

# MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

## FULL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Full Town Council** held on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2010** in the **Court Room, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7.00 pm.

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**PRESENT** Councillor A. Ross  
Councillor S.R. Dobson  
Councillor B. Castle  
Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson  
Councillor N. Fogg  
Councillor Mrs P. Dow  
Councillor A. Kirk Wilson  
Councillor Mrs E. Fogg  
Councillor Mrs M. Rose  
Councillor A. Spranger  
Councillor R. Pitts

Town Mayor

**ALSO PRESENT** Mr. Liam Costello  
Mrs Sue Fry  
Rev. Tim Seago  
Mr. N. Kerton  
2 Members of Showman's Guild  
Plus 10 Members of the Public

Town Clerk  
Office Manager  
Mayor's Chaplain  
Wiltshire Gazette

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**NOTICE OF MEETING – Public Notice of the Meeting has been given in accordance with Schedule 12, paragraph 10 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972.**

### PRAYERS

Rev. Tim Seago opened the meeting with prayers.

### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

**The Mayor** – I know that feelings are running very high on the Pewsey Road Bridge issue.

Please be assured that this Council is very much on your side, so your representations to us will be pushing at an open door.

Please remember that we at Marlborough Town Council have very little power or influence over these matters.

Although presentations were made to the Town Council the impact on the traffic was never anticipated.

Lastly we are not sitting on our hands as are already making representations to Wiltshire Council to see if there are any remedies to this dire situation we find ourselves in.

Please remember the meeting protocol, one question per person, please do not attempt to enter into a debate, I insist that good order is maintained at this meeting.

**V. Compton** – would the Town Council please action the residents parking survey this issue has been on the table for a considerable amount of time.

**The Mayor** – replied that this item will be on the next agenda of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting.

**J. Chelchowski** – Will the Council be providing an incentive for customers to return to town following the awful traffic conditions, for example free car parking for the duration of the Pewsey Road Bridge works?

**The Mayor** – free parking is not within the gift of the Town Council but we will put this to Wiltshire Council.

**C. Birkett** – Would it be possible to resite the Mop Fair on the Common for the duration of it's term, for this year only, negating the need to close the High Street and reducing the amount of time it takes to complete the Pewsey Road works?

**Councillor N. Fogg** - the Mop Fairs are Statute Fairs guaranteed by an Act of Parliament. Wiltshire Council licence the fair and collect the ground rent. It would take an Act of Parliament to move the fair. We have no power within this Council to move them.

**S. Rawlings, Showman's Guild** – the Showman's Guild do not have the power to resite the Mop Fair.

**Councillor N. Fogg** - an open meeting with the contractor's of the bridge should be held.

**M. Geraghty** - even if the Mop Fair could be moved to the Common given the time of year if we have bad weather placing the heavy rides on the Common would cause damage. During the time that the fair vehicles are on the Common during October every effort is made to park them on the verges of the hard standing to minimise any damage. Mr. Geraghty stated that he hoped everyone could work together to reach a satisfactory outcome.

**D. Dudley** – there is great concern for the future of the High Street and it's traders. During the Jazz Festival weekend up to ½ Million pounds worth of trade is lost and the traders don't do well during the Mop Fair weekends. Free parking on the Common and a 50% reduction in the business rates should be offered to traders during the road works.

Traffic Lights should be erected on the entrance to Waitrose Car Park off of the High Street to allow 2 way traffic. The traffic wardens could be asked to assist in making the flow of traffic run smoothly.

**The Mayor** – the Town Clerk will investigate this possibility.

**J. Cavanagh** – both the Mop Fair and the Jazz Festival are great traditions in the Town it is the length of time that the road works are taking which is causing all of the problems.

**J. Gay** – new pipes are also being laid during the construction of the bridge.

**The Mayor** - a traffic engineer will be present to answer questions at the Retail Forum meeting which is to be held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July.

### **CRIME AND DISORDER**

There was no member of the Wiltshire Constabulary present to answer questions but the following issues were raised.

**Councillor Mrs M. Rose** – a young colleague had her car torched at the weekend, the Police did not contact her to let her know what had happened. She had to contact the Police herself and is still waiting for an officer to visit her.

