

## **Malmesbury Town Council**

### Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting**

Held via Zoom on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020** at 7.00pm.

---

**PRESENT:** Mayor Councillor C M Ritchie

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

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

### **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The Mayor welcomed members of the public to the meeting
- The Mayor's Charity Event on Sat Oct 31<sup>st</sup> was watched by an enthusiastic audience and it is now available to view on-line or to purchase
- Remembrance Day was held on Nov 8<sup>th</sup> with two events, one at the Memorial Gates and one in the Abbey Grounds. The Mayor expressed his thanks to the Town Clerk and Lynda Cryer for organising these events so well in these difficult times.
- The next Mayor's Charity event will be held on Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7.30pm and will be a debate between the Mayor and Tony McAleavy on the greatest "Malmesburian". This will be raising money for good causes
- The Great Christmas Activity Get Together will take place on Saturday November 28.

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**2. APOLOGIES:** Cllr C Hardwick

**3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** Several members of the public had joined the meeting with Keith Player as their spokesperson. He indicated that they had concerns about the handling of the planning application for 50 Kingswall. Their questions were around clarification on the way in which the P&E Committee handled the application and not the application itself.  
Cllr Ritchie said this question would be taken at Agenda Item 6

**4. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 20th October 2020.**

**Resolved** the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 20th October 2020 were received and adopted as a true record.

**Proposed:** Cllr Ritchie      **Seconded:** Cllr Smith

**5. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on the 7th October 2020**

**Resolved** the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were received and adopted as a true record.

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

**6 To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meetings held on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Resolved:** the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were received and adopted as a true record

**Proposed:** Cllr P Exton                      **Seconded:** Cllr Jones

With regard to the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October, Cllr P Exton explained that as the application for 50 Kingswall was brought by a councillor on the committee, Cllr Rogers declared his interest at the beginning of the meeting and he was asked to leave the meeting when it was discussed. Mr Player challenged the timing issue and consistency of decision making regarding a previous application on Harpers Lane. P&E meetings are held every 3 weeks and applications are scheduled for discussion as soon as they are received often before the final date for feedback. Malmesbury Town Council's role is as a consultee, the final decision lies with Wiltshire Council. Cllr Exton expressed full faith that Wiltshire Council would use all relevant information including any information received after the P&E Committee meeting to reach a final decision. Cllr Grant informed the meeting that he had made a preliminary notice to call in applications for Park Road, Burton Hill and 50 Kingswall and he was awaiting contact from the Planning Officer.

**Resolved:** the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 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 Promotion Committee held on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Resolved:** the Minutes of the Community and Town Promotion Committee Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 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 meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Resolved:** the minutes of the Town Hall and Facilities Committee Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> September were received and adopted as a true record

**Proposed:** Cllr Grant                      **Seconded:** Cllr Smith

The Town Clerk then gave a brief update on the position regarding re-opening the Town Hall from December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**9. To update on the operation of the Covid 19 related High Street Safety Scheme including parking arrangements at Station yard, the Old Bell and Cross Hayes and consider any further actions (Report No 1 Town Clerk)**

The Town Clerk explained what had happened so far and the current status quo. Malmesbury Town Council would pay for the plants with a contribution from C&TP towards the cost of the planting.

The Town Clerk's report was noted and received.

**10. To receive a verbal report on Covid 19 related adjusted Malmesbury Town Council and Malmesbury Town team activity in the run up to Christmas (Cllr Power)**

Cllr Power gave a short summary of the many activities planned for the run up to Christmas. New promotional material is being produced along with 3 banners and posters. Jason Durr is making an advert to be shared on-line. A video of the lights going on was shared on Facebook and YouTube. The Big Malmesbury Christmas Get Together will be a virtual activity. There will be 5 days of free parking in Cross Hayes in December, 3 Saturdays and Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Cllr Hepworth is responsible for two competitions in the High Street.

**Proposal:** to note the report and commend the work going in to promoting Malmesbury

**Proposed:** Cllr Ritchie

**Seconded:** Cllr Rogers

**11. To receive a report on Malmesbury Town Council welfare related activity in relation to Lockdown 2 (Report No 2, Mayor Ritchie)**

Cllr Ritchie explained the actions that have been taken against a picture of the increasing volume of individual and family needs emerging through this crisis. Cllr Grant gave an update on Heals plans for Christmas to ensure everyone on the vulnerable list has a hot meal. The Red Bull is involved with this initiative and there are discussions going on with the Foodbank as well.

