

## MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Full Town Council**, which was held on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2004** in the Court Room, Town Hall, Marlborough, at 7.00pm

---

### PRESENT

Councillor G. Francis	Town Mayor
Councillor Mrs H. A. Cripps	Deputy Town Mayor
Councillor S. R. Dobson	
Councillor M. P. Cooper	
Councillor W. B. Cavill	
Councillor B. Castle	
Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford	
Councillor Mrs P. A. Dow	
Councillor N. J. Fogg	
Councillor M. Gray	
Councillor Mrs C. V. Jackson	
Councillor M. C. Curtis	
Councillor D. L. Parker	
Councillor G. W. Worby	
Councillor R. J. Allen	
Councillor P. B. Cossey	
Councillor C. Humphries	Kennet District Council
Councillor A. Skittrall	Kennet District Council
Mr Nigel Kerton	Wilts Gazette & Herald
Miss A. Outrim	The Adviser
Graham Gittins	Town Clerk
Jonathan Mansfield	Civic Secretary
Plus 30 Members of the Public	

---

### PRAYERS

The Revd Lynne Busfield opened the meeting with prayers

### DONATIONS

The Mayor presented cheques to successful donation applicants

### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

**Dr. D. Watson** congratulated the Mayor and 2004 Committee on the 800<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary celebrations. Dr. Watson, referring to the Internal Auditor's Report, asked if this was a public document, to which the Mayor replied that it was. Dr. Watson also asked for an end to the complaints that were bringing the Council into disrepute.

**Mrs Val Compton** asked the Council to pressurise Kennet and North Wiltshire Primary Care Trust with regard to the catering facilities at the newly developed hospital. The Mayor, who was aware of the shortcomings in the catering, said that this matter would be discussed under agenda item 11.

**Mr Nigel Kerton** asked if the Council was aware of the concerns of the St. Margaret's Mead residents regarding the proposed access to Coombe End House during redevelopment. The Mayor said that this matter would be discussed under agenda item 9.

#### CRIME AND DISORDER

**Councillor Mrs P. A. Dow** asked if the Police could request 'children playing' warning signs for the entrance to St. Margaret's Mead from Wiltshire County Council. Sergeant Julian Richards said that he would take this up with Inspector Dowling.

**Councillor R. J. Allen** asked the Police to look at the number of motorists parking on the pavements and blocking people's exits from their homes. Councillor Allen was particularly concerned about disabled residents, who were unable to get out of their front gates. Sergeant Richards said that he would follow this up.

**Councillor Mrs H. A. Cripps** asked the Community Policeman to look at the workmen's vans parking on the pavements opposite Kingsbury Hill School and asked if the new double yellow lines on Frees Avenue could be extended further around the corner to aid visibility.

**Councillor W. B. Cavill** asked the Police if they were aware of the rowdy behaviour taking place outside the Youth Centre late at night. Sergeant Richards said that they regularly inspect this area at night.

**The Mayor** thanked the Police for their assistance during the Charter week celebrations and especially for guarding the statue of King John.

82/04

#### CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **The Mayor** commended the Members of the 2004 Committee, particular Town Councillors and Town Council staff for their invaluable assistance with the Charter celebrations, with special grateful thanks to David Sherratt.
2. **The Mayor** said that 800 souvenir brochures had been sold but that the Council needs to sell a further 1,000 to break even. The Mayor asked the Deputy Mayor to arrange a rota of Councillors to sell the brochures in Marlborough High Street on Saturdays.
3. **The Mayor** asked Councillors to inform the Town Clerk of any areas that had not received the June edition of The Greyhound.
4. **The Mayor** gave his Mayoral engagements for the first six weeks of his office.
5. **The Mayor** informed the Council of the regrettable resignation of the Senior Macebearer – Mr Eric Gay – after thirty years of service.

83/04

#### APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies for absence.

84/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

**Councillor Mrs P. A. Dow – Item 9**

(Councillor Mrs Dow's Mother is a resident of Coombe End House)

85/04 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

(a) **Councillor A. Skittrall**, referring to the Special Parish meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, said that he had a duty to inform the Council that under the Local Government Act 1974, the names of the ten local government electors who requested the meeting should have been read out at the start of the meeting. Councillor Skittrall also congratulated the Mayor and Town Council on the 800<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary celebrations.

86/04 QUESTIONS TO COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCLLORS:

None

87/04 MINUTES:

It was agreed that agenda item (6) should read Minutes of the Special meeting of the Full Town Council on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2004 and not the Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> May. It was agreed to confirm these Minutes at the next available meeting of the Full Town Council.

88/04 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

(a) Proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded by Councillor N. J. Fogg and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2004 be received.

(b) Proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded by Councillor N. J. Fogg and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee of 24<sup>th</sup> May 2004 be received.

(c) Proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee of 7<sup>th</sup> June 2004 be received.

89/04 TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

(a) Proposed by Councillor Mrs P. A. Dow, seconded by Councillor M. C. Curtis and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2004 be received and adopted.

- (b) Proposed by Councillor Mrs P. A. Dow, seconded by Councillor M. C. Curtis and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee of 24<sup>th</sup> May 2004 be received and adopted.

The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Councillor S. R. Dobson, asked that the Finance and General Purposes Committee Members present at the meetings of the Committee vote first on the accuracy and then all Council Members could vote on the adoption of the Minutes.

- (a) Proposed by Councillor S. R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2004 be taken as an accurate record.

Proposed by Councillor S. R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs C. V. Jackson and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2004 be received and adopted.

- (b) Proposed by Councillor S. R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs C. V. Jackson and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 7<sup>th</sup> June 2004 be taken as an accurate record.

Proposed by Councillor S. R. Dobson seconded by Councillor Mrs C. V. Jackson and –

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 7<sup>th</sup> June 2004 be received and adopted, **subject to the following:**

**(a) Minute No. 67/04**

Councillor W. B. Cavill stated that it was in fact he that proposed and the Mayor that seconded the distribution of funds from the winding-up of the Marlborough Historic Buildings Joint Committee to the sum of (approx) £9,000.

**(b) Minute No. 68/04**

Councillor B. Castle said that he would accept the role of Marlborough Town Council emergency flooding co-ordinator.

**(c) Minute No. 65/04**

Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford asked if the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee had reached any conclusion on the inaccuracy of the Internal Auditor's report. Councillor S. R. Dobson said that an investigation was under way and that no conclusions had been reached yet.

**(d) Minute No. 66/04**

Debate followed on whether to amend item (1) to read 99-year lease instead of the stated 25-year lease.

A proposal by Councillor S. R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford that the Minutes remain as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee for a 25-year lease, failed by 12 votes to 2 votes with 2 abstentions. (Councillor D. L. Parker proposed and Councillor R. J. Allen seconded that a named vote be recorded):

**FOR:**

Councillor S. R. Dobson  
Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford

**ABSTAIN:**

Councillor G. Francis  
Councillor Mrs C. V. Jackson

**AGAINST:**

Councillor R. J. Allen  
Councillor B. Castle  
Councillor Mrs H. A. Cripps  
Councillor M. C. Curtis  
Councillor Mrs P. A. Dow  
Councillor M. Gray  
Councillor G. W. Worby  
Councillor W. B. Cavill  
Councillor M. P. Cooper  
Councillor P. B. Cossey  
Councillor N. J. Fogg  
Councillor D. L. Parker

A proposal by Councillor S. R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford that the Tennis Club lease arrangements are the same as the Rugby Club and other sports clubs in Marlborough, failed by 8 votes to 6 votes with 2 abstentions (a named vote was taken):

**FOR:**

Councillor M. P. Cooper  
Councillor S. R. Dobson  
Councillor N. J. Fogg  
Councillor M. Gray  
Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford  
Councillor Mrs C. V. Jackson

**AGAINST:**

Councillor R. J. Allen  
Councillor B. Castle  
Councillor W. B. Cavill  
Councillor P. B. Cossey  
Councillor Mrs H. A. Cripps  
Councillor M. C. Curtis  
Councillor D. L. Parker  
Councillor Mrs P. A. Dow

**ABSTAIN:**

Councillor G. Francis  
Councillor G. W. Worby

Proposed by Councillor D. L. Parker, seconded by Councillor R. J. Allen and –

**RESOLVED:** By 11 votes to 3 votes with 2 abstentions, to proceed with a 99-year lease, to be reviewed after 25 years and every 7 years thereafter with the initial 25 years at a peppercorn rent (a named vote was taken)

**FOR:**

Councillor R. J. Allen  
Councillor B. Castle  
Councillor W. B. Cavill  
Councillor P. B. Cossey  
Councillor Mrs H. A. Cripps  
Councillor M. C. Curtis  
Councillor Mrs P. A. Dow  
Councillor N. J. Fogg  
Councillor M. Gray  
Councillor D. L. Parker  
Councillor G. W. Worby

**AGAINST:**

Councillor M. P. Cooper  
Councillor S. R. Dobson  
Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford

**ABSTAIN:**

Councillor G. Francis  
Councillor Mrs C. V. Jackson

Proposed by Councillor Mrs H. A. Cripps, seconded by Councillor Mrs P. A. Dow and –

RESOLVED: That Councillor P. B. Cossey be recommended to sit on the board of the Tennis Club to represent Marlborough Town Council.

