

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting**

Held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present; Cllrs G Grant, P Exton, K Power, RP Jones, C Ritchie, R Hastings, J Slade, I Wallis, S D'Arcy, S James, C Doody, F Smith & L Crawford-Price

Also present: Claire Mann (Town Clerk) Fiona Scott & Jo Smyth (Scott Media)

Mayors Announcements

Cllr Grant reported the resignation of Erica Whatton and thanked her for her work with the Council. Cllr Grant also reported that he had attended the following engagements since the last Full Council meeting:

Wednesday 28 February – Malmesbury Abbey Music Society – 'Music for the Soul' concert featuring children from local primary schools

Sunday 4 March – High Sherriff Rule of Law Service, Salisbury Cathedral

Monday 5 March – 1st King Athelstan Malmesbury Scouts became Town Councillors for the day and debated two resolutions in the Council Chamber

Friday 15 March – 992 (Malmesbury) RAFAC Squadron Annual Dining-In and presentation evening, Malmesbury Town Hall

Saturday 16 March – Calne Civic Service and blessing of the River Marden, led by the Bishop of Ramsbury and Calne Mayor Cllr Rob MacNaughton.

Forthcoming Events

Friday 22 March – Waitrose steps official reopening with store manager Jon Judkin

Saturday 13 April - Mayor's Ball – sold out with a waitlist for any returns and all proceeds going to the three Mayoral charities

Cllr Grant welcomed Fiona & Jo before they made their presentation to members, detailing their work to date and upcoming stories

FC/24/26 To receive declarations of interest.

Cllrs Power & Doody declared interests as Trustees in the Riverside Centre Item and will leave the meeting.

FC/24/27 To receive apologies for absence.

Received from Cllr Sanderson

FC/24/28 Public questions on items of business included on the agenda.

There were no public questions.

FC/24/29 To receive and adopt minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 27th February 2024.

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

FC/24/30 To receive and note the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on the 20th February 2024.

The minutes were received and noted.

FC/24/31 To receive and note the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on the 7th February 2024.

The minutes were received and noted.

FC/24/32 To receive and note the minutes of the Community Engagement & Town Promotion Committee meeting held on the 15th February 2024.

The minutes were received and noted.

FC/24/33 To receive and note the minutes of the Town Hall & Facilities Committee meeting held on the 24th January 2024.

It was noted that the paper circulated was an agenda and would be presented to the next Full Council meeting.

FC/24/34 To appoint members to a working group involved with partnership working around the Primary School expansion.

It was resolved that Cllrs D'Arcy, RP Jones, Crawford-Price, Power & Doody. Cllr Grant was appointed as Wiltshire Councillor. A meeting will be convened as soon as possible to facilitate conversations between the School & Persimmon Homes.

FC/24/35 To consider next steps for Malmesbury Town Council with reference to planning decision on land to the east of Waitrose A429, Malmesbury.

Cllr Ritchie had circulated a report and it was resolved to accept the proposals;

- to request an urgent report from Wiltshire Council on the action they are taking following the Appeal decision
- If Wiltshire Council is proposing not to challenge the decision and no legal opinion has been taken to support this decision that has been shared with Malmesbury Town Council and St. Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council and considered reasonable by us, to formally request that Wiltshire Council takes the following action:
 - i. To obtain a legal opinion on possible grounds of appeal against the Inspectors decision and the probability of success of challenging the Inspectors decision.
 - ii. To share and discuss this opinion with Malmesbury Town Council and St. Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council.
 - iii. To commit to make an appeal if there is a reasonable probability of it being successful.
 - iv. Through our Wiltshire Councillor and to enlist the support of other relevant Wiltshire Councillors and the Northern Area Planning Committee for the above course of action.
- To communicate our proposed actions and the resulting developments to residents.

FC/24/36 To receive updates from Malmesbury Town Council on the following organisations, where report had been received;

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils & Society of Local Council Clerks – No update.

Malmesbury Conservation Group – No update available.

Malmesbury Town Team – Cllr Ritchie had circulated his report detailing the progress of Town Team initiatives.

Malmesbury & District Twinning Association – no update.

Movies @ Malmesbury – No update.

Operational Flood Group – No update.

LHFIG – No update.

Local Youth Network Management Group – No update.

Bus Service improvement – No update.

Health & Well-being Forum – No update.

Community Safety Forum – No update.

Malmesbury Climate Action Network (inc Malmesbury Against Plastics) – No update.

FC/24/37 To receive an update from Wiltshire Councillor, Gavin Grant.

Cllr Grant reported that there has been much correspondence from members of the public on the Lime Solar application.

FC/24/38 To exclude the Press & Public from the remainder of the meeting due to commercially sensitive issues

It was resolved to exclude the Press & Public from the remainder of the meeting.

FC/24/40 To mandate the Asset Acquisition Working Group with research into the available buildings for Community use.

It was resolved to accept the recommendation as per Cllr Grant's circulated report;

Malmesbury Town Council establishes a working party to examine options for acquisitions in Malmesbury by the Town Council.

The Working Party programme of work to include:

- The availability and costs of funds to enable such purchases.
- Potential income streams to make any purchase financially viable
- Identifying appropriate management structures to enable effective future operation of any purchase
- Engage in dialogue on the above with these building owners and/or their representatives
- Making a recommendation on the way forward to P&R and through the Committee to Full Council

The Working Party to be authorised to:

Co-opt into its membership individuals with appropriate experience and expertise to assist and support its work programme.

Have access to a budget of up to £10,000 to fund research and appropriate professional expertise as required to fulfil its work programme, as agreed with the Town Clerk or her appointed Officer.

The current membership of this Working Party is:

Cllr Steve D'Arcy (Chair of P&R)

Cllr Gavin Grant (Mayor)

Cllr Campbell Ritchie (Town Council Representative to the Town Team)

Supported by Claire Mann, Town Clerk

Meeting closed at 8.26pm