

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Marlborough Town Council** held on **Monday, 2nd August, 2004** in the **Court Room, Town Hall, Marlborough at 7.00pm**

PRESENT

Councillor G. Francis	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. Dow	
Councillor N. Fogg	
Councillor M. Gray	
Councillor Mrs. C. V. Jackson	
Councillor M. Curtis	
Councillor G. Worby	
Councillor R. J. Allen	
Councillor P. Cossey	
Graham Gittins	Town Clerk
Rosemary Johnston	Minute Secretary
Mr. Lewis Cowen	Wiltshire Gazette & Herald
Miss A. Outrim	The Adviser
Inspector W. H. Dowling	Wiltshire Constabulary
Mr. Robin Adams	Traffic Warden

Plus 30 Members of the Public

PRAYERS

The meeting commenced with Prayers, said by the Town Mayor.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor invited questions from Members of the Public.

Planning Application K/050505/R – Construction of new school, associated car parks, access roadway and playing fields at St. John’s School and Community College, Orchard Road, Marlborough.

Mr. G. Hutt – 14 Duck’s Meadow – asked if the Town Council agreed that the position of the new school will dominate the skyline of the Town and expressed concern on pollution and said the proposed building would cut out sunlight to his property between October and March each year.

Mr. D. Prior – 4 Duck’s Meadow – commented on the incomplete map - what is going to happen to the spare land – is it for the school or for private housing?

Mr. J. Kelly – 7 Duck’s Meadow – asked if the Town Council is aware that on the plan for the new school, one building will be two-stories high and is only 9.5 and 10.5 metres from other housing and dominates the property, causing loss of light and privacy.

Mr. J. Isaacson – 12 Duck’s Meadow – asked if the Council would agree that the plans for a building immediately next to the new school will cause a serious hazard for staff and children.

Mr. Norman – St. John’s Neighbourhood Resident’s Association asked what steps are the Council taking to protect the future of members of public living next to Chopping Knife Lane and the Stedman Building.

Miss D. Findlay – 13 Duck’s Meadow – asked if the people of Marlborough are aware of the limited car parking spaces.

Mr. R. Knight – 5 Duck’s Meadow – drew attention to the need for proper drainage – in the past his garden has been flooded due to lack of proper drainage.

Miss D. Findlay – 13 Duck’s Meadow – said there is no official Topographic Survey.

Mr. Hay – St. John’s Neighbourhood Resident’s Association – asked if a full traffic survey been carried out.

There being no other questions, the Mayor thanked the Members of the Public for their questions and comments and said they would be borne in mind when the Planning Application was being discussed at the following meeting.

CRIME AND DISORDER

The Mayor introduced Inspector W. Dowling and Mr. Robin Adams, the new Traffic Warden. Mr. Adams introduced himself saying he had been recently appointed and said he would answer questions.

Councillor R. J. Allen – expressed concern on car parking on pavements and the car parking which takes place in the High Street outside of Woolworths, this practice also obstructs pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Inspector Dowling - replied that these problems are being addressed, any burning issues they try to deal with but essentially, it is the responsibility of the Highways Department.

Councillor P. Cossey – asked if there could be some control over the parking on the side of the London Road between Mayfield and T. H. White Ltd.

Inspector W. Dowling – replied that this problem would be looked at. He said that immediately there is a problem the Police should be informed, a telephone call would suffice.

Councillor W. B. Cavill – commented on the traffic chaos being experienced in Marlborough at this time, particularly in Salisbury Road and Barn Street.

Councillor Dowling – replied that the ongoing problems experienced in Barn Street were inevitable, as the wall requires underpinning as well as the general work that has to be carried out on the wall resulting in the long closure of Barn Street.

In reply to a request from a member of the public for more pedestrian crossings in Marlborough, the Mayor said this subject had been debated year in and year out but without success.

A resident said a problem is caused when the refuse collection lorry is obstructed by cars parked in Duck's Meadow.

Mr. Prior – Duck's Meadows – said that the entrance to Duck's Meadow is very narrow and emergency services would have problems getting through.

Inspector Dowling – replied there was no cause for concern – the emergency services would get through.

Councillor Mrs. P. Dow – asked why Herd Street is closed to traffic while the work in Barn Street is being carried out.

Inspector Dowling – replied this is so that the traffic will slow down.

Councillor Mrs. C. V. Jackson – queried the notice that had been put up in Kelham Gardens warning that cars parking in that area would be clamped.

