

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in the Malting Hall, Malmesbury on Tuesday 9th July 2013 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, Councillor A J Gundry
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor S J Poole.
Councillors: W G Blake, R E Budgen, F E Caton, S Cox, C C Doody, J E Exton,
A Kettley, S J Killane, V L Penfold, K Power, S J Shape, M H Snell
and A C R Woodcock

APOLOGIES: Councillor R F Sanderson absence due to ill health.

IN ATTENDANCE: 2 members of the police force, two members of the press and one member of the public

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No public questions

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

No declarations were made.

PRESENTATION

Sergeant M Alvis of the Wiltshire Police delivered a presentation on crime and disorder in Malmesbury. He provided data indicating that the overall rate of crime had been reduced by 5.6% on the previous year. The only increase had been in respect of Anti Social Behaviour and that was a single event. Behaviour in Station Yard continues to generate calls and the police will be working closely with the Town Council, Wiltshire Council and the Housing Association to secure a suitable solution.

Councillor Blake enquired if Sergeant Alvis was aware of any investigation into a local organisation known as HEALS and the manager. Sergeant Alvis replied that he was unaware of any investigation.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Killane, Sergeant Alvis confirmed that the figures quoted referred to the whole of the Malmesbury area.

Councillors Cox and Caton both raised the issue of heavy lorries and tourist buses in the town centre. Sergeant Alvis confirmed that only complaints made to the call centre would be logged and recorded.

Councillor Power moved a vote of thanks to the police for their input in securing a reduction in the recorded crime figure. The vote of thanks was fully supported by the Council.

20. TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28th MAY 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 28th May 2013, as circulated, be received and adopted.

21. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 30TH MAY AND 18TH JUNE 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environmental Issues Committee held on the 30TH May and 18th June 2013 be received and noted.

30th MAY MIN 6 (M5 36 Gloucester Street) – Councillor Blake spoke against the decision of the committee to recommend refusal. Councillor Killane advised the Council that the application had been called in, withdrawn and the property offered for sale by auction.

18th JUNE MIN 4 (LITTER BINS) – Councillor Blake informed the Council that he thought the issue was now a priority. Councillor Gundry undertook to consider the matter at the next committee meeting.

18th JUNE MIN 6 (Pedestrian Crossing Working Group) – Councillor Poole informed the Council that work had commenced on footfall surveys.

18th JUNE MIN 7b (Emergency Plan) – Councillor Gundry advised that a small group had been formed to produce the text for the plan.

22. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 3RD JUNE 2013.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Joint Burial Committee held on the 3rd June 2013 be noted.

23. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE & YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4TH JUNE 2013.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure & Youth Committee held on the 4th June 2013 be received and noted.

MIN 4 Reeds Farm hedge – Councillor Blake advised the Council that from previous investigations he can confirm that the hedge around the play area was owned by Wiltshire Council

MIN 5 Priorities – Councillor Cox expressed concern that no mention was made of the YMCA money and that if this was being blocked in Bath the issue should be raised higher in the organisation. Councillor Power explained the background to the YMCA fund. Councillor Exton explained that the conditions made it very difficult to gain access to the fund. Councillor Killane advised that the fund and access would be investigated.

24. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN PROMOTION & TOURISM COMMITTEE HELD ON 6TH JUNE 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Town Promotion & Tourism Committee held on 6th June 2013 be received and noted.

MIN 8 WOMAD – Councillor Poole advised that a meeting for those who had offered assistance would be held on 15th July.

MIN 14 FREE PARKING DAYS – Councillor Poole advised that the two days chosen for the free parking would be 31st August and 26th October

25. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11th JUNE 2013.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 11th June 2013 be received and noted.

MIN 06 Personnel Sub Committee – Councillor Poole acknowledged that she was a members of the subcommittee and enquired if a meeting had been called to deal with the two vacancies and relieve the stress being experienced by the office staff. Councillor Power replied that she was unaware of any stress and that an urgent meeting would be held with the Town Clerk and Chair of Town Hall management Committee to seek a way forward.

26. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Town Hall Management Committee meeting held on 12th June 2013 be received and noted.

MIN 3 Cinema Operation – Councillor Budgen advised that he getting to grips with the cinema operation but had some concerns about resilience.

27. EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS

Councillor Power reported that she and Councillor Budgen had examined two months of payments and found all to be in order.

28. CORE OBJECTIVES FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL

His Worship the Mayor presented a report previously circulated, setting out the sixteen objectives of the Town Council. Councillor Blake requested that parking be included as a separate issue. The Mayor responded that objective 9 included parking. Councillor Penfold observed that if there is a willingness the objectives could form the basis of a strategic business plan and volunteered to assist in any development.

