

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the
Full Council Meeting
Held via Zoom on **Tuesday 21st July 2020** at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Mayor Councillor C M Ritchie

Councillors: S D'Arcy, C Doody, J M Exton, P Exton, L G Grant, C Hardwick, W Jones, K Power, D Rogers, P Smith, F Vandelli

Richard Spencer-Williams (Town Clerk), Gill Davie (Minutes)

MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mayor Ritchie informed the Council that there will be a small ceremony of commemoration for VJ Day on August 15th in the centre of the town
- Preparations for Malmesbury in Bloom are underway, and the awards presentation will be on Friday Sept 18th.
- There will be a virtual Friendship Civic Reception on Friday Sept 25th with Malmesbury's twin and friendship towns.
- A series of small Civic Receptions are currently being planned to say thank you to all the volunteers from within the town who have worked so hard in the past few months.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

2. APOLOGIES: None

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: There were no public questions

4. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 16 June 2020.

Resolved the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 16th June 2020 were received and adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Ritchie **Seconded:** Cllr Jones

5. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on the 3rd June 2020

It was pointed out, for clarity, that it was Cllr P Exton who had been elected as a member of the Personnel Sub Committee

Resolved the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 3rd June 2020 were received and adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Jones **Seconded:** Cllr Smith

6 To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meetings held on the 2nd June and the 23rd June 2020

At the 2nd June meeting vehicle charging points were discussed and information has been requested from Wiltshire Council. No response has been received yet. An update on the Gleeson application was also discussed

Resolved the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on the 2nd June May 2020 were received and adopted as a true record
Proposed: Cllr P Exton **Seconded:** Cllr Rogers

Several applications were considered at the 23rd June meeting, with one objection due to possible compliance with fire and building regulations. Planters at Reeds Farm and the Bloor estate were also discussed

Resolved the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on the 23rd June 2020 were received and adopted as a true record
Proposed: Cllr P Exton **Seconded:** Cllr Jones

7 To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Community and Town Promotions Committee Meetings held on the 23rd April, 5th May and 11th June 2020

The meeting on 23rd April covered updates from working groups on the impact of the early stages of lockdown. Decisions were taken to cancel the Festival Town leaflet and investigate extending the Great West Way membership

Resolved the Minutes of the Community and Town Promotions Meeting held on the 23rd April 2020 were received and adopted as a true record
Proposed: Cllr Vandelli **Seconded:** Cllr Power

The minutes for the May meeting (elections to the committee) were received and adopted at the 11th June Meeting. The Deputy Town Clerk was asked to make enquiries with other towns making payments to the Great West Way for their views on an extension. A 3-month extension has been granted.

Malmesbury in Bloom is going apace now. Help is needed to distribute posters. Tea for Seniors and Town Trails are progressing well

Resolved the Minutes of the Community and Town Promotions Committee Meeting held on the 11th June 2020 were received and adopted as a true record
Proposed: Cllr Vandelli **Seconded:** Cllr Doody

8. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Town Hall and Facilities Committee Meetings held on the 4th June and 17th June 2020

The meeting on 4th June focused on the reopening of the Town Hall. Credit must be given to the staff and Cllr D'Arcy for their work in a changing environment. Substantial discussions took place on PPE and government guidelines

Resolved the Minutes of the Town Hall and Facilities Committee Meeting held on the 4th June 2020 were received and adopted as a true record
Proposed: Cllr Grant **Seconded:** Cllr P Exton

The meeting on 17th June also considered the reopening of the Town Hall. Agreement was given for the Jackdaw to open as a takeaway. Vandalism of

the basketball hoops was discussed, and the Open Spaces Working Party was recreated

Resolved the Minutes of the Town Hall and Facilities Committee Meeting held on the 17th June 2020 were received and adopted as a true record

Proposed: Cllr Grant **Seconded:** Cllr Jones

9. To consider for election the nomination of Cllr J Exton to be a member of the Planning and Environment Committee

Resolved: Cllr J Exton to be elected to be a member of the Planning and Environment Committee

Proposed: Cllr Ritchie **Seconded:** Cllr Rogers

Cllr P Exton welcomed Cllr J Exton back on to the Committee

10. To consider the request to agree in principle to allow performance events in the Cloister Gardens in the context of Covid 19 Guidance (Report No1 Mayor Ritchie)

The proposal was for a non-amplified performance in the Gardens. Concerns were raised that people would stop and listen in the Gardens and a detailed discussion took place over social distancing, potential crowd sizes and the responsibility for supervision and crowd control. Even with the strict conditions laid down by Malmesbury Live Arts it was decided not to go ahead at this stage, and it was unlikely that the situation would change by August 1st.

