



MALMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Thursday 19th December 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present; Cllrs P Exton, R Hastings, S James, G Grant, L Crawford-Price, C Doody, K Drake, RP Jones, S D'Arcy, M Crawford-Price, C Ritchie, R Sanderson and I Wallis.

Also present: Claire Mann (Town Clerk) and two members of the Public.

MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Exton notified Members that he had attended several events in the previous month, including;

- North Wiltshire Garden Club flower arranging.
- Photo session with Father Christmas at The Old Bell Hotel.
- Year seven assembly to talk about community and its importance to Malmesbury.
- Opening of Bloor show homes at Filands.
- Riverside Centre for radio interview.
- Memorial Service for Ex-Mayor, Mary Hill.
- Thomas Hobbes dinner.
- Malmesbury Amateur Boxing Club event.
- Saturday Friends group at Riverside.
- Parkinson's Christmas Dinner.
- The Lord Lieutenants, Youth Action and Ukrainian Christmas Carol Services.

Cllr Exton welcomed members of the Public to the meeting.

FC/24/169 To receive declarations of interest.

None received.

FC/24/170 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllrs Slade & Power.

FC/24/171 To receive public questions on items of business included on the agenda.

None received.

FC/24/172 To receive and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 19th November 2024.

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

Cllr Sanderson arrived.

FC/24/173 To receive and note the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on the 12th November 2024.

The minutes were received and noted.

FC/24/174 To receive and note the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meetings held on the 5th and 26th November 2024.

The minutes of both meetings were received and noted.

FC/24/175 To consider all Working Groups (to review relevance and membership) List attached.

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

FC/24/176 To consider way forward with Vote of No Confidence in Wiltshire Council.

Cllr Grant reported that, with reference to the Planning system at Wiltshire Council, the application for land adjacent to Waitrose had been refused on appeal and that Planning Inspectors had ruled in favour of the second issue and this remains outstanding. Cllr Grant had been in contact with Wiltshire Council with reference to The Riverside Centre and confirmed that it is actively exploring options and funding available for MTC to take on the asset. It was agreed that any progress with this will be communicated early in the New Year, The Mayor, Cllr Grant and the Town Clerk will work together on this.

FC/24/177 To consider budget proposal from Policy & Resources Committee and confirm date of submission of Precept request (deadline 20th January 2025)

The power point summary was shown to Cllrs, the final proposal to put to Full Council on the 14th January will be made at an extraordinary Policy & Resources meeting to be held on the 6th January.

FC/24/178 To consider P&R action taken in response to receipt of letter from the Post Office with reference to the proposed closure of the Coop.

Cllr Exton detailed the background history. Cllr Grant reported that Roz Savage, MP is involved and attempting to find a solution. The Council will continue to lobby the Post Office and the Coop to find an alternative for residents, particularly those that are vulnerable.

FC/24/179 To receive updates from representatives of Malmesbury Town Council on the following organisations;

- i. **Wiltshire Association of Local Councils & Society of Local Council Clerks**
No update received.
- ii. **Malmesbury Conservation Group**
No update received.
- iii. **Malmesbury Town Team**
Report circulated.
- iv. **Malmesbury & District Twinning Association**
No update received.
- v. **Operational Flood Group**
No update received.
- vi. **Local Highways & Footpaths Improvements Group**
No update received.
- vii. **Local Youth Network Management Group**
No update received.
- viii. **Movies @ Malmesbury.**
No update received.
- ix. **Bus Service improvement**
No update received.
- x. **Health & Well-being Forum.**
No update received.
- xi. **Community Safety Forum**
No update received.
- xii. **Cotswolds National Landscape Board.**
The draft management plan was circulated to Members. It was resolved to defer this to the next meeting.
- xiii. **Athelstan Statue**
No update received.

FC/24/180 To receive an update from Wiltshire Councillor, Gavin Grant.

Cllr Grant updated the Council on the following matters;

- Amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework that will affect Malmesbury Town Council, particularly the housing supply target.
- The publication of the Devolution White Paper which outlines the creation of combined authorities and how they will operate.
- Cllr Grant thanks Cllrs Power and Ritchie for their attendance at the Norther Area Planning Committee which considered the application at Park Road. It was noted that a decision has been deferred to clarify the S106 agreement in place.
- Sergeant James Osment will be leaving at the beginning of January and it was agreed to invite Inspector Anger to a Full Council meeting to confirm the stability of the Neighbourhood Policing Team.
- Wiltshire Council and Visit Wiltshire are communicating on the Tourism Strategy to be formed by Wiltshire Council.

Cllr Exton wished all Members a Happy Christmas and thanked staff for their work throughout the year.

Meeting closed at 8.47pm