



# MALMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 7.00pm.

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**Present;** Cllrs James, Hastings, Power, Paget, Crawford-Price, I Wallis, O Wallis, Drake, Exton, RP Jones and Grant.

**Also present:** Claire Mann (Town Clerk)

### MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr James stated that since the last Full Council routine meeting he had visited both Twin Towns in Germany, Niebüll and Bad Hersfeld, and also the Twinning Association French dinner. Cllr James had attended the opening of the Athelstan Museum's WW2 exhibition, Community Day, the concert by the Bad Hersfeld Old Timer Big Band in the Abbey, and the Area Board. Cllr James had also attended almost all of the Wessex Week events and congratulated the organisers on once again producing an interesting programme that attracted both residents and visitors.

**FC/25/107 To receive declarations of interest.**

None received.

**FC/25/108 To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies received from Cllrs J Akhtar, M Akhtar, Sanderson, D'Arcy, Hughes and W Jones.

**FC/25/109 Public participation on items of business included on the agenda.**

None received.

**FC/25/110 To receive an update from the Town Clerk on correspondence in the last month.**

The Town Clerk reported that she had attended the Rural Market Towns group meeting and that the election expenses had been received. There will be a Tow& Parish Clerks meeting with David Redfern shortly and will circulate presentations when received.

**FC/25/110 To receive and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meetings held on the 16<sup>th</sup> September and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025.**

The minutes of both meetings were approved and signed as a correct record.

**FC/25/110 To receive and note the minutes of the Policy & Resources meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025.**

The minutes were noted.

**FC/25/110 To receive and note the minutes of the Planning & Environment meetings held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025.**

The minutes were noted.

- FC/25/110 To receive and note the minutes of the Town Hall & Facilities meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025.**  
The minutes were noted.
- FC/25/110 To receive and note the minutes of the Community Engagement & Town Promotion meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025.**  
The minutes were noted.
- FC/25/110 To receive and note the minutes of the Burial meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025.**  
The minutes were noted.
- FC/25/110 To consider and approve Terms of Reference for Asset Acquisition working group.**  
It was resolved to approve the proposed Terms of Reference.
- FC/25/110 To consider and approve Terms of Reference for Neighbourhood Plan Review working group.**  
It was resolved to approve the proposed Terms of Reference.
- FC/25/110 To receive an update on the Terms of Reference for Town Centre Open Spaces and High Street Regeneration working group.**  
Cllr Power notified members that Cllrs D’Arcy, Drake and herself had met to discuss the way forward as agreed at the last FC meeting. Cllr D’Arcy is working on the draft MoU from the Town Team to be presented to the Council for agreement.  
Proposed Terms of Reference will be presented to the next Full Council meeting.
- FC/25/110 To note Conclusion of Audit from External Auditor.**  
The conclusion of audit was noted by Members and the Town Clerk was asked to contact PKF Littlejohn expressing dissatisfaction that the report had not been received within the statutory deadline.
- FC/25/110 To note and consider report from Cllr Drake on Councillor Access to digital Council files.**  
Following discussion it was agreed that Cllrs Drake and D’Arcy will progress this.
- FC/25/110 To receive an update from representatives of Malmesbury Town Council on the following organisations;**
- i. **Wiltshire Association of Local Councils & Society of Local Council Clerks**  
No update.
  - ii. **Malmesbury Conservation Group**  
The report from Cllr Power was noted.
  - iii. **Malmesbury Town Team**  
The report from Cllr Drake was noted.
  - iv. **Malmesbury & District Twinning Association**  
The report from Cllr Exton was noted.
  - v. **Operational Flood Group**  
No update.
  - vi. **Local Highways & Footpaths Improvements Group**  
The report from Cllr Exton was noted.
  - vii. **Local Youth Network Management Group**  
Cllr M Akhtar had forwarded apologies and was not in attendance.
  - viii. **Movies @ Malmesbury.**  
No update.
  - ix. **Bus Service improvement**  
No update.

- x. **Health & Well-being Forum.**  
No update.
- xi. **Community Safety Forum**  
No update.
- xii. **Joint Neighbourhood Plan**  
No update.
- xiii. **Cotswolds National Landscape Board.**  
No update
- xiv. **Athelstan Statue**  
No update.

**FC/25/110 To receive an update from Wiltshire Councillors. This may include urgent actions to be considered by the Council.**

Cllr Grant reported the following;

**Wiltshire Council Plan Approved**

At its October meeting, Wiltshire Council adopted a new Council Plan setting out its priorities for the next four years with an absolute majority of Councillors voting in favour of it.

This approval and adoption followed wide public consultation sessions both in person and on line. Cllr Grant attended four of these in person consultations the first of which took place in Malmesbury Library.

The Plan places emphasis on tackling climate change, supporting economic growth, improving health and wellbeing, and ensuring strong local communities.

**Blue Badge Parking Charges Scrapped**

At the same Full Council meeting, Cllr Grant's resolution to end parking charges for Blue Badge holders in Wiltshire Council car parks including Cross Hayes and Station Yard was passed.

The change will ensuring fairer and safer access for disabled residents and visitors to the town.

**Adoption of the Wiltshire & Swindon Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

Wiltshire Council has published and adopted the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), setting priorities for restoring habitats such as chalk streams, meadows, and woodlands, and for linking them across the landscape.

For Malmesbury, the LNRS highlights opportunities along the River Avon and its floodplain, where projects such as natural flood management and wetland restoration upstream are already improving biodiversity and reducing flood risk. The area also lies close to priority lowland meadow habitats such as Clattinger Farm, recognised for its species-rich grassland.

These initiatives support planning and community projects that enhance local nature, water quality, and climate resilience.

Further details and interactive maps are available at the Wiltshire & Swindon Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

**Planning Notifications Resolution**

Also at the Council meeting a members' resolution regarding planning notifications was passed. The example of the current works in the field behind Waitrose that Cllr Grant had

raised with him was specifically cited by the Cabinet Member for Planning in this debate in support of the resolution.

The resolution calls on officers to review and improve the way that permitted development notifications and other planning alerts are communicated to parish and town councils, to ensure timely and clearer information for local stakeholders. These changes to the Scheme of Delegation will be brought back to Full Council for approval in the New Year.

Meanwhile Cllr Grant continues to raise issues of concern about this site with both our Planning team including Planning Enforcement officers.

### **Proposed Development on Land at Bristol Road/Park Lane Appeal**

The developer's appeal against the refusal of planning permission for additional housing at this site will be heard by a member of the Planning Inspectorate in Monkton Park, Chippenham starting at 10am on 11th November. This clashes directly with a Cabinet meeting but Cllr Grant hopes to attend the Appeal and give evidence against this application after the conclusion of Cabinet.

It will be very important that the Town Council's voice is heard clearly at this appeal.

### **Malmesbury CofE Primary School's planned expansion and a Footpath Link to Backbridge Farm**

Cllr Grant is strongly in support of the proposed expansion of Malmesbury Primary School and the establishment of the proposed STEAM Centre in site.

In this context Cllr Grant is joining with Wiltshire Councillor colleague Martin Smith, whose Sherston Division includes the Backbridge Farm development to secure a footpath link passing through part of the Primary School grounds as part of the school's expansion plans now submitted to the Planning Department for approval.

Cllr Grant hopes to have the Town Council's support in this as it was part of the Malmesbury Town Council made Neighbourhood Plan as well as positive and supportive engagement from the School's leadership.

### **Malmesbury Activity Zone Carbon Neutrality**

The Malmesbury Activity Zone continues to make strong progress becoming carbon neutral operationally through ongoing use of both renewable energy, insulation and energy efficiency measures that also cut costs.

### **2026/27 Wiltshire Council Budget Consultation**

Cllr Grant is now starting the Consultation and public engagement on what will be a very challenging Wiltshire Council Budget for 2026/27.

Tough choices and decisions will face the Council at its February meeting. Consequently Cllr Grant is seeking residents views on spending priorities and savings proposals attending 8 in person sessions around the County including 3 specifically with Wiltshire Council staff. There is also an opportunity to give views on line.

The following is the link to the online Budget consultation:

<https://surveys.wiltshire.gov.uk/s/budget2026-27>

**Meeting closed at 7.39pm**