



MALMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting

Held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Thursday 14th May at 7.00pm.

Present; Cllrs James, Hastings, W Jones, M Akhtar, Crawford-Price, O Wallis, J Akhtar, Hughes, D'Arcy, RP Jones, Paget, I Wallis, Drake, Power, Exton, Grant

Also present: Claire Mann (Town Clerk)

MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr James reported that he had attended one event since the last Full Council meeting; the launch of Operation Ambulance to send to the Ukraine.

FC/26/60 To elect Mayor for the coming civic year

Cllr James proposed Cllr Hastings as Mayor for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr D'Arcy. It was resolved to elect Cllr Hastings as Mayor.

FC/26/61 To elect Deputy Mayor for the coming civic year.

Cllr RP Jones proposed himself as Mayor for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr Paget. Cllr Drake proposed herself as Deputy Mayor for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr I Wallis. Cllr Hastings proposed that the vote was taken by secret ballot and it was agreed. The Town Clerk counted the votes and it was resolved to elect Cllr Drake as Deputy Mayor.

FC/26/62 To receive declarations of interest.

None received.

FC/26/63 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllr Sanderson. Apologies also received from Cllr M Smith, Wiltshire Council.

FC/26/64 Public participation on items of business included on the agenda.

None received.

FC/26/65 To confirm that Malmesbury Town Council meets the eligibility criteria to declare it has the General Power of Competence

It was resolved that Malmesbury Town Council confirms it is eligible to declare it holds the General Power of Competence, Twelve members of the Council stood for election and the Town Clerk holds a Certificate in Higher Education for Community Governance.

FC/26/66 To elect members onto Committees (Burial, Community Engagement & Town Promotion, Planning & Environment, Town Hall & Facilities).

Following discussion it was agreed to elect the following;

Burial;

Cllrs Exton, Power, James, I Wallis, D’Arcy, Crawford-Price, Hughes, W Jones & Sanderson (Committee full).

Community Engagement & Town Promotion;

Cllrs Drake, Hughes, O Wallis, Crawford-Price, M Akhtar, I Wallis & J Akhtar (two vacancies remain)

Planning & Environment;

Cllrs Drake, Exton, I Wallis, Paget, RP Jones, J Akhtar, M Akhtar, W Jones & Sanderson (one vacancy remains)

Town Hall & Facilities;

Cllrs Drake, Exton, Power, James, Paget, D’Arcy, J Akhtar & Crawford-Price (Committee full)

- FC/26/67 To adjourn the meeting whilst members of each Committee (Burial, Community Engagement & Town Promotion, Planning & Environment, Town Hall & Facilities) convene to elect Chairs and Vice Chairs.**

Upon adjournment of the Full Council meeting and the convening of Committees, the following was resolved;

Burial	Chair, Cllr I Wallis	Vice Chair, Cllr Crawford-Price
CE&TP	Chair, Cllr O Wallis	Vice Chair, Cllr Hughes
Planning & Environment	Chair, Cllr Drake	Vice Chair, Cllr J Akhtar
Town Hall & Facilities	Chair, Cllr James	Vice Chair, Cllr Crawford-Price

- FC/26/68 To appoint Chairs of Standing Committees to Policy & Resources Committee and elect a further four members.**

Following proposals of Cllrs D’Arcy, W Jones, RP Jones, Grant, J Akhtar and Crawford-Price and subsequently agreeing to a secret ballot, it was resolved to elect Cllrs D’Arcy, Grant, J Akhtar and Crawford-Price. Cllrs I Wallis, O Wallis, Drake and James were appointed to Policy & Resources by virtue of their Chairmanship of Sub-Committees. Cllr Hastings as Mayor is ex-officio on all Committees.

- FC/26/69 To adjourn Full Council meeting and convene meeting of Policy & Resources Committee to elect Chair and Vice Chair.**

It was resolved that Cllr D’Arcy is Chair and Cllr James is Vice Chair of the Policy & Resources Committee.

- FC/26/70 To appoint members to Personnel Committee (three)**

It was resolved to appoint Cllrs D’Arcy, Drake and James.

- FC/26/71 To receive and adopt minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 21st April 2026.**

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

- FC/26/72 To ask members and particularly Chairs of all Committees if there are Council issues or projects to be put to Scott Media.**

Following discussion it was agreed to forward information about the Public Consultation for the Malmesbury Community Park; Skate Park & Pump Track.

FC/26/73 To appoint representatives of Malmesbury Town Council on the following organisations;

- i. **Wiltshire Association of Local Councils & Society of Local Council Clerks**
The Town Clerk and Chair of Policy & Resources Committee.
- ii. **Malmesbury Conservation Group**
Cllr Power.
- iii. **Malmesbury Town Team**
Cllr O Wallis.
- iv. **Malmesbury & District Twinning Association**
Cllrs Drake and J Akhtar.
- v. **Operational Flood Group**
Cllr Sanderson.
- vi. **Local Highways & Footpaths Improvements Group**
Cllr Exton.
- vii. **Local Youth Network Management Group**
Cllr M Akhtar
- viii. **Movies @ Malmesbury.**
Cllr D’Arcy.
- ix. **Bus Service improvement**
Cllr Exton.
- x. **Health & Well-being Forum.**
Cllr Power.
- xi. **Community Safety Forum**
Cllr James.
- xii. **Joint Neighbourhood Plan**
Cllr Power.
- xiii. **Cotswolds National Landscape Board.**
Cllr Sanderson remains as elected member on the board.
- xiv. **Athelstan Statue**
Cllr D’Arcy.

FC/26/74 To receive an update from Wiltshire Councillors. This may include urgent actions to be considered by the Council.

Cllr Grant stated that he had called in the planning application at Pitville, Bremilham Road, due to concerns raised by the Planning & Environment Committee. The Northern Area Planning Committee of Wiltshire Council had however voted in favour of the Planning Officer’s recommendation.

Planning Inspectors have concerns over the Wiltshire Local Plan. The future of the Local Plan is to be considered at the Full Council meeting of Wiltshire Council next week, the recommendation is that it is to be withdrawn. Should it be agreed to withdraw the Plan, the programme to make a new Plan will be scheduled to start in November 2026 with a thirty month deadline for completion.

Cllr Grant also reported that it is anticipated that Persimmon will submit an application for an additional 140 houses at Park Lane. The Parking Charges consultation has now finished and will be reviewed by Wiltshire Council Officers. The Community Safety Forum had met this week and Cllr Grant reported that Wiltshire Police appreciate the value of the CCTV installed by Malmesbury Town Council. The Wiltshire Lottery will be launched shortly.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm