



MALMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 25th February 2025 at 7.00pm.

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

Also present: Claire Mann (Town Clerk)

MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Exton notified Members that during the previous month he had attended;

- A meeting of the Royal British Legion to present Derek Tilney with its highest accolade for his 50 years of service
- His first charity event which raised approximately £1,000
- The Mayor of Devizes' Charity Ball
- Prayers for Peace at the Abbey

FC/25/17 To receive declarations of interest.

None received.

FC/25/18 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllrs Slade, W Jones, Doody and Sanderson.

FC/25/19 To receive public questions on items of business included on the agenda.

None received.

FC/25/20 To receive and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 14th January 2025

It was noted that Cllrs D'Arcy & Power should have been minuted as having given apologies and that there was a typo at FC/25/14. Subject to amendments, the minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

FC/25/21 To receive and note the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on the 10th December.

The minutes were received and noted.

FC/25/22 To receive and note the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meetings held on the 7th and 28th January 2025.

The minutes of both meetings were received and noted.

FC/25/23 To receive and note the minutes of the Burial Committee meeting held on the 8th October 2025

The minutes of the meeting were received and noted.

FC/25/24 To confirm process of communication with Town Council staff.

Cllr D'Arcy reiterated that all Town Council staff tasks are to be distributed by the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk. Councillors should not approach staff directly with requests.

Members were asked to copy the Town Clerk in to emails pertaining to responses from staff to ensure the Town Clerk is aware of communication.

FC/25/25 To consider additional category for Citizen of the Year to commemorate sporting excellence in Young People and if agreed, to confirm name of category and budget for trophy.

Cllr Grant had forwarded a request that a 'Young Sports Person' category is included in the Citizen of the Year Awards. It was agreed, in commemoration of Leon Pretorius, that a Young Sports Person of the Year category will be included and will be called The Leon Pretorius Cup.

FC/25/26 To consider joining 'The Great British Spring Clean'

Following discussion it was agreed to promote the event but that Councillors don't currently have the capacity to take part at this stage. Should the promotion create interest among residents, it was agreed that the Council would re-visit its decision.

FC/25/27 To consider membership of David Drake on the Town Centre Open Spaces Working Group

It was agreed to appoint David Drake to the Working Group.

FC/25/28 To receive update from the Joint Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and confirm way forward,

Cllr Power had circulated a report ahead of the meeting. Following discussion it was agreed to accept the proposals in the report and to renew or make the Neighbourhood Plan with the two neighbouring Parishes.

FC/25/29 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**
Cllr Power reported that the Conservation Area Appraisal will be repeated shortly.
- iii. **Malmesbury Town Team**
Cllr L Crawford-Price reported that the Town Team had discussed the remaining Wiltshire Towns Programme Fund and its expenditure. There will be a Breakfast meeting on the 2nd April for local businesses. Cllr Crawford Price will forward a report for the Town Clerk to publish on the website.
- iv. **Malmesbury & District Twinning Association**
Cllr Exton reported that he was no longer Treasurer for the group.
- 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.**
Cllr D'Arcy had circulated statistics for 2024 which highlighted a very successful year.
- ix. **Bus Service improvement**
No update received.
- x. **Health & Well-being Forum.**
Cllr Power stated that the forum was going well. Cllr Power will forward a report for the Town Clerk to publish on the website.
- xi. **Community Safety Forum**
No update received.
- xii. **Cotswolds National Landscape Board.**
No update received.

- xiii. **Athelstan Statue**
No update received.

FC/25/30 To receive an update from Wiltshire Councillor, Gavin Grant.

Cllr Grant updated the Council on the following matters;

- Wiltshire Council has agreed to a 4.5% Council Tax increase.
- The Budget has been agreed with support in two notable areas, 1) Farmers and, 2) Rural services in Rural communities.
- The underfunding of the Police has been raised by the MP.
- The Wiltshire Local Plan is under preliminary consideration.
- Discussion has taken place with Persimmon Homes about the provision of a footpath.
- Progress is being made on the Riverside Centre

Cllr Ritchie asked about Reserved Matters at the Sherston Road development and Park Road. Cllr Grant responded that he shares concerns and stated that there is a great deal of frustration among Planning Councillors at Wiltshire Council.

FC/25/31 To exclude press and public for reasons of commercial sensitivity.

It was resolved to exclude the press and public for the remainder of the meeting.

FC/25/32 To receive an update from the Asset Acquisition Working Group.

Cllr D'Arcy had circulated a confidential report at the meeting detailing correspondence and investigations made by the working group.

It was resolved to accept the proposals; the working group will continue its investigation and to allocate £3k towards professional support.

It was resolved that the Council wanted confirmation of CIL contribution within one month from Wiltshire Council towards the potential purchase of the Riverside Centre.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm