

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Marlborough Town Council** held on **Monday, 2nd February, 2004** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough at 7 pm.**

PRESENT

Councillor W. B. Cavill
Councillor G. Francis

Town Mayor
Deputy Town Mayor

Councillor S. R. Dobson
Councillor M. P. Cooper
Councillor Mrs. H. A. Cripps
Councillor B. Castle
Councillor Mrs. E. M. Hannaford
Councillor Mrs. P. Dow
Councillor N. Fogg
Councillor M. Gray
Councillor Mrs. C. V. Jackson
Councillor M. Curtis
Councillor D. L. Parker
Councillor G. Worby
Councillor R. J. Allen
Councillor P. Cossey

Inspector W. H. Dowling
John Bordiss
Councillor Mrs. M. Boulton
Councillor C. Humphries
Councillor A. W. Skittrall
Councillor Miss P. E. G. Courtman
Mr. M. Ward
11 Members of the Public

Wiltshire Constabulary
Community Support Officer
Wiltshire County Council
Kennet District Council
Kennet District Council
Kennet District Council
Humberts

Mr. N. Kerton
Miss A. Outrim

Wiltshire Gazette
The Adviser

Mr. G. Gittins
Mrs. R. E. Johnston

Town Clerk
Minute Secretary

PRAYERS

The Meeting commenced with Prayers, said by the Mayor's Chaplain – the Revd. Studdert-Kennedy. He also said a Prayer for ex Councillor Mrs. H. Castle, wife of Councillor B. Castle, who is in hospital.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(a) **Mrs. T. Feather – Roads and Pavements**

Mrs. Feather asked what the County Council intends to do about the bad condition of the roads and pavements in Marlborough.

County Councillor Mrs. M. Boulton replied that the County Council had placed £2 - £3m to look at potholes etc., and a survey of street furniture in Marlborough which included railings had been undertaken and the results will be available shortly.

Mrs. Feather said that no work had been done since the work on The Parade had taken place.

The Mayor replied that work had taken place in New Road, although it was of poor quality. He requested that a letter be written to Ringway Parkman saying that this Council is disappointed with the lack of work being undertaken in Marlborough and we hope the situation will improve.

(b) **Mrs. T. Feather – Agendas**

Mrs. Feather complained that the Agendas were not placed on the Town Hall Notice-Boards.

The Town Clerk replied that they were put on the both Town Hall Notice Boards, the Library and Manton Village Notice Board on Thursday, 29th January, 2004.

(c) **Derek Smithers – Bollards**

Mr. Smithers asked that the Wiltshire County Council improve and repair the bollards at the junction of Salisbury Road and on the A4 London Road.

County Councillor Mrs. M. Boulton said that she has already taken this item up with the County Council.

(d) **Mrs. V. Compton – Flooding**

Mrs. Compton asked if a flood is reported on a major road to the Police, is it logged by them and to whom would they report it, the Environment Agency or Wiltshire County Council.

Inspector Dowling replied that it does get logged and he will find out who it is reported to.

Miss V. Compton asked Inspector Dowling that if the report is logged, will he please check any such reports of the A4 flooding on the 1st January, 2003 near Silbury Hill and to let her have a copy of the action taken.

Miss Compton said she had a letter from a gentleman of enormous experience on the River Kennet – he states:

‘There is no doubt in my mind that the release of held back flood water by Silbury Hill caused the sudden surge and rise of the River on the 2nd January, 2003’.

Miss Compton then suggested actions that could be taken by Marlborough Town Council.

(e) **Nigel Kerton – Increase in Parking Charges**

Mr. Kerton asked if the Council are aware of the increase to double the present charge for parking in the George Lane Car Park.

District Councillor A. W. Skittrall – replied that Waitrose want to increase the parking turnover and there is no alternative but to carry out what Waitrose request and therefore it had been agreed that the present £1 charge be doubled to £2.

Dr. D. Watson said that he thought it a good idea and asked how many Members would agree?

The Mayor said that this increase is not welcome.

Mr. Kerton asked how does the doubling of charges lessen traffic and get it out quicker?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S QUESTION TIME

None.

CRIME AND DISORDER

Inspector W. H. Dowling reported that negotiations had been finalised and the Contract would be signed shortly for another Traffic Warden in Marlborough.

John Bordiss, Community Support Officer reported that he had visited the Recreation Ground, Jan Edwards the Youth and Community Officer and spoken to several young people who use the Youth Centre and visited the Londis Shop and made regular foot patrols in the area, together with colleagues, and the problems experienced with litter and bottles has improved. He had visited the area today, and there was no litter or bottles to be found.

He said that he would continue making regular patrols in the Recreation Ground and he was hopeful that the good relationship with the young people would continue.

The Mayor thanked him for his efforts and congratulated him on the success he has achieved.

Inspector Dowling said that patrols would also be made in Cooper's Meadow this summer.

Councillor P. Cossey said several elderly people had approached him about the danger of cyclists on pavements.

Inspector Dowling said that young people had been encouraged to ride on the pavements for safety reasons, but he would like to be informed of any area where this is happening and becoming a nuisance.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk send a letter to the Wiltshire County Council about the cycling in Figgins Lane.

Councillor Mrs. H. Cripps said that the Police park on occasions in bays for the disabled, occupying them for some time.

Inspector Dowling said that if this happens in an emergency then that is acceptable, however if it becomes a regular problem then it should be reported.

432/03 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor drew Members attention to Standing Orders regarding items on the Agenda when Councillors may speak only once on an item.

