

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting**

Held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 7.00pm.

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

Also present: Claire Mann (Town Clerk)

Mayors Announcements

Cllr Grant reported that he had attended the following engagements since the last Full Council meeting:

Friday 22nd March – official re-opening of the Waitrose Malmesbury steps linking the supermarket with the town

Wednesday 10th April - celebrated Eid-al-Fitr with the remaining asylum seekers at the Wiltshire Hotel, Royal Wootton Bassett

Thursday 11th April – attended the Malmesbury Cycling Club AGM to discuss various issues including roads

Saturday 13th April – official opening of Second Snuggle, a new shop in Market Cross selling preloved and sustainably new children's and maternity clothing and play

Saturday 13th April – Malmesbury Mayoral Ball was a huge success with 120 guests attending and excellent food by local caterer Leanne Holman Phillips (Echo Food) and entertainment. All proceeds to my three mayoral charities.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 20th April – Wilton Mayor's Ball

Thursday 25th April – Malmesbury Town Council Annual Meeting & Civic Awards

Saturday 27th April – guided walking tour of Malmesbury with a group of visitors to the town with a significant donation to my three mayoral charities

Saturday 27th April – Bradford on Avon Town Concert & Civic Service

FC/24/41 To receive declarations of interest.

Cllrs Power & Doody declared interests as Trustees in the Riverside Centre Item and will leave the meeting.

FC/24/42 To receive apologies for absence.

Received from Cllr Sanderson

FC/24/43 Public questions on items of business included on the agenda.

There were no public questions.

Cllrs Doody & RP Jones arrived

FC/24/44 To receive and adopt minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 19th March.

It was noted that it had also been agreed to ask Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling to discuss the decision making process on the Riverside Centre.

Subject to this addition, the minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

FC/24/45 To receive and note the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on the 12th March 2024.

The minutes were received and noted.

FC/24/46 To receive and note the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on the 7th March 2024.

The minutes were received and noted.

FC/24/47 To receive and note the minutes of the Community Engagement & Town Promotion Committee meeting held on the 14th March 2024.

The minutes were received and noted.

FC/24/48 To receive and note the minutes of the Town Hall & Facilities Committee meeting held on the 24th January 2024.

The minutes were received and noted.

FC/24/49 To consider request from REME at Lyneham to hold a Remembrance Parade.

It was resolved that this would be explored and that Cllr James will contact 9RLC and REME to progress .

FC/24/50 To receive an update from Cllr Grant on Town Twinning – Bad Hersfeld, Niebull & Cherkasy.

Cllr Grant reported that Niebull and Bad Hersfeld have had a conversation and that Niebull welcome the initiative for Malmesbury to become twinned with Bad Hersfeld. Progression of both agreements will be an agenda item at the next Full Council meeting.

FC/24/51 To receive updates from Malmesbury Town Council on the following organisations, where report had been received;

- i. **Wiltshire Association of Local Councils & Society of Local Council Clerks** – The County Officer is yet to be replaced.
- ii. **Malmesbury Conservation Group** – The group met on 15th April 2024 and the following points were discussed, reported on or updated:
 - Market Cross – Following the recent survey, MDCG would be grateful to receive an outline of what is planned for the near future repairs and then maintenance, with a timeline if possible. These comments to the Chair of Planning and Environment Committee for consideration please.
 - Conservation Area Buildings In Serious Need of Repair – An update was received by MDCG similar to that received in early January by MTC from Wiltshire Council, re the fabric of historic buildings in the Conservation Area falling into serious disrepair. MDCG is going to re-refer some dwellings again to Wiltshire Council Planning Enforcement - The roof in the building near to the Market Cross is likely to be leaking and potentially causing damage to the structure, possible water incursion to an empty listed property in Bristol Street. There has been further investigation re ownership of the empty house in St. Dennis Lane.
 - Goosebridge –The structural reinforcing bars in the bridge are still deteriorating as it has not yet been repaired. It is understood that Wiltshire Council Highways had repairs scheduled (along with other issues in a programme of works) which were to have been carried out in October 2023. These were postponed to December 2023, but have still yet taken place. Dep Town Clk, Lisa Dent has confirmed chasing Wiltshire Council again. MDCG would be grateful, if they could be advised when these works are rescheduled to take place.
 - Old Pumping Station- this is the small area of ground which includes a bench at Holloway Hill. Malmesbury River Valleys Trust are progressing well with their renovation. Work is being funded from grants from the Malmesbury Bonfire Committee as well as Malmesbury Town Council.
 - Planning Applications – It was noted that the recent decision to award planning permission for self-build homes on the opposite side of the bypass (St.PWO Parish) is of concern, especially given the amount of housing already permitted to be built in the Malmesbury area. Additionally, Wiltshire Council's failure to deal with the application re the field next to Waitrose has meant that the applicants have referred this for appeal due to non- determination. This is also of concern

as it removed the right of our Wiltshire Councillor to 'call the application in' for determination by the Wiltshire Council Northern Area Planning Committee. The Chair of MDCG has advised that a letter will be sent to Cllr. Botterill, (Wiltshire Councillor with responsibility for Planning), expressing concerns.

- **Flooding in the Daniel's Well Area** – An update was given by the Chair of MDCG for the group's information. Cllr. Sanderson and his flood group will be looking at the river area near Daniel's Well re flood alleviation, as inclement weather has meant erosion/ changes to the riverbanks and water is flooding back into the leat.
- iii. **Malmesbury Town Team** – Cllr Ritchie had circulated his report detailing the progress of Athelstan 1100.
- iv. **Malmesbury & District Twinning Association** – no update.
- v. **Operational Flood Group**– No update.
- vi. **Local Highways & Footpaths Improvements Group** – Cllr Exton reported that the next meeting will take place next week.
- vii. **Local Youth Network**– No update.
- viii. **Movies @ Malmesbury** – Cllr D'Arcy presented financial information from Movies@Malmesbury for the last year.

Finance Summary for 2023/24 financial year (first year with new seating and projector)

Headline figures

Profit	
Ticket Receipts	£21,888
Distributor Costs and Transport	£8,768
Film Profit	£13,120
Bar Profit	£3,019
TOTAL PROFIT	£16,139

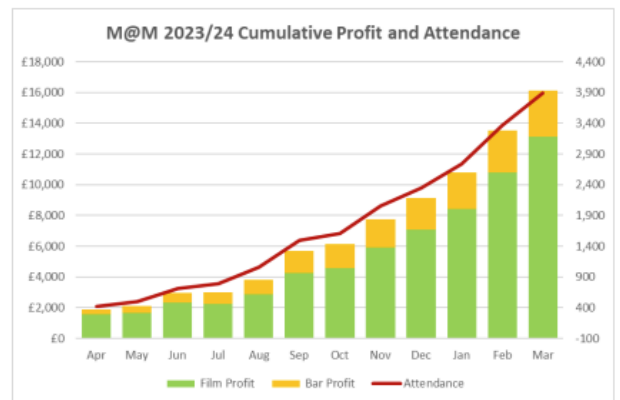
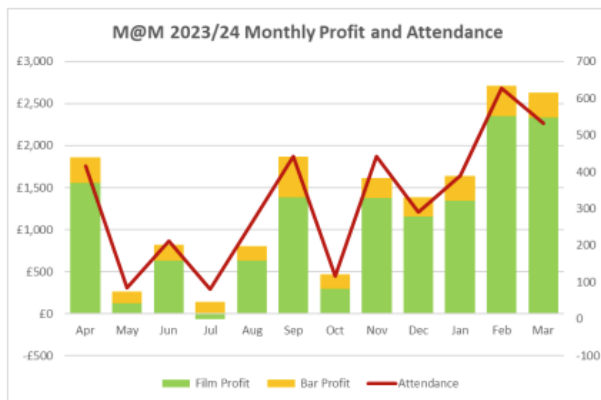
Tickets Sold	
Adults	3671
Children	223
TOTAL ATTENDEES	3894

Top Screenings by Profit

Title	Profit
"The Motive and the Cue" NT Live	£966.37
Vermeer: Blockbuster Exhibition	£943.87
The Nutcracker	£799.69
One Life	£776.95
"Vanya" NT Live	£738.05
The Great Escaper	£734.72
Barbie	£671.87
Wonka	£526.05
Oppenheimer	£508.04
The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry	£507.40

Top Screenings by Attendance

Title	Tickets
One Life	246
The Great Escaper	226
Vermeer: Blockbuster Exhibition	200
The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry	197
Wonka	188
Barbie	160
Napoleon	149
Oppenheimer	139
Elemental	125
Ferrari	103



Full Council meeting, 16 April 2024. Agenda Item 11 – Movies at Malmesbury

- ix. **Bus Service improvement** – No update.
- x. **Health & Well-being Forum** – No update.
- xi. **Community Safety Forum** – No update.
- xii. **Malmesbury Climate Action Network (inc Malmesbury Against Plastics)** – Cllr Slade is preparing a report for the Planning & Environment Committee meeting next week.
- xiii. **Cotswolds National Landscape Board** – No update.

FC/24/52

To receive an update from Wiltshire Councillor, Gavin Grant.

Cllr Grant reported neither Wiltshire Council nor the Malmesbury Area Board or its Sub Committees have met since the last Malmesbury Town Council meeting. So, the report focuses on planning matters, the economic sustainability of Malmesbury High Street and progressing facilities for young people.

Planning

Cllr Grant had returned from a meeting of Northern Area Planning today (16th April 2024). At the beginning of this Committee's agenda is a report on the outcome of Appeals against rejection of applications made by the Committee or more usually, the relevant Case Officer

Planning Appeal Approval for development on land East of Waitrose

On the agenda, this report included the approval by the Inspector for 25 self-build houses on land East of Waitrose. Cllr Grant had given prior notice of his intention to raise this matter.

After a discussion, the Committee agreed unanimously to Cllr Grant's proposal to ask the Officers to consider appealing against the Inspector's decision and to involve the Committee Chair in that discussion. The Committee does not have the constitutional power to mandate such action. But the Officer in attendance was under no illusion as to the strength of feeling among Councillors in the room during the meeting.

Co-operation between Persimmon, Malmesbury Primary School and Cllr Grant on securing the School extension and STEAM Centre.

Mutually supportive and positive meetings and conversations are happening between the various parties on this matter. A roundtable discussion should take place next week, diaries permitting.

Proposed development on land behind Waitrose

This current application has been rejected by the Officer. This is now the subject of an Appeal. Cllr Grant took the opportunity at the meeting of the Northern Area Planning Committee to offer his assistance to Wiltshire Council in this Appeal.

Sustainability of Malmesbury High Street

The second report from Graham Sout has been received and has secured both the Town Clerk and Proprietors of the King's Arms Hotel to host meetings at different times of the day with a view to establishing a business forum.

Graham's reports have also been sent to both the Director of and appropriate Officers in the Wiltshire Council Economic Development teams. This has been appreciated greatly.

Cllr Grant is also working with members of that team to secure positive outcomes for three local businesses on diverse matters and issues. It would not be appropriate to go into detail in this report.

Facilities for young people

Discussions are ongoing on securing a future for the indoor skate park and new provision for an outdoor skatepark and cycling "bump" track.

The Town Clerk and the duly appointed Councillor Members of our Asset Engagement Working Group are being kept informed on these important matters.

An 'ad hoc' series of bike jumps have appeared on a footpath on the Eastern side of the A429. Cllr Grant is meeting the young builders by invitation of the Head Teacher of Malmesbury School in the coming weeks and stated that it is his goal is to enrol these young people in discussions on the skatepark and "bump" track.

Cllr Exton expressed thanks to Cllr Grant for his leadership over the last year, all agreed.

Cllr Ritchie said would propose a vote of no confidence in Wiltshire Council if no satisfactory response is forthcoming about the reasons for the failure of WC to determine the application for development on the land behind Waitrose leading to an appeal for non-determination of this planning application. He will bring this matter to the next meeting of Full Council.

Meeting closed at 8.22pm