

**REPORT - THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE CO-OP AND POST OFFICE  
IN THE HIGH STREET MALMESBURY FROM MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY  
UNTIL WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED.**

**Introduction:** The management team at The Co-Operative Group have informed not only the Malmesbury Town Council, but the larger community that from the above date the Post Office within the shop will close, with the shop closing a week later. They have also stated that they are making NO alternative arrangements to provide the services offered by the Post Office.

I request that Malmesbury Town Council supports and endorses the following: -

1. That from a pre-determined date, volunteer drivers registered with the Cartmell Community Minibus Ltd (**CCMBL**), will be asked if they would be prepared to drive the bus from Athelstan House (where it is parked). Picking up residents prior to leaving, travelling then to the Town Hall, picking up as required and then travelling to Sherston Co-Op and Post Office. Parking the bus in a recognised parking space. Waiting for a maximum of  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour, or sooner if those taken have finished their shopping etc.
2. The Rotary Community Corp of Malmesbury (more commonly known as the Malmesbury Flood Working Group) will be the organisation hiring the mini-bus and is registered with the CCMBL
3. It is hoped that funding will be obtained from donations and will be sought from local charities including the Town Council
4. The total estimated cost will be two journeys a week (suggested days Wednesdays and Fridays) at a round-trip mileage of say 20 miles (a more accurate measurement will be ascertained by providing a trial run). So, a twice weekly run = 40 miles X say 7 weeks = 280 miles.
5. Now CCMBL charge £1.25 per mile, but I am sure the trustees will agree to reduce this cost (I'm making no promises), if not then the total cost will be £350.00.
6. The Cartmell Community Bus breaks even at £1.25 per mile and, as a non-commercial enterprise, does not aim to make a profit. It will, nonetheless, help provide volunteer drivers at no additional charge

**Proposal:** That MTC supports this initiative and donates £250.00 of the overall costs with the other being sought from various charitable bodies in the town. **REPORT by Cllr Ray Sanderson. 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**