

## **Malmesbury Town Council**

Minutes of the meeting of Malmesbury Town Council held in the the Malting Hall Malmesbury on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 7.00pm.

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**PRESENT:** Her Worship the Mayor, Councillor SJ Poole  
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor K Power  
Councillors: RE Budgen, FE Caton, CC Doody, JE Exton, AJ Gundry, LG Grant  
A Kettleby, SJ Killane, VL Penfold, RF Sanderson and S J Shape.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors S Cox and ACR Woodcock  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** 10 Members of the Public

Her Worship the Mayor, Councillor SJ Poole, welcomed members of the public and the newly elected Member Councillor L G Grant to the meeting.

### **1. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor JE Exton declared an interest in agenda item 2 as the Secretary to the Football Club. She remained in the chamber for the consideration of the item but did not vote.

### **2. Public Question Time**

Councillor CC Doody stated that she was both deeply concerned and appalled at the way in which one Councillor was being harassed. She stated that she would like the Council to make a public statement repudiating the harassment of any Members of the Town Council.

Her Worship the Mayor, Councillor SJ Poole, stated that she would draft a statement in consultation with the Town Clerk and circulate it to all Councillors for approval.

### **3. Community Grant Application – Malmesbury Victoria Football Club**

Mr Davis from the Football Club introduced the application. He stated that although the Club was in some financial difficulties, it had looked to other sources as well as the Town Council and that the Club should be on a sustainable footing in the future.

Councillor K Power stated that she was content that a properly detailed application had now been prepared and proposed that the Application be approved.

Councillor S Killane seconded Councillor Power's proposal and stated:  
It was right and proper to defer this application in order to get clarification on how the club intends to spend our hard-earned Council Tax-Payers' money. I am glad that Councillors Power and Poole and our clerk have scrutinised the application and challenged the leadership of the club to provide more detailed information. I have full confidence in the judgement of these Councillors and this Officer. I have listened to the comments and pleas for help from club members and I have seen the generosity of our town in coming to their aid. It is for these reasons that I have concluded that it is simply not appropriate to penalise the football club members and fans because of the inappropriate actions of a minority.

Please note that Councillor Exton has submitted a formal complaint to Wiltshire Council about me. Council Democratic Services Officers have advised all parties not to publicly divulge the details of the complaint until they can complete their assessments. You will have also seen the numerous accusations - all sorts of criminal and behavioural accusations – that have been posted about me and other

Councillors on newspaper websites, on individual websites, on a petition and on social media fora (forums). These are, in my opinion, part of a well-organised and orchestrated hate campaign to destroy my good reputation and force me out of office. Let me assert to Councillors and residents that trial by media, the web or dubious petition is an unjust, ineffective and undemocratic way to deal with allegations. There are 4 ways to hold any elected representative to account:

1. Challenge their behaviour in the Civil Courts.
2. Submit a complaint to Wiltshire Council Standards Officers.
3. Use the Ballot Box at election time to choose an alternative representative.
4. Make a formal complaint about an alleged criminal action to the Police.

I will continue to work pro-actively and positively for the people of Wiltshire and Malmesbury until such time as I am challenged by any 4 of these options.

Most importantly, I will continue to support our residents and Police to make our town a safe, low-crime area, free from alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour. I will strive to enhance and protect the economy of our town, for a thriving retail centre and for expanded employment opportunities. I will work to empower every resident of our neighbourhood to have a real and meaningful say in future development through our Neighbourhood Plan. Finally, I will continue to work pro-actively to support all our local Sports and Leisure Clubs as I have done for many years. Both I and my colleagues on Malmesbury Area Board have supported the Football Club with flood alleviation measures and equipment funding. I have clearly demonstrated my support for the club, most recently supporting a match-funded award of £1,200 to them.

**Resolved:** That the Application be approved in the form of an abeyance of rent for a period of 6 months.

#### 4. Allocation of Councillors to Service Committees

Consideration was given to the appointment of Councillors to Service Committees.

**Resolved:** that the following appointments be made:

**Planning & Environment Committee:** RE Budgen, FE Caton, S Cox, JE Exton, AJ Gundry, VL Penfold, RF Sanderson and ACR Woodcock.

**Town Hall & Facilities Committee:** RE Budgen, S Cox, JE Exton, LG Grant, A Kettlely, VL Penfold, S Shape and Vacancy.

**Community & Town Promotions:** FE Caton, S Cox, CC Doody, LG Grant, A Kettlely, SJ Killane, RF Sanderson and ACR Woodcock.

**Joint Burial Committee:** CC Doody, JE Exton, AJ Gundry, LG Grant, SJ Poole and Vacancy.

The Mayor adjourned Council in order for meetings of the Planning & Environment, Town Hall & Facilities and Community & Town Promotions Committees to take place. Following which, Council was reconvened.

Consideration was given to the appointment of a Vice-Chair of the Malmesbury & St Paul Without Joint Burial Committee.

**Resolved:** that Councillor CC Doody be instructed to continue as Vice-Chair of the Malmesbury & St Paul Without Joint Burial Committee until the first meeting of the Joint Committee.

Consideration was given to the appointment of Councillors to the Policy & Resources Committee:

**Resolved:** that Councillors K Power, SJ Killane, VL Penfold and S Shape be appointed to service on the Policy & Resources Committee (along with Councillors AJ Gundry, RE Budgen, S Cox and CC Doody).

The Mayor adjourned Council in order for a meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee to take place.

Following which the meeting was reconvened.

## **5. Representatives on Outside Organisations**

Consideration was given to the appointment of representatives on outside organisations.

**Resolved:** that the following appointments be made:

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils – K Power & AJ Gundry.  
Wiltshire Association of Market Towns – SJ Poole & K Power.  
Area Board – SJ Poole & K Power.  
Elizabeth Hodges Trust – SJ Poole.  
MVCAP – FE Caton & JE Exton.  
Activity Zone – RF Sanderson.  
Conservation Group – CC Doody.  
Neighbourhood Plan – K Power.  
Campus Project – CC Doody.  
Malmesbury & District Community Transport – A Kettlety.  
Town Team – FE Caton.  
Malmesbury & District Twinning Association – RF Sanderson.  
Operational Flood Working Group – AJ Gundry.

**The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.**