433/03 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

434/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

435/03 TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND MADT REPRESENTATIVE

None

436/03 QUESTIONS TO COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND MADT REPRESENTATIVES

(a) **Councillor R. Allen to District Councillors – TIC**

Councillor Allen referred to the meeting at Kennet District Council in September, 2003 when it was said that we would have a Tourist Information Centre in time for this summer and asked what progress has been made.

District Councillor C. Humphries said that negotiations are ongoing with the County Council with regard to incorporating the Centre in the Library.

County Councillor Mrs. M. Boulton said that a meeting is to take place on the 12th February, 2004 when the Library service will be meeting Kennet District Council to discuss the involvement of the Library.

Councillor R. Allen asked if a Tourist Information Centre would be in place by the Spring.

Councillor Humphries said it was hoped this would be the case, all interested parties are going to meet shortly.

The Mayor asked if all other options had been looked at.

Councillor Humphries said that they had.

Councillor Mrs. H. Cripps asked if the building they already have can be opened up until such time as a permanent site can be found.

District Councillor C. Humphries said that the Strategy agreed last year is being followed.

Councillor G. Francis commented that if there is not to be a meeting before February, the Library would need altering to accommodate a Tourist Information Centre – this was not going to happen overnight. He said that the Town Council are looking at other, quicker, options.

Councillor N. Fogg said that Mrs. V. Compton has an information pack on how complaints can be made to the Ombudsman.

(b) **Councillor P. Cossey to County Councillor Mrs. M. Boulton – Wall – Stonebridge Lane**

Councillor P. Cossey said that nothing had been done to this wall.

County Councillor Mrs. M. Boulton said that some work had been carried out and ownership had not been established. The Wiltshire County Council are expecting a strong letter from the Town Council saying that the wall must be repaired.

437/03 MINUTES

TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 15TH DECEMBER, 2003

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 15th December, 2003 be taken as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

438/03 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES –

Proposed by Councillor M. P. Cooper, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 15th December, 2003 be Received.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. E. M. Hannaford, seconded by Councillor M. P. Cooper and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 5th January, 2004 be Received.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. E. M. Hannaford, seconded by Councillor M. P. Cooper and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 19th January, 2004 be Received.

439/03 TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES –

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. P. Dow, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on the 5th January, 2004 be Received and Adopted.

Proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded by Councillor P. Cossey and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on the 19th January, 2004 be Received and Adopted.

440/03 FLOODING OF THE RIVER KENNET

The Mayor referred to an e-mail received from Mrs. V. Compton on the subject of flooding.

The Mayor suspended Standing Orders

Mrs. Compton said she had been in communication with Jacobs the Engineering Consultancy who have been commissioned by the Environment Agency to undertake a Flood Study on the River Kennet catchment. She has also been approached by another Engineering Company who have been commissioned by the Environment Agency to look at flooding on the River Kennet – but they had since called back to say they did not require her assistance after all.

After discussion **Standing Orders were reinstated.**

RESOLVED unanimously that –

The Marlborough Town Council wishes to thank Mrs. Val. Compton for her excellent report on the condition of the River Kennet and the inevitable resulting flooding and resolves to take up the points that she raises with the Environment Agency.

441/03 SELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR – 2004/2005

There being one nomination for Town Mayor for 2004/2005 it was proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded Councillor N. Fogg and RESOLVED that Councillor G. Francis be selected Town Mayor for the Year 2004/2005.

Councillor Francis thanked Members for their support, and said he was particularly pleased there was 100% attendance. He said that Councillors have a job to do and they have to make sure they carry out their tasks to the best of their ability.

442/93 GREYHOUND NEWSLETTER – MARCH EDITION

Councillor D. L. Parker said that he and the Town Clerk are going to compile the March edition of the Greyhound Newsletter. He asked that all Councillors contribute. This edition would also include the Community Tax information rather than being sent out by Kennet District Council.

The newsletters are one of the criteria for obtaining Quality Council Status and must be edited by the Town Clerk.

It was also agreed that something from the Local Community Area Plan is written in the Greyhound, the Gazette and the Adviser.

A copy of the Local Community Area Plan is in the Committee Room for Member's information.

443/03 KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL DRAFT HEALTH STRATEGY

It was agreed that this document would be kept in the Committee Room for Member's comments to be received by the Town Clerk before the 25th February, 2004.

444/03 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Proposed by Councillor S. R. Dobson seconded by Councillor M. P. Cooper and RESOLVED unanimously that the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to all Documents necessary to give effect to the decisions of the meetings of this Council.

445/03 MEMBER'S QUESTION TIME

(a) **Councillor D. L. Parker – Bulletin**

Councillor Parker asked Councillors if they are satisfied with the Bulletin that the Town Clerk and staff produce every two weeks.

(b) **Councillor N. Fogg – reduced Postal Service**

Councillor Fogg referred to a letter regarding the reduction of the delivery of post to one delivery per day and asked if this item could be referred to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Councillor Mrs. H. Cripps said that in fact we already have one delivery per day, however, you can collect a letter but there is a handling charge.

Councillor D. L. Parker agreed that this item be placed on the Agenda for the next Finance and General Purposes Committee.

(c) **Councillor G. Francis – Railings in the High Street.**

Councillor Francis referred to the state of the railings in the High Street and asked County Councillor Mrs. M. Boulton whether the Wiltshire County Council are prepared to paint the railings at their expense rather than the Town Councils.

The Mayor suspended Standing Orders

Councillor Mrs. M. Boulton said that a copy of her letter to Mr. G. Batten at the Wiltshire County Council had been circulated to Members, a report has been published and she is hopeful that the Wiltshire County Council will do the work in time for the 800th Charter Anniversary Celebrations in June, 2004.

The Mayor reinstated Standing Orders

The meeting ended at 8pm.