**Resolved:** to note the report and the work which is planned for Christmas and to invite Cllr Grant to give an update on Heals plans at the Full Council meeting in January 2021

**Proposed:** Cllr Ritchie

**Seconded:** Cllr Vandelli

**12. To receive an update on recent planning and related matters in relation to the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan including Filands, Whychurch Farm, Aldi and Park Road applications and consider proposed next steps. (Report No 3 Mayor Ritchie)**

Cllr Ritchie explained that planning had been a fast-moving situation since May. The Wiltshire Area Localism and Planning Alliance has made some progress with Wiltshire Council and a second meeting with the Planning Officers is scheduled for later in the week. This should indicate where Wiltshire Council is with its 5-year land supply. A question was raised about what would happen if Wiltshire Council does not meet its 5-year land supply and the implication of that would be that the Neighbourhood Plan would be a zero defence. Clarification was being sought on the CIL payment for Aldi.

Cllr Grant gave an update on a proposed on-line consultation by Wiltshire Council starting in January next year and going throughout the year with the possibility of plans being discussed leading to a doubling of new houses being built in the Malmesbury area.

**Proposed:** to note the report. To take all reasonable steps to work directly and in alliance with other councils in Wiltshire to ensure the maximum possible support for Neighbourhood Planning in Wiltshire through the actions of Wiltshire Council and by seeking appropriate changes to the NPPF and planning law by government. To continue to seek the support of our MP and all Wiltshire MP's to press for changes to the NPPF. To continue to robustly challenge planning applications that are contrary to the housing needs identified in the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan. In respect of **Aldi: Supermarket 18/06980**, to seek to clarify the situation concerning the CiL payment and the process followed in this and the decision making concerning the Town Teams106 submission in the light of the new information that has now been made available following Wiltshire Council's delayed release of information.

**Proposed:** Cllr Ritchie

**Seconded:** Cllr Vandelli

### **13. Receive a verbal report on the work of Malmesbury Climate Action Network (Cllr Grant)**

Cllr Grant gave a brief update, beginning by thanking the Council for their recent grant. Significant work has taken place to integrate Malmesbury Against Plastic. Progress has been made on the Community Orchard. The sustainable transport group have been working on a cycle route from Sherston to Malmesbury and good progress is being made on sustainable energy.

Cllr Grant's report was noted and received.

### **14. To receive a short verbal update report from the Council's representatives**

**Wiltshire Association of Local Councils** – the Town Clerk had nothing specific to report. He would continue to maintain a relationship with them  
**Market Town Forum** – Cllr Power again reported limited contact with WC, and the Town Clerk was asked to write to Wiltshire Council to find out what was happening with the Forum.

**Malmesbury Conservation Group** – Cllr Ritchie had nothing to report  
**Malmesbury and District Community Transport-** Cllr Grant reported that the salaried staff had been made redundant. Discussions were now on-going with Cartmell Community Bus Trustees

**Malmesbury Town Team-** Great West Way has been promoting Malmesbury. There are three main projects – the Gift Card, Signage and Explore Malmesbury. All are making good progress. Explore Malmesbury will be launched in the Spring. There have been some resignations on the Team so Cllr Ritchie will be acting as Chair as they consider their future plans.

**Malmesbury and District Twinning Association:** thanks were given for the virtual friendship evening and to the Mayor for hosting it. They are organising a Quiz night on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Operational Flood Group** – Cllr D’Arcy has walked the town with the Flood Wardens, talked to Cllr Jones, ensured the available kit is easy to access in the store at the rear of the Town Hall and will be considering appropriate training courses

**Community Area Transport Group** – Cllr P Exton reported there will be a virtual meeting next week

**Local Youth Network Management Group** – there is a stay safe project running in the primary schools. Abbey Skate will not be happening this year

**Movies@Malmesbury** – has been suspended through this recent lockdown but is now planning a schedule for December

**Athelstan Statue Project Group** – Cllr Ritchie had nothing new to report

**15. To receive an update from the Wiltshire Councillor Gavin Grant**

- In this second lockdown staff have been seconded to run the Business Support Grant Scheme which will have a discretionary aspect again and this should be flagged up to the Café tenants. There is also grant funding of £500 for loss of earning for those told to self-isolate through track and trace. Information is available on the website and the helpline is back up and running
- Community Safety Forum has been set up in Malmesbury with Malmesbury Town Council as a stakeholder. It will meet monthly and will look at how crime can be designed out of the town. It will also facilitate discussions with the police.
- Wiltshire Council continues to experience financial pressure. Their tax base is falling, and this has implications for the precept.
- Malmesbury High Street has suffered some closures and there are rumours of more to happen shortly. Rent reviews are having a negative impact on shops in the High Street and a research project should be commissioned to identify who owns the freehold of the High Street shops

The meeting ended at 9.12pm

Date of next Full Council Meeting: **15.12.20**