

## Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Malmesbury Town Council held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017 at 7.00pm.

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**PRESENT:** His Worship The Mayor, Councillor WR Jones.  
Councillors: R Budgen, C Burke, CC Doody, PJ Exton, LG Grant, AJ Gundry, PJ Newman, K Power, CM Ritchie and PNJ Smith.

**Apologies:** MJ Asciak, G Darling-Parkes, JM Exton & F Vandelli.  
There were three members of the public present.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Councillor Grant declared a non-Pecuniary interest in Agenda item 7, Community Grant Application from HEALs. He left the chamber for the duration of this item.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** None

### **PRESENTATION ON MALMESBURY FLOOD ALLEVIATION OPTIONS**

Representatives from the Environment Agency, Vicky Farwig and Steve Malpass and Wiltshire Council's Drainage Engineer D Everret were in attendance to give a presentation on work carried out on the upper-Avon catchment since the 2012 floods and flood alleviation options for Malmesbury.

They stated that a modelling project had been carried out throughout the upper-Avon catchment (including the Sherston Avon, Tetbury Avon and as far down as Great Somerford). The modelling showed little impact on properties of a one-in-ten year event, but that for a one-in-thirty year event properties at the bottom of the High Street would be impacted.

The Committee noted that the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council had carried out a cost-benefit analysis on a potential flood alleviation scheme in accordance with DEFRA guidelines. Unfortunately, the scheme produced a negative cost-benefit ratio and the Environment Agency are unable to secure DEFRA funding for a community-wide flood alleviation scheme.

The Environment Agency & Wiltshire Council representatives went on to outline the options available to the community, which included:

- Property Flood Resilience Schemes. The Committee noted that all properties identified by the modelling exercise would be eligible to receive support from a Wessex-wide scheme. Property owners would be responsible for looking after any equipment provided through the scheme.
- Improved Flood Warnings. It was noted that the upper-Avon was quite a small catchment area and so providing accurate early warnings would be difficult. However, warnings might be made on the basis of predicted rainfall.
- Community-Led Scheme. The Environment Agency pointed out that although they were unable to provide finance, they could provide support and expertise for a community led initiative. The temporary demountable defences used at Bradford on Avon were given as an example.

The Mayor thanked V Farwig, S Malpass and D Everret for attending and the Council noted that consideration would need to be given to what schemes the community wanted to take forward.

### **52. TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017.**

The Mayor stated that letters had been sent to Persimmon and to Waitrose concerning the Waitrose steps.

A letter had also been sent to Mrs S Poole, thanking her for her efforts to secure 'Queenie' for the Town.

**Resolved:** that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017, be approved and signed as a correct record.

**53. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017.**

It was noted that the Committee aims to appoint a new chair of the Market Cross Working Group following H Webb's resignation.  
It was also noted that an extraordinary meeting had been scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> November to deal with amended plans for the Anaerobic Digester plant.

**Resolved:** that the Minutes of the Planning and Environment meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017 be received.

**54. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & TOWN PROMOTION COMMITTEE HELD ON 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

**Resolved:** that the Minutes of the Community & Town Promotion Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 be received.

**55. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN HALL & FACILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

**Resolved:** that the Minutes of the Town Hall & Facilities Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 be received.

**56. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

**Resolved:** that the Minutes of the Joint Burial Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> November be noted.

**57. TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR A COMMUNITY GRANT FROM HEALS**

Councillor G Grant left the chamber for the duration of this item.

The Committee noted that the Grant was for the annual Christmas dinner and that this was a worthy and much valued event in the Town. It was observed that the requested Grant would be used to offset the cost of hall hire.

**Resolved:** to approve a Community Grant of £100 for the HEALs Christmas Community Lunch.

**58. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR GAVIN GRANT**

Council received an update from Councillor Grant, the Wiltshire Councillor for the Town. His update covered the Waitrose steps, Wiltshire Council's asset transfer policy to town/parish councils, the review of ward boundaries, Christmas lights, child poverty, the Town Team and ambulance response times.  
Councillor Grant produced a written version of his update. This is **attached** as Appendix 1 to these Minutes.

**59. TO CONSIDER THE RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCIL AND MALMESBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Consideration was given to Wiltshire Council's decision to meet the future need for primary schools places by expanding Lea & Garsdon School. Council had regard to a Report prepared by Councillor Ritchie, the Statutory Notice published by Wiltshire Council and written representations from the Head Master of Malmesbury Primary School.

Issues discussed included:

- That the proposals would see perhaps up to one hundred Malmesbury residents, bused out of Town for their primary schooling;
- That Councillors Budgen & Gundry had been invited to discuss the issue with Malmesbury Primary School;
- That it is very likely that Malmesbury will continue to expand, beyond the Neighbourhood Plan and Core Strategy periods; and
- That comments on the Statutory Notice have to be submitted by 7<sup>th</sup> December and that Wiltshire Council's Cabinet will discuss the matter on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That Councillors Budgen and Gundry attend a meeting with the Governors and Head Teacher of the Primary School and bring a full update to an extraordinary meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> November.
- 2) That the Planning & Environment Committee on the 30<sup>th</sup> formulates a plan of action for responding to the Statutory Notice by 7<sup>th</sup> December, making representations to Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> December and deciding if a press release is necessary.

The Mayor reminded all those present, that all Councillors were welcome to attend the meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee. He also urged Councillors who had questions for the School to pass these on to Councillors Budgen & Gundry ahead of their meeting.

**Meeting closed at 8.59pm.**