

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Malmesbury Town Council held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 19th December 2017 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: His Worship The Mayor, Councillor W R Jones.
Deputy Mayor, Councillor F Vandelli
Councillors: R Budgen, G Darling-Parkes, CC Doody, PJ Exton, LG Grant, AJ Gundry, PJ Newman, CM Ritchie and PNJ Smith.

APOLOGIES: MJ Asciak, C Burke, JM Exton & K Power.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: None

60. TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21st NOVEMBER 2017.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 21st November 2017, be approved and signed as a correct record.

61. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 24th NOVEMBER AND THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 30th NOVEMBER 2017.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Planning and Environment meeting held on the 24th November and the extraordinary meeting held on 30th November 2017 be received.

Min 7 Market Cross - Councillor Budgen advised that the appointment of a new chair of the Market Cross Working Group would be determined at the next meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee.

Min 9 Core Strategy- Councillor Budgen advised that comments had been submitted to Wiltshire Council.

Min 4 Charlton Park – Councillor Budgen advised that comments had been submitted to Wiltshire Council. Councillor Ritchie asked what action could be taken to ensure that the Town Council received the details of any new information submitted by the applicant. Councillor Budgen undertook to contact the case officer about any new information which, if received, he would circulate to all members.

62. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 5th DECEMBER 2017

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 5th December 2017 be received.

63. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN HALL & FACILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 6th DECEMBER AND THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 23rd NOVEMBER 2017.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Town Hall & Facilities Committee held on the 6th December and the extraordinary meeting held on 23rd November 2017 be received.

64. TO CONSIDER THE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR AND AGREE THE LEVEL OF COUNCIL TAX.

Resolved: that the budget recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee be approved. An agreed nett expenditure for the next financial year of £427,346, exclusive of receipts from Community Infrastructure Levy and including the sum of £4,189.29 from reserves. The level of Council Tax for a Band D property being agreed as £199.51, a rise of £5.

The projects identified in the report were accepted for commencement in 2018/19.

65. 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 future of primary school provision, a review of Wiltshire Council ward boundaries, the Christmas lights, Wiltshire Council budget deficit for next year and the Malmesbury Town Team. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes.

Councillor Grant informed the Town Council that he would be stepping down from the role of Town Council representative on the Town Team. A replacement will be confirmed at the next meeting of the Town Council.

Councillor Ritchie enquired about the situation concerning the steps leading to the Waitrose store. Councillor Grant confirmed that they were not a planning condition and neither had there been any section 106 agreement indicating that Wiltshire Council would take responsibility. Once they had been made safe Wiltshire Council would be prepared to issue a licence but not assume responsibility. The item was referred to the next meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee.

66. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION FOR MALMESBURY.

Councillor Gundry reported that he attended the Cabinet meeting on 30th November and read a statement on behalf of the Town Council. Wiltshire Council advised that the school failed to engage in coming forward with new ideas and they had to act to ensure adequate provision would be available.

Resolved: that Councillors Grant, Gundry and Ritchie present a suitable statement to the next meeting of the Town Council outlining the actions taken by the Town Council.

67. TO ELECT A COUNCILLOR TO SERVE ON THE JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE.

Councillors P Newman and P Smith offered themselves for consideration necessitating a ballot to be held.

Resolved: Councillor Smith be appointed to serve on the Joint Burial Committee for the remainder of the civic year

Meeting closed at 20.05hrs.

Appendix 1

Update on Wiltshire Council matters, 19 December 2017

Cllr Gavin Grant, Wiltshire Unitary Councillor for Malmesbury

1. Future Primary School Provision in Malmesbury

A resolution was adopted at the Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee calling upon Wiltshire Council to delay the implementation of their proposal to expand Lea and Garsden Primary School at the expense of such an expansion of Malmesbury Primary School.

Cllr John Gundry read to the most recent meeting of Wiltshire Cabinet the text of the statement of objection by our Town Council made to the proposed expansion. I spoke after Cllr Gundry and reinforced our deep concerns as to the impact on future families in our town should the expansion at Lea and Garsden go ahead. I also highlighted the failure to engage with this Town Council in respect of this matter and my belief that such engagement might well have led to a different outcome

Despite our interventions, the Cabinet rejected any further delay and voted unanimously in favour of the adopting the plan for the future of education provision in Wiltshire. This includes the expansion of Lea and Garsden and none for Malmesbury Primary School.

2. Review of Wiltshire Council Ward Boundaries

This work to review the number of Wiltshire Councillors and the areas that they will represent is now underway. The first meeting of the Council's own 10 strong Review Committee has been held. I was nominated in a contest for Vice Chair but was not successful in that election. The first of two workshops will be held tomorrow (Wednesday 20th December). I will continue to keep you up-dated.

3. Christmas Lights

Following strong representations made by our Town Hall staff which I also supported, the new power units and Christmas lights have been fitted the lampposts around our Town centre. Most were working for Late Night Christmas Shopping but some are still not working. I have made my displeasure known about those that are still not on.

4. Wiltshire 2018-'19 Budget Deficit

Wiltshire Council faces a £23m deficit for the next Financial Year. This will place very considerable strain on those areas of expenditure that are not a statutory requirement for Wiltshire Council to fund. In turn this will make a much closer working relationship between the Town AND Wiltshire Council a real necessity if we are to sustain certain services and quality of life in Malmesbury.

5. Malmesbury Town Team

As reported at the last full Town Council meeting I have alerted the Town Team to my intention to stand down as the serving Town Council representative. Consequently this will be my final full Town Council meeting as your Town Council representative to the Town Team. It is my intention to seek support from my Wiltshire Council Area Board colleagues to represent the Area Board on the Town Team.