

**SPECIAL MEETING OF MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**29 MARCH 2005 – AS AMENDED BY FTC 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2005**

Present                      Chairman: Councillor Mrs Cripps (Mayor Elect)

Councillors                Allen                      Castle                      Cavill  
                                  Cooper                     Cossey                     Curtis  
                                  Dobson                    Mrs Dow                    Fogg  
                                  Grey                       Mrs Hannaford            Mrs Jackson  
                                  Parker                     Ross

Officers:                    Mr S Fisher -- Deputy Town Clerk Devizes

**PRAYERS**

The Meeting was opened with a prayer.

Before commence the meeting, Councillor Mrs Cripps explained to members that the meeting was being clerked by Mr Simon Fisher Deputy, Town Clerk from Devizes.

583/04                      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies were received.

584/04                      **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

No declarations of Interest were received at the meeting; however, Councillor Mrs Cripps informed members that she had received notification from the Town Clerk and all the office staff as they felt they had an interest.

585/04                      **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14 March 2005 having previously been circulated were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

586/04                      **TO CONSIDER THE APPOINTED AUDITORS REPORT INTO THE PUBLIC INTEREST MADE UNDER SECTION 8 - AUDIT COMMISSION ACT 1998**

At the commencement of the discussions the Chairman allowed each of the members to express their views about the report. Following some considerable debate on the matter the Chairman agreed to allow questions from members of the public before members made any decisions.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

It was proposed by Councillor Dobson and seconded by Councillor Cooper and unanimously RESOLVED

THAT Standing Orders be suspended for question time.

587/04 QUESTION TIME

Mr D Sherratt asked members if the Audit Report was commissioned by Marlborough Town Council?

It has been established that the audit report was prepared by Mazars as a Public Interest reports under section 8 of the Audit Commission act 1998. Under the act Auditors have the authority to investigate matters that involve public interest that are brought to their attention and this is done at the expense of the Town Council

Mr D Sherratt asked if Councillor Allen was entitled to commission an audit report?

Members we informed that either Councillors or members of the public could ask an Auditor to investigate issues of concern. It has been established that the Auditor will need to be satisfied that there is sufficient evidence to support an investigation.

Mr D Sherratt asked if there was a separate audit for the "Wheels of Time " account commissioned by Marlborough Town Council?

The Chairman was unable to answer this question.

Mr Sheratt asked two other questions relating to the "Wheels of Time" account.

The Chairman responded by saying she was not in a position to respond to the questions, but felt this was not relevant to general discussion.

Dr Watson asked if a cheque had to be signed by to Members?

Dr Watson was informed that every cheque had to be signed by two members and an officer.

Dr Watson asked if the Responsible Finance officer had at any time raised concerns about issues relating to the committees affairs?

He was informed that members were not aware of any concerns.

Mrs Compton said that she supported the report and Councillor Allen, who had brought the matter to the attention of the Auditors.

Mr Kerton stated that the offer from the Wiltshire Gazette & Herald had been a genuine offer to save the Council money. When asked has the offer been made formally in writing he replied that it had been discussed with Councillor Francis and they had felt that was sufficient.

REINSTATEMENT OF STANDING ORDERS

It was proposed by Councillor Dobson and Seconded by Councillor Cooper and unanimously RESOLVED

THAT Standing Orders be reinstated for the remainder of the meeting

588/04

DECISION CONCERNING THE APPOINTED AUDITORS REPORT INTO THE PUBLIC INTEREST MADE UNDER SECTION 8 AUDIT COMMISSION ACT 1998.

After a short further debate it was proposed by Councillor Parker and Seconded by Councillor Mrs Dow and RESOLVED

- RESOLVED:
- (a) That Marlborough Town Council resolves to accept this report and accept the recommendations.
  - (b) That we ensure that the recommendations are fully incorporated into the Council's Standing Orders by the formation of a small working group.

Councillors Cooper, Dobson and Mrs Hannaford asked their vote against the resolution be recorded.

A proposal by Councillor R. J. Allen, seconded by Councillor S. R. Dobson that this Council regrets the financial mismanagement of the accounts of the 2004 Committee, whilst recognising the success of the event itself' failed by 10 votes to 4 votes (a named vote was taken):

FOR  
Councillor R. J. Allen  
Councillor M. P. Cooper  
Councillor S. R. Dobson  
Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford

AGAINST  
Councillor Mrs H. A. Cripps  
Councillor W. B. Cavill  
Councillor B. Castle  
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 P. B. Cossey  
Councillor A. R. Ross

Special Meeting of the Council  
29 March 2004

A proposal by Proposed by Councillor S. R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford that this Council very much regrets that;

(a) The Chairman of the 2004 Committee failed to follow certain procedures as set down in Council Standing Orders

(b) The Town Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, failed to provide adequate advice and guidance to the Chairman of the 2004 Committee.

We therefore accept the Report and the conclusions stated and will implement the recommendations made in the report forthwith.

This decision to be notified to the Auditor and to be published in a local newspaper as soon as practicable failed by 10 votes to 4 votes.

Chairman