Objection - Lime Down Solar Park

“Malmesbury Town Council is committed to a sustainable future for our town and surrounding area. We have worked extensively with a range of interested parties, including home builders and developers, to ensure sustainability is a key consideration in the development and growth of our town. This has included specific measures, including EV and Solar inclusion for new development.

Whilst the above demonstrates our support for the principal of renewable energy, including solar, it is not a blanket approval. In the case of significant solar development, **Lime Down Solar Park**, this committee **strongly opposes** the development in principle, as well as several mechanisms around the consultation process.

At 11 Square Miles, Lime Down is a significant development which will have a negative, material impact on both the immediate and surrounding areas, including Malmesbury. We share the concerns of Wiltshire Council relating to the sites current Agricultural Status (30% of which is significantly favourable and versatile arable land), impact on the cherished AONB status of the area and far ranging impact on land health. There is a statutory duty to conserve and enhance national landscapes and this development contradicts this principle.

#### Impact to Malmesbury

In the most recent round of consultation, residents of Malmesbury were excluded from information provided by Lime Down. This is a blatant and inexcusable omission, with residents metres from the town boundary in Malmesbury St Paul Without included in distribution. We believe the process to date has not provided a rounded view on the impact of visual impact, glare and noise.

This committee has already raised and detailed concerns to Malmesbury directly from this development, which include issues around **Traffic, Flooding, Water Run-Off & Health, Emergency Preparedness and Construction Pollutants**. One issue that has once again been omitted from consideration is the material impact on **Tourism** – a sector vital to the economic status of the town. It is also evident no consideration has been given to the **Emotional and Physical Health and Wellbeing of residents** in the wider community who will suffer from the loss of amenity associated with living in a rural or semi-rural setting.

#### Summary

Our opposition to the Lime Down Solar Park stands, as does our call for a robust consultation process with local stakeholders. Many of the points raised above have yet, in our opinion, to be comprehensively considered and we would support Wiltshire Council’s call for a supplementary public consultation.”

ENDS - Cllr James Slade / Chair, Planning & Environment Committee / Malmesbury Town Council  
- 11/03/2025