It was proposed by Councillor Gundry, seconded by Councillor Poole and RESOLVED by the Town Council that the sixteen objectives be accepted, the mayor would continue to promote informal discussion amongst councillors and that each Standing Committee would consider their role and present a prioritised action plan to the Town Council..

29. FREQUENCY OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councillor Power presented her report on the frequency of council meetings. Councillor Blake expressed concern that no specific costing had been included in the report and staff had not been consulted. Councillor Power stated that the purpose of the report was to establish the principle and no timescale had been suggested. It was her intention to meet with the Town Clerk and establish how and when the proposal could be implemented.

It was proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Shape and RESOLVED by the Town Council that the proposals contained in the report be accepted

30 FORMAT OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councillor Killane presented his report on the layout of the Malting Hall for council meetings. He identified that Councillors were sitting with their backs to the public and that such a layout was not inclusive.

It was proposed by Councillor Killane, seconded by Councillor Poole and RESOLVED by the Town Council that alternative layouts be trialled commencing at the next Town Council meeting.

31. COMMUNITY GRANTS

Councillor Power presented a report on Community Grants, explaining how the additional income raised through the latest 1.9% increase in council tax could be returned to the community through increasing the level of money available for section 137 grants to local organisations delivering services or support to local residents.

Councillor Woodcock stated his aversion to giving public money to local charities and organisations. He felt this should be a matter for individuals to support from their own funds.

It was proposed by Councillor Power, seconded and RESOLVED by the Town Council that the funds be made available for grants to be distributed at a level not exceeding £500, that applications will be considered from local groups or charities providing benefit to local residents and that applicants must attend the Town Council meeting to explain their need. The decisions will be made by the Town Council and not Policy and Resources Committee.

32. OLD SCHOOL ROOM

Councillor Power presented a report proposing that the Old School Room be withdrawn from the market and consideration be given to using the space as a community hub or an inexpensive facility for the community.

Councillor Blake commented that the proposal; to obtain a commercial rental income was to offset the charges made in respect of the loan repayment. Councillor Snell enquired about the existing confirmed hiring and was assured that all existing hirers would be protected until a formal decision has been made.

An amendment was put forward and accepted by Councillor Power that the term community hub be altered to community facility. It was then proposed by Councillor Power, seconded and RESOLVED by the Town Council that the Old School Room be withdrawn from the market and discussion commence on the use as a community facility.

33. INSTALLATION OF SATELLITE DISH

Councillor Budgen presented a report seeking consent to make a planning application and listed building consent for the installation of a satellite dish on the roof of the Town Hall.

It was proposed by Councillor Budgen, second by Councillor Penfold and RESOLVED by the Town Council that such application be made and that if successful the dish be connected to the cinema equipment.

34. STANDING ORDERS

Councillor Blake raised the issue of a review of Standing Orders. It was RESOLVED by the Town Council that a review be undertaken in six months time.

35. QUALITY TOWN COUNCILS SCHEME

The Town Clerk circulated information about the Quality Council scheme and drew members attention to the checklist at the end of the booklet. He informed the Town Council that the existing scheme had been suspended but it was anticipated that a revised scheme will be announced later in the year. In the meantime the Town Council could still address those areas needing some improvement ready for the new scheme.

Councillor Penfold informed the Town Council of her involvement with other quality schemes and offered her assistance on the project. The Town Clerk advised that he was now registered for the training scheme and that approximately 150 hours of input would be required to secure accreditation.

36. MALMESBURY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Councillor Kettley volunteered to take the place of Councillor Cox as the representative on the Malmesbury and District Community Transport. It was RESOLVED that Councillor Kettley be so appointed.

37. TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

Councillor Gundry informed the Town Council that Councillor Power had made improvements to the information contained on the existing site and that he, together with Councillor Power and the Town Clerk had commenced interviewing potential providers.

Councillor Shape enquired if the local school had been contacted. Councillor Gundry replied that they had not but it was his intention to contact a local supplier before final decision is made.

38. TOWN COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

Councillor Power sought support from the Town Council for the action plan to be displayed on the notice boards and website. The proposal was supported by Councillor Cox and RESOLVED by the Town Council that the document be made available on public display.

39. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Power informed the Town Council that the examination of the Core Strategy had commenced and discussion on Malmesbury would take place on 16th July. Councillor Blake informed that some respondents to the Neighbourhood Plan had expressed concern that their views had not been taken into consideration. Councillor Poole advised that she had received similar information. Councillor Gundry assured the Town Council that no respondent could say that their comments had been dismissed as responses are still in the process of being collated. Councillor Blake stated that he had brought the comments to the Town Council in order that members were aware.

The meeting closed at 9.22 pm.