

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Malmesbury Town Council held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 20th December 2016 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, Councillor W R Jones
Deputy Mayor Cllr A C R Woodcock
Councillors: R Budgen, S Cox, C C Doody, J E Exton, L G Grant,
A J Gundry, M Jennings, S J Poole, K Power, F Vandelli
and H Webb

APOLOGIES: Councillors: V L Penfold, R F Sanderson and K Wright

ALSO PRESENT: Three members of the public

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Councillors Doody and Jennings declared interest in Item 6 on the agenda and Councillors Doody and Woodcock declared interest in Item 10 on the agenda.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: No public questions.

50. TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22nd NOVEMBER 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Town Council meetings held on the 22nd November 2016, as circulated, be received and adopted.

His Worship the Mayor received the approval of the Council to take agenda item 6 as the next item of business.

51. PROPOSED BALLOON FLIGHT FROM THE CROSS HAYES

Councillors Doody and Jennings absented themselves from the meeting in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct.

The Town Clerk explained that an original report had been submitted to the Community and Town Promotion Committee who has resolved not to offer support if the event was held within the Cross Hayes in view of the disruption likely to be caused to local residents. At the Town Council meeting in November it was resolved to refer the request for assistance to the Town Council.

Councillor Grant enquired if the agreement made by Wiltshire Council meant that the closure of parking spaces for the event would be deducted from those controlled by the Town Council and if alternative parking arrangements had been confirmed.. The Town Clerk advised that this was unlikely as the event was scheduled for a “no charge” day but the question would be raised with Wiltshire Council and the organisers would need to consider the provision of alternative parking.

The Town Clerk informed the Council that the assistance to be offered by the Town Council could include the submission of the paperwork for the necessary road closures but not the stewarding, enhancing the cleaning in the town centre before the event and opening the Town Hall to ensure that the toilets are available and the entertainers had a place in which to change. Councillor Power raised the question of whether a charge would be made for the use of the Town Hall and was advised that this would be for the Town Hall and Facilities Committee to determine.

Mr and Mrs Sykes from Friends of Athelstan Museum being present in the meeting room were asked about the likely dates and confirmed that the date would be Sunday afternoon 21st May with a fall back of 4th June.

It was RESOLVED that the event be generally supported by the Town Council and assistance provided, especially with obtaining street closures.

Councillors Doody and Jennings returned to the Malting Hall.

52. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 15th NOVEMBER 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on the 15th November 2016, as circulated, be received.

53. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 21st NOVEMBER 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Joint Burial Committee meeting held on the 21st November 2016, as circulated, be received and noted.

54. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 6th DECEMBER 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Policy and resources Committee meeting held on the 6th December 2016, as circulated, be received.

55. ADOPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Councillor Gundry presented the revised draft Communications Policy which had been considered at the last meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee where the proposed changes had been discussed and agreed.

Councillor Power expressed concern that it was still not strong enough as a policy. Councillor Jennings advised that whilst he could not support the previous document the changes proposed by Policy and Resources had adequately dealt with his concerns.

It was proposed by Councillor Gundry, seconded by Councillor Poole and RESOLVED that the revised Communication Policy recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee be adopted by the Malmesbury Town Council.

56. TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2017/2018 & RESERVES

Councillor Gundry, assisted by the Town Clerk, presented the draft Town Council budget for 2017/18 as recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee. He explained that the expenditure was proposed as £464,648 with a projected income of £83,475. The total precept required for 2017/18 would therefore be £381,173. The number of band D equivalent properties had reduced over the year to 1,958.85 and there was no longer a grant available from Wiltshire Council. The result would be a council tax levied by the Town Council of £194.59 for a band D equivalent property.

It was proposed by Councillor Gundry, seconded by Councillor Budgen and RESOLVED that the total precept for the Malmesbury Town Council for 2017/18 would be £381,173 with the Council Tax for a Band D equivalent property levied by the Town Council being £195.59.

The Town Clerk advised the Council that the Policy and Resources Committee had also recommended that for the next financial year the only earmarked reserve would be that relating to the Cloister Gardens, the remainder being grouped within the general reserves. It was proposed by Councillor Gundry, seconded by Councillor Budgen and RESOLVED that from the start of the next financial year the only earmarked reserve shown in the accounts would be the funding for Cloister Gardens.

57. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMUNITY AND TOWN PROMOTION COMMITTEE

Councillor Exton has previously informed the Town Clerk that it was her desire to stand down from membership of the Community and Town Promotion Committee. His Worship the Mayor called for expressions of interest and Councillor Jennings confirmed that he would be prepared to serve on the committee. There being no other expressions of interest Councillor Jennings was duly elected to serve on the committee for the remainder of the Civic Year.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillors Doody and Woodcock withdrew whilst the next item of business was discussed.

58. USE OF TOWN COAT OF ARMS

The Town Clerk reported on a request received from the Chair of the Thomas Hobbes of Malmesbury Society that they be permitted to use the Town coat of arms on their website. It was proposed by Councillor Gundry, seconded by Councillor Power and RESOLVED that the consent be approved for use on the website of that organisation subject to it not being used for commercial gain and the image would be unaltered.

Councillors Doody and Woodcock returned to the meeting.

59. COMMUNICATION WORKING GROUP

Councillor Gundry proposed the recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee that a working group be formed to examine the style and format of communications issued by the Town Council and to recommend improvements. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Grant and approved by the Town Council. Membership of the group to be Councillors Cox, Grant, Exton, Gundry and Jones.

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The meeting closed at 20.20 hrs.