Inspector Dowling – replied that this is private property and the Police have no jurisdiction, the road has not yet been adopted.

There being no other questions, the Mayor thanked Inspector Dowling and Mr. Adams for attending the meeting.

157/04 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman said that since the last meeting he has represented the Town as follows –

1. The People of Wiltshire Awards Ceremony at Trowbridge
St. Peter's School Summer Fayre
Wiltshire British Legion D-Day Parade and Service
AGM Mencap
Received the Brandt Group visitors from The Gambia
Opened the Gambian Linking Conference
Attended a Reception at the House of Lords for the International League for the Protection of Horses
Opened the highly successful Jazz Festival
Attended the High Sheriff's Christchurch Concert in aid of Swindon Cares
2. Other events –
The sad news about the Mayor's Cup for Bowls and Golf – although the Mayor's Team lost at the Bowls Club he said that 3 of his best players were playing for the Bowls Club. He said he need say no more about the Golf Match – except to say his team were generously treated to a splendid meal.

3. The meeting of ILPH (International League for the Protection of Horses) was looking specifically at ill-treatment of horses in The Gambia. The Mayor has written an article that will appear in Tower and Town and the Greyhound, which will explain why I am so interested in supporting this initiative to educate and assist Gambians to look after their horses in a more humane manner.
4. Our County Councillor who continues to represent the town although living in Sussex has written about various issues in Marlborough which will be referred to should Councillors wish to ask questions.
5. Twinning – This was one of The Mayor’s pledges at Mayor-Making and he would like now to progress this notion. The Town Clerk has circulated details of the process involved and the Mayor urged Councillors to read this and pass it on to the next person on your list as soon as possible. This item will be debated at a meeting of the full Town Council on the 20th September, 2004.

The Mayor then reported that problems have been experienced with children being stopped from using the Play Area at Wye House Gardens. It was agreed that a letter should be circulated to the dwellings in Wye House Gardens and Kelham Gardens saying that the Play Area is for the use of all children and not just those living in the immediate locality.

158/04 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Deputy Town Mayor – Councillor Mrs. H. A. Cripps, Councillor D. L. Parker, Councillor Mrs. M. Boulton - WCC and Councillor C. Humphries – K.D.C.

159/04 DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST

There were no Declaration(s) of Interest.

160/04 TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND MADT REPRESENTATIVE

There were no questions.

161/04 QUESTIONS TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND MADT REPRESENTATIVE

Councillor R. J. Allen – Traffic – George Lane to District Councillors

Asked if the source of income from the lorry car park is vital to Kennet, at the moment lorries are encouraged to use it overnight thereby using George Lane and causing congestion. If they could be encouraged elsewhere this problem would be alleviated.

Councillor W. B. Cavill agreed to raise this issue at Kennet District Council.

Councillor Mrs. C. V. Jackson – Planning Decisions .

Asked why the District Councilors cannot be more forceful when putting forward the views of the Council when Planning Applications are being considered?

Councillor W. B. Cavill – replied that in the case of 10 Kingsbury Street he was not allowed to speak as he did not represent that Ward, only the Councillor for the Ward concerned is able to speak, otherwise permission is given under ‘Delegated Powers’.

Councillor N. Fogg – said that neither he nor Councillor A. W. Skittrall had received any representations from the public in the particular case cited.

Councilor Mrs. E. M. Hannaford – said she had taken them to task on the Industrial Estate and referred to the Local Plan and said that it is important to understand the Local Plan and use it.

162/04 MINUTES

RESOLVED: with 1 abstention –
That the Minutes of the **Special Meeting** of the Marlborough Town Council held on the 5th July, 2004 be taken as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor.

163/04 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES –

a) Proposed by Councillor B. Castle, seconded by Councillor Mrs. E. M. Hannaford and –

RESOLVED: with 1 abstention –
That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 21st June, 2004 be Received.

b) Proposed by Councillor B. Castle, seconded by Councillor Mrs. E. M. Hannaford and –

RESOLVED: with 1 abstention –
That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 5th July, 2004 be Received.

c) Proposed by Councillor B. Castle, seconded by Councillor Mrs. E. M. Hannaford and –

RESOLVED: with 1 abstention –
That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 19th July, 2004 be Received.

164/04 TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES –

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

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

Councillor S. R. Dobson objected to the Minutes of this meeting being read by the Chairman, page by page, it should be by Minute Number.

