



MALMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the
Full Council Meeting
Held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7.00pm.

Present; Cllrs P Exton, G Grant, I Wallis, W Jones, S James, K Drake, J Slade, RP Jones, L Crawford-Price, R Hastings, C Doody, K Power, R Sanderson, M Crawford-Price and C Ritchie,

Also present: Claire Mann (Town Clerk) and one member of the public.

MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Exton notified Members that he had attended four events since the last meeting;

- Nine Lessons and Carols at The Abbey.
- Singing in the New Year.
- The Squirrels meeting at St Mary's Hall.
- Opening of Malmesbury Pharmacy.

FC/25/01 To receive declarations of interest.

None received.

FC/25/02 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllrs Slade & Power.

FC/25/03 To receive public questions on items of business included on the agenda.

Cllr Exton thanked Mubashir Akhtar for his work to highlight the difficulties that will be faced by residents during the closure of the Post Office.

FC/25/04 To receive and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 19th December 2024.

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

FC/25/06 To receive and note the minutes of the Town Hall and Facilities Committee meeting on the 7th November 2024.

The minutes were received and noted.

FC/25/07 To receive and note the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on the 17th December.

It was pointed out that the Minerva Survey is stated as taking place in February 2024, it should be 2025. The minutes of the meeting were received and noted.

FC/25/08 To confirm temporary accommodation of Malmesbury Post Office in the Town Hall during the closure of the Coop and potential expenses incurred (provision of broadband and additional security)

The Town Clerk updated members on recent correspondence with the Post Office and Coop. It was agreed that the Council will press both organisations to maintain the service as what is available usually.

It was agreed to

FC/25/09 To consider report from Cllr Sanderson on provision of transport during Post Office closure.

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/25/10 To consider all working groups (to review relevance and membership) List attached.

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/25/11 To confirm precept request to Wiltshire Council (to be submitted by 20th January)

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/25/12 To consider proposed meeting schedule for 2025/26

No update received.

FC/25/13 To consider the next steps in undertaking a Streetscape Audit as envisaged and agreed in the developing signage and streetscape project.

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.

FC/25/14 To consider way forward for Service Devolution and Asset Transfer by Wiltshire Council.

Cllr Grant updated the Council on the following matters;

FC/25/15 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/25/16 To receive an update from Wiltshire Councillor, Gavin Grant.

Cllr Grant updated the Council on the following matters;

Meeting closed at 9.11pm