Resolved: To withdraw this proposal

Proposed: Cllr Ritchie **Seconded:** Cllr D'Arcy

Action: The Cloister Gardens Working Party is asked to consider putting on such an event in future

11. To receive verbal and written reports and updates on the Covid 19 Partnership work from the Mayor and Town Clerk and consider any associated proposals (Report No 2, Mayor Ritchie)

The Town Clerk gave an overview of the work that has been focused in the Town Hall, covering the opening of the café, toilets, discussions with the cinema which should be on track for a "soft opening" in Sept/Oct, the TIC should reopen on Sat 25th July if the signs arrive in time, the Museum will reopen in September. All is progressing well. There are on-going discussions with other groups who use the Town Hall about their restarting plans. Cross Hayes toilets are on track for completion w/c 27th July.

Action: To mark the re-opening of the toilets at 2pm on Friday 7th August

Cllr Ritchie referred to his Report No 2. Although it is no longer an emergency response there is still significant work to do. Overall, the reaction to the re-opening of the High Street has been positive, apart from some comments on social media.

To date there has been no information from the Secretary of State or Wiltshire Council on the outstanding funds that will be available for Malmesbury

Work has been undertaken with the Town Team to consider additional car parking proposals and options have been sought from Wiltshire Council,

particularly looking at 20/30 1 hour free parking spaces. Discussion took place over how such free spaces would operate and it was felt that this proposal would go some way to allay residents' concerns over the removal of parking on the High Street.

Resolved: To note and adopt the proposals in the Report No 2

Resolved: to formally request guidance from Wiltshire Council and the Secretary of State about when the funding identified will be quantified and paid to Malmesbury Town Council.

Proposed: Cllr Ritchie

Seconded: Cllr Grant

The Community and Civic Events were covered in the earlier Mayor's announcements.

Resolved: To note the work which is being undertaken

Proposed: Cllr Ritchie

Seconded: Cllr P Exton

12. To consider the implications for the Council of littering in land adjacent to Daniels Well and the fields under the bypass near Baskerville and agree a Council response (Report No 3 Town Clerk)

The Town Clerk gave an overview of the current situation, with the ongoing clean up job which is required, generating 30/35 bags of waste per week. It was suggested communicating out to the community to be honest about the cost of clearing up this waste, ensuring the message gets to the parents of the young people involved and the possible implications for the precept. It was also suggested engaging positively with St Paul Malmesbury without and with the landowners to find a shared solution which might include sharing costs

Action: This issue to be picked up by the Planning and Environment Committee. Cllrs Ritchie and P Exton to talk to St Paul Malmesbury without about this issue

Cllr Grant was asked to contact the Rise Trust and ask them to talk to the young people to raise these issues. Cllr Grant was also asked to put this issue on the agenda for the Local Youth Network

13. To receive an update from the Wiltshire Councillor Gavin Grant

Cllr Grant updated the Council on the following Wiltshire Council matters.

- The Secretary of State did not respond to the requirement to call in the Gleeson proposal and it has not been possible to challenge the conduct of the Strategic Planning Committee.
- Bloor is seeking to remove the designation next to Filands View that it should be used for educational purposes. Wiltshire Education Department has not raised an objection. Cllr Grant is going to seek legal advice.
- There is now a pre-consultation on an application for houses off Park Road
- All these are outside the neighbourhood plan
- A senior Council Officer in the Economic Development team is now working with the Council and the Town team.

- 222 temporary walking and walking and cycling schemes have been put forward to Wiltshire Council. With only £900k available funding will not be significant. The Planning and Environment Committee were asked to consider this before the deadline of August 6th
- Wiltshire Air Ambulance was closed after the Salisbury incident at a cost of £100k. A campaign to get that money back from the government is on-going.
- Current financial position of Wiltshire Council. Service provision may be off-loaded to the town/parish councils and Policy and Resources Committee need to prepare for this
- Malmesbury Area Board is still meeting, and revenue and capital grants will be paid to the Board in full. CAT-G will meet in Sept
- Current position on Abbey House Gardens
- The recovery of Rev Oliver Ross

Actions: Cllr P Exton to put cycling plans on the agenda for the next Planning and Environment meeting. Cllr Ritchie to send a letter supporting reimbursing funds to Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Cllr Ritchie also to send the Council's best wishes for a speedy recovery to Rev Oliver Ross. Planning and Environment and Policy and Resources Committees to think about CAT-G funding and other requirements

The meeting ended at 9.45pm

Date of next Full Council Meeting: **22.9.20**