The Mayor said that he had agreed with the Chairman that this would be in order.

The Mayor asked Councillors for their views and it was agreed, with 1 abstention, that in future all Minutes should be read item by item.

- 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 held on the 19th July, 2004 be Received and Adopted.

Part 2 – Minute 155/04(a) and (b) would be discussed at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

165/04 FIRE SURVEY

To discuss the Recommendation from the Fire Forum Meeting held on the 7th July, 2004 – Postscript

The Chairman referred to a report that The Merchant's House was in default of fire Precautions but it has now been agreed by the Fire Officer that it is a model.

After discussion on the postscript at the end of these Minutes, it was agreed that although money had been allocated to the Town Council, this was to cover secretarial services and the use of the Town Hall for meetings.

Proposed by Councillor S. R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs. E. M. Hannaford and RESOLVED with 2 abstentions that this Report is received and the Fire Forum should contact the County Council, the District Council and the owners of the properties, to share the cost with the Town Council to carry out such a survey.

166/04 WILTSHIRE CHARTER

It was agreed that this Council should write and welcome this document.

167/04 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 meetings of the Council.

168/04 MEMBER'S QUESTION TIME

- (a) **Councillor Mrs. P. Dow – Signs – Rabley Wood View and St. Margaret's Mead**

It was agreed that the Council should pursue this subject and write to the County Council informing them we would like to put up signs in Rabley Wood View and St. Margaret's Mead warning 'Children at Play'.

- (b) **Councillor N. Fogg – Hyde Lane Car Park**

This car park is covered in weeds, he will take it up with the District Council would the Town Council please also write.

(c) **Councillor S. R. Dobson – Minute No. 106/04**

Councillor Dobson referred to a statement ‘Councillor D. L. Parker said after the vote that the word stated was ‘competent’ should not have been recorded. He asked for it to be struck from the Minutes.

Councillor W. B. Cavill said that this should have been raised before as this Minute has now been Resolved and cannot be struck off.

(d) **Councillor B. Castle – Letter from Planning Services Manager at Kennet District Council**

It was agreed that in response to his letter of the 27th July, 2004 re the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Mr. Ted Howles, Planning Services Manager at Kennet District Council be invited to attend a meeting of the Council.

(e) **Councillor W. B. Cavill – Wye House Gardens**

Councillor Cavill congratulated the Town Clerk on acting very quickly with regard to Wye House Gardens Play Area. He asked if we should put a notice on the gate saying this Play Area is available for all children to play in.

The Town Clerk said that had already been done.

(f) **Councillor Mrs. E. M. Hannaford – Minutes of Finance and General Purposes Committee – 7th June, 2004**

Councillor Mrs. Hannaford referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 7th June, 2004 when the Internal Audit was debated. In that Audit Report Mr. Pollard, the Internal Auditor stated that he had identified one instance where a Councillor has apparently circumvented the approved procedures of Financial Regulations with Kite Press Ltd. When asked who this unnamed Councillor was, the Town Clerk named me. I asked at the time for the Auditor to be recalled and for a full and thorough investigation into this matter take place. I followed this up with a letter to yourself and indeed one to the Auditor. At the full Council meeting of 21st June, 2004, I repeated this request and you assured me that it was in hand. Has your investigation now been completed? And if it has what were your conclusions.

The Mayor replied that he had spoken with the office staff concerned with the ordering procedures to ascertain exactly what happened in this instance. Jonathan Mansfield, Civic Secretary tells me that you actually handed the copy material for the December ‘Greyhound’ to him for processing. As far as your involvement is concerned, this was the last time you saw the material until the order was completed and returned for distribution. I have also spoken to Kite Press staff who have confirmed copy material for the December edition was either mailed to them or brought to them in person, there was definitely no order with the copy material. Furthermore, there was no order for the previous edition of the ‘Greyhound’ in August.

As a result of his enquiries, it would appear that Councillor Mrs. Hannaford’s only involvement in the production of the December ‘Greyhound’ was to provide the copy material. There is no evidence that she instructed Kite Press to print the leaflet nor is there any evidence that she instructed anyone else to contact Kite Press on her behalf.

The Town Clerk replied to The Mayor, that there had not been a proper investigation because the Mayor had not spoken to him. The facts of the matter are that the Town Clerk was not consulted by Councillor Mrs. E. M. Hannaford upon the production of the Newsletter

Meeting closed at 8.07pm