**(e) Minute No. 66/04**

Councillor B. Castle asked that in light of the above amendment, item (5) should be deleted, this was agreed.

**(f) Minute No. 69/04**

Councillor Mrs H. A. Cripps said despite the wording of this Minute, she is in fact against the purchase of any more Past Mayor or Past Mayoresses brooches.

Councillor W. B. Cavill proposed that confirmation of the accuracy of Minutes and their adoption is done at the same time in future. It was agreed that this would be referred back to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

90/04

COOMBE END HOUSE:

**Councillor Mrs P. A. Dow left the room at 8.10pm**

**The Mayor** said that a Special Parish meeting would be held to discuss the access to Coombe End House on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2004 in the Court Room, Town Hall, Marlborough at 7.00pm.

91/04

COUNCILLORS' POWERS:

The Mayor reiterated the Code of Conduct, which is a legal document that all Councillors signed on election. The Mayor also explained that the Town Clerk answers to the Council as a whole and not to individual Councillors (a copy is attached to these Minutes).

Councillor R. J. Allen asked for confirmation regarding disciplinary procedures for the Clerk. The Mayor confirmed that this would be through Full Town Council by resolution.

92/04 SAVERNAKE CATERING:

It was agreed that a letter deploring the use of frozen foods being used in the new Savernake Hospital, when local catering services are available, be sent to Kennet and North Wiltshire Primary Care Trust.

93/04 PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS:

Referring to the Statement of Assurance on the Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004, the Mayor asked Councillors to state 'yes' or 'no' for each item 1 to 8 on Part 2 of the Return.

Referring to items 2 and 6 on the Annual Return, Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford expressed concern over the Internal Auditor's competency, stating that he displayed no formal qualifications on his letters and reports. The Mayor said whether the Internal Auditor had formal qualifications or not, the question was if the Council believed him to be competent; Councillors stated 'yes'.

Following the statement 'yes' to all items 1 to 8, the Mayor signed the Annual Return.

94/04 HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY:

The Mayor signed the updated Health and Safety Policy 2004/05.

95/04 MARLBOROUGH WELFARE TRUST:

Proposed by Councillor N. J. Fogg, seconded by Councillor Mrs P. A. Dow and –

RESOLVED: Unanimously, that Councillor B. Castle be elected to serve a four-year term as the Marlborough Town Council representative on the Marlborough Welfare Trust Committee.

96/04 WILTSHIRE CHARTER:

The Mayor said that he had received no comments on the Wiltshire Charter, it would therefore be referred to the next meeting of the Full Town Council for discussion.

97/04 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 meeting of the Council.

98/04 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME:

(a) **Councillor S. R. Dobson** asked what justification Councillor Mrs P. A. Dow had for changing her place around the Council table. The Mayor said that given the current circumstances he had agreed to her request to move. Councillor Mrs Dow felt happier sitting in a different place and may, when the complaint is resolved, return to her usual place.

**(b) Councillor S. R. Dobson** asked that the Council mark Eric Gay's thirty years of continued and excellent service. The Mayor said that he, the Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk would make suitable arrangements.

**(c) Councillor D. L. Parker** said that the switching-on of the Town Hall lights could be carried out at the end of the Carnival procession, but the date was dependent on gaining listed planning permission.

**(d) Councillor Mrs P. A. Dow** asked if Marlborough Town Council would back up a letter to Wiltshire County Council requesting 'children playing' signs at St. Margaret's Mead. Councillor B. Castle said that Rabley Wood View should also be included in this request.

**(e) Councillor N. J. Fogg** asked if Eric Gay could be interviewed for the 'Living Memories' CD.

**(f) Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford** asked if Eric Gay could be persuaded to change his mind.

**(g) Councillor Mrs H. A. Cripps** requested that the Macebearers carry the Maces on their outside shoulder as is the tradition.

---

Meeting closed at 8.55pm