



# MALMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.00pm.

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**Present;** Cllrs G Grant, P Exton, K Power, RP Jones, C Ritchie, J Slade, I Wallis, S D'Arcy, S James, W Jones, R Sanderson, C Doody & L Crawford-Price

**Also present:** Claire Mann (Town Clerk) & 1 member of the Public

### Mayors Announcements

Cllr Exton reported that he had hosted the Bad Hersfeld Choir and their staff at the Town Hall the previous Friday and the evening performance in the Abbey which had been outstanding. Saturday had also been a busy day with a visit to Salisbury during the day and a Magic Show at St Mary's Hall in the evening, showcasing the young finalist for the area.

**FC/24/66 To receive declarations of interest.**

Cllrs Doody and Power declared an interest in the Riverside Centre as Trustees and in accordance with Standing Orders, will leave the room during the discussion.

**FC/24/67 To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies received from Cllrs Hastings and Smith.

**FC/24/68 Public questions on items of business included on the agenda.**

None received.

**FC/24/69 To receive and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> May.**

It was noted that there should be a capital P for Power, the Minutes were dated 6<sup>th</sup> May in error and Cllr Power had been appointed as representative on the Health & Well Being Forum.

Subject to these amendments, the minutes were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

**FC/24/70 To receive and note the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April.**

The minutes were received and noted.

**FC/24/71 To receive and note the minutes of the Town Hall & Facilities Committee meetings held on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024.**

The minutes of both meetings were received and noted. Cllr Grant requested that TH&F review the policy for use of the Cloister Gardens at a future meeting as an unexpected event had taken place the weekend prior.

*It was resolved to discuss item 7 at the end of the meeting to allow Cllrs Power & Doody to stay for updates*

**FC/24/72 To receive updates from representatives of Malmesbury Town Council on the following organisations;**

- i. **Wiltshire Association of Local Councils & Society of Local Council Clerks**  
Nothing to report
- ii. **Malmesbury Conservation Group**

- Nothing to report
- iii. **Malmesbury Town Team**  
Cllr Ritchie had circulated a report on behalf of Cllr Crawford-Price, the new representative detailing Athelstan 1100 activities, progression of Malmesbury's Cultural offering, the Town Guide and signage.
- iv. **Malmesbury & District Twinning Association (to approve Cllr Doody as representative)**  
Cllr Doody was appointed additional representative and reported that the Twinning event tickets are now on sale in the Information Centre.
- v. **Operational Flood Group**  
Cllr Sanderson reported that the Sluice Gates at Cowbridge had now been repaired.
- vi. **Local Highways & Footpaths Improvements Group**  
Cllr Exton reported that existing items logged with the group are progressing and requested Members forward items.
- vii. **Local Youth Network**  
It was noted that a meeting takes place tomorrow.
- viii. **Movies @ Malmesbury.**  
Nothing to report.
- ix. **Bus Service improvement (representative to be approved)**  
Cllr Doody was appointed as representative. The Clerk was asked to find out from Wiltshire Council if the unitary role had been replaced.
- x. **Health & Well-being Forum.**  
Nothing to report
- xi. **Community Safety Forum**  
Nothing to report
- xii. **Malmesbury Climate Action Network (inc Malmesbury Against Plastics)**  
Cllr Slade suggested that this group is dissolved as there had been no meetings recently. This will be determined at P&E.
- xiii. **Cotswolds National Landscape Board**  
Cllr Sanderson reported that a meeting is taking place next week and will share information at next Council meeting.

**FC/24/73 To receive update from Cllr Grant, Wiltshire Councillor for Malmesbury**

Cllr Grant reported;

- The Area Board AGM takes place in June and election for Chair will take place.
- 2 arrests had been made following engagement with Cllr Grant by concerned residents at Kings Wall and illegal activities.
- The LYN will meet this week and the request for bump track/skate park is on the agenda.
- The Town Businesses meeting will be underway shortly, likely after the late Bank Holiday.
- A meeting will be convened with Persimmon, Tetbury Hill Gardens Residents, Fruitful Malmesbury & the School to discuss planning applications at that area.

**FC/24/74 To consider a vote of no confidence in Wiltshire Council's planning function following (Taking account of any information made available to Malmesbury Town Council on these matters since our last Full Council meeting on 7th May 2024)**

- (i) **The non determination of Planning Application at PL/2023/03637: Land parcel off the A429, located (north) of Waitrose, Malmesbury, SN16 9NZ,**  
Following discussion, and it was noted that Cllr Grant will abstain from voting as he sits on the Northern Area Planning Committee, a majority vote carried in favour of a vote of no confidence in Wiltshire Council's planning function.

**(ii) The absence of action to seek and share legal advice or to appeal the Inspector decision to allow housing at PL/2021/09852 - Land East of Waitrose,**

Following discussion, and it was noted that Cllr Grant will abstain from voting as he sits on the Northern Area Planning Committee, a majority vote carried in favour of a vote of no confidence in Wiltshire Council's planning function.

Cllrs Crawford-Price, Grant & Ritchie will prepare a statement for residents as to how and why the decisions at (i) & (ii) were reached.

The Town Clerk was asked to invite Cllrs Boterill & Thomas to a future meeting of the Council.

*Cllrs Doody & Power left the meeting*

**(iii) The failure to engage meaningfully with Malmesbury Town Council before or since the decision taken by Wiltshire Council to implement an early terminate its lease of the Riverside Centre.**

Following discussion it was resolved to condemn Wiltshire Council's failure to engage meaningfully with the Town Council before the decision was taken to implement an early termination of its lease on the Riverside Centre building and ask Wiltshire Council to reverse its decision. The Clerk was asked to invite Cllr Blair-Pilling to attend a meeting of Malmesbury Town Council to discuss this important matter.

**Meeting closed at 9.02pm**