

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 17th February 2015 commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: S Cox, AJ Gundry, SJ Killane, L Penfold, K Power (Chair) and S Shape

In attendance: Councillors S Poole and W Jones

49. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors CC Doody and RE Budgen.

50. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

51. Declarations of Interest

Councillors K Power and S Killane declared an interest in Agenda Item 9 (Use of the Market Cross for Electioneering). They did not vote on the issue.

52. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th January 2015

Resolved: that the Minutes be approved and signed as a correct record.

53. Income & Expenditure

Consideration was given to Report No.1 which detailed Income & Expenditure in 2014/15 up to the end of January 2015.

Resolved: to note the Report.

54. Loan of a replica Civil War Standard to the Athelstan Museum

Consideration was given to Report No.2 which asked the Committee to consider lending the replica Civil War Standard, presented to the Town Council by the re-enactors of Col. Nicholas Devereux's Regiment of Foote.

The Committee noted that the Museum have a standard lending form, which can be used instead of drawing up a contract.

Resolved:

- 1) That the Town Council be recognized as the owner of the Standard.
- 2) That the Town Council allows the Athelstan Museum to display the Standard on a long-term loan agreement, to be reviewed and renewed every 5 years.

- 3) That the Athelstan Museum be required to maintain the Standard in a fit and proper state.

55. Payments by Card

Consideration was given to Report No.3 which asked the Committee to consider the purchase of a card machine to take payments in the TIC.

Issues discussed included:

- The extent to which sales might increase if a card facility was provided; and
- Whether the arrangement included in the report represents the best possible deal available.

Resolved:

- 1) To agree in principle to the purchase of a card machine.
- 2) To ask the Town Clerk to seek quotes/prices for three card machines and present them to the next meeting of the Committee.

56. Format of Annual Town Meeting

Consideration was given to Report No.4 which invited the Committee to consider the date and format of the Annual Town Meeting.

Issues discussed included:

- The possibility of a new format;
- The possibility of a guest speaker – Dyson, the Athelstan Museum, the Cowbridge Garden & local film-makers were mentioned;
- Refreshments;
- The extent to which Committee Chairs should participate; and
- Religious holidays and scheduling.

Resolved:

- 1) That the Annual Town Meeting takes place on 14th April 2015.
- 2) To hold the formal part of the meeting first, to take a break during which the bar will be open, and finally to show films including 'A Year in The Life of Malmesbury' and the 'Re-enactment Film'.
- 3) That Committee Chairs be restricted to 3 minute summaries of their Committees work (Cllr Gundry agreed to produce a basic Power-point framework for presentations and Cllr Power agreed to draw up a timetable of speakers).
- 4) That a provisional date of 23rd April be considered by Council for the Citizen of the Year awards.

57. Market Cross and Electioneering

Consideration was given to a request to hire the Market Cross for electioneering.

Issues discussed included:

- The possibility of extreme groups being able to hire the Market Cross if the request were granted;
- The possibility of using the Hub as a hustings venue; and
- That the Market Cross has traditionally been a venue for charitable organisations.

Resolved: to decline the request to use the Market Cross for electioneering; reiterating the Council's policy of it being used only by charitable groups.

58. Update on Market Cross and A Boards

Consideration was given to issues relating to A Boards in the curtilage of the Market Cross.

A discussion took place concerning instances where Councillors had to declare an interest.

Resolved: to write to Wiltshire Council's Ethical Governance Officer, in order to seek clarification on declaring interests.

59. Update on Review of Vulnerable Children's Policy

The Committee noted that Wiltshire Council will be looking at vulnerable persons policies at the next meeting of the Area Board.

The meeting closed at 20.10