

## Report No.1

### Report to Meeting of Malmesbury Town Council 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016

#### Use of Town Mace

##### 1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To invite the Town Council to consider if the Town Mace should be used other than for formal civic events.

##### 2. Background

- 2.1. In 1895 the then Town Mayor, Councillor Henry Jones, presented a silver Town Mace to the council for ceremonial use.
- 2.2 It has been customary for the mace to be carried into the meetings of the Town Council and placed on the table in front of the Town Mayor for the duration of the meeting.
- 2.3. The mace is also carried by the nominated Macebearer at the ceremonies of Mayor Making, Remembrance Sunday and what was previously known as the annual Civic Service held in the Abbey. .
- 2.4 The head of the mace and the boss are made of silver and therefore has a monetary value in addition to being an irreplaceable item of historical value to the heritage of the Town Council.
- 2.5 When not in use the mace is locked in a long wooden box and stored in the vaults of a local bank.
- 2.6 On the day of each Council meeting the mace is taken from the bank and carried back to the Town Hall only to be returned the following day.
- 2.7 At the present time the bank does not levy a charge for each retrieval and delivery but require a minimum of twenty four hours' notice.

##### 3. Proposals

- 3.1. The Town Council is invited to consider if the mace should continue to be used at each Council meeting or only be used at major civic events.
- 3.2. The mace was more suited for display on the old oak furniture previously used in the Malting Hall where it could be placed in front of the Town Mayor but may appear out of place on the narrow office style tables now being used.
- 3.2 Not surprisingly the mace has sustained a few minor dents and surface scratches since 1895 but is still in a reasonable condition.
- 3.4 Although the wooden box in which the mace is stored is not heavy to lift it is nevertheless cumbersome and awkward to carry for any distance or safely manoeuvre in a confined space.

##### 4. Financial implications

- 4.1 At the moment there are no financial implications associated with this report other than the time taken to retrieve the mace from the bank and ensure a safe return.

4.2 The situation may change if the bank commence charging for the security of items.

5 Recommendations

5.1 Members are requested to consider if in future the mace should only be used at civic events or if the current pattern of use is to continue

Jeff Penfold  
Town Clerk  
21<sup>st</sup> December 2015