

## **Malmesbury Town Council**

Minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council Meeting held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7.30pm.

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**PRESENT:** The Deputy Mayor, Councillor K Power  
Councillors: R E Budgen, F E Caton, S Cox, C C Doody, J E Exton, L G Grant, W Jones, A Kettleby, S J Killane, and A C R Woodcock  
**APOLOGIES:** Councillor A J Gundry, V L Penfold, S J Poole and R F Sanderson  
**NON ATTENDANCE:** Councillor S J Shape  
**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

None

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

### **32. STRENGTHENING OUR FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

The Council was invited to comment upon the consultation document issued in respect of the future of the Wiltshire and Swindon Fire and Rescue Service. The document outlined the pressures upon the service and the requirement to deliver financial savings. Three options were proposed within the document and the opinions of the Council were being sought as part of the consultation exercise.

In summary the three options to be considered were as follows:

- Scenario 1 - remain independent and increase collaboration with Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council.
- Scenario 2 - remain independent and increase collaboration with Dorset Fire Authority and the councils mentioned in scenario 1
- Scenario 3 - merge with Dorset Fire Authority to create a single combined fire authority whilst also collaborating with the councils mentioned in scenario 1.

Considerable debate ensued about the merits of scenarios 2 and 3 and the likely impact upon the locally provided service. Council expressed concern that the Government did not appreciate the demands of providing services in rural areas, especially emergency services.

It was proposed by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Budgen that the Council express preferred support for Scenario 3. Councillor Exton called for a recorded vote. Those voting in favour were Councillors Budgen, Caton, Cox, Doody, Exton, Grant, Kettleby, Jones, and Woodcock. Those voting against were Councillors Killane and Power. The proposal to support scenario 3 was therefore agreed as the council's formal response.

Councillor Doody then proposed that the Town Council write to the government objecting to the withdrawal of funding. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Power and approved by the Council.