**Councillor R. Pitts** – Manton Drove is being used as a ‘rat run’ to the Pewsey Road because of the bridge works.

It was agreed that the office contact the Police regarding these issues.

### **TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

**Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson** – could our Wiltshire Councillors’ please ensure that pressure is put on the contractors to ensure that the bridge works are completed as soon as possible.

**Councillor Mrs P. Dow** – agreed to take this issue to Wiltshire Council and will arrange a meeting with Sgt. Ben Braine and Peter Hanson from Wiltshire Council.

**Councillor Mrs M. Rose** – could the speed at which traffic travels down from the leisure centre be monitored and also gaps left between the cars parked on the side of the road to enable motorists to pull over to allow vehicles to pass.

**Councillor N. Fogg** – agreed to take this issue to Wiltshire Council and also stated that he was of the opinion that the Jazz Festival actually increased revenue for local traders.

**119/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. Francis, G. Loosmore, R. Notton and Mrs C. Jackson.

**120/10 DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**121/10 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

I would like to put on record my sadness at the resignation of Stan Radnedge. I would like to thank him for the service he gave this Council where he has been both Chair and Vice Chair of the Property Committee. His wise counsel will be missed.

There is good news that Alfie Johnson is much improved in health, he is at home and in good spirits. We wish him well for a continued recovery and look forward to seeing him very shortly.

There will be a by-election held on the 19<sup>th</sup> August to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Stan Radnedge.

**122/10 MINUTES**

Proposed by Councillor A. Kirk Wilson, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and –

**RESOLVED:** unanimously to receive, approve and sign as a true record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.

**123/10 WILTSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2011 – 2026 PARKING STRATEGY**

The Council considered the consultation document.

After discussion it was –

Proposed by Councillor A. Ross, seconded by Councillor N. Fogg and –

**RESOLVED:** unanimously that a working party be established to consider this document the Councillors to be S. Dobson, Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson, A. Kirk Wilson and G. Loosmore.

**124/10 WILTSHIRE COMMUNITY PLAN 2011 – 2026**

The Council considered the consultation document.

After discussion it was agreed that the Town Clerk will respond on behalf of the Council but that individual Councillors are encouraged to fill in their responses and send them.

Councillor R. Pitts stated that MAVCAP and the Area Board are compiling a 5 year plan for the Marlborough Area.

#### **125/10 COUNCILLOR SURGERIES**

The Council considered whether to continue with monthly Councillor surgeries.

After discussion it was –

Proposed by Councillor S. Dobson, seconded by Councillor A. Kirk Wilson and –

**RESOLVED:** unanimously that for a trial period of 6 months surgeries will be held for ½ hour prior to Full Town Council meetings in the Town Hall and that residents are encouraged to contact the office and make an appointment to see Councillors regarding any issues they may have.

#### **126/10 ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL ON ROLE OF MAVCAP AND AREA BOARDS SINCE THE CREATION OF A UNITARY AUTHORITY.**

The Council considered correspondence received from Aldbourne PC regarding MAVCAP and Area Boards.

The following points were made –

MAVCAP have sent a letter to every parish in its area (this letter to be circulated to all Councillors).

The Vice Chairman of MAVCAP is visiting every parish at its Annual Meeting. A new Area Board Manager has just been appointed they will be in post in 2 months time. They will visit all the parishes in their area.

It was agreed that the contents of this letter be noted.

#### **127/10 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

The Council considered participating in the Parish/Town exercises on 7<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> October, 2010.

Councillor A. Kirk Wilson agreed to organise volunteers for this exercise.

#### **128/10 WAR MEMORIALS TRUST – CONFERENCE**

The Council considered whether representatives from this Council should attend a course 'Looking after War Memorials' on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2010.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk attend this course and if there are further vacancies then the Mayor would also attend.

**129/10 REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS.**

a) Lawrence Acre Old Folks Home - Request for a donation to the raffle

The Mayor informed members that he had personally supplied a raffle prize for this event.

b) Marlborough Fun Day Committee – Request for funding

Proposed by Councillor Mrs P. Dow, seconded by Councillor R. Pitts and –

**RESOLVED:** by 9 votes for with 1 against and 1 abstention that a grant of £250.00 be awarded.

Councillor Pitts suggested that when we send the cheque to the Fun Day Committee we suggest that next year they apply for a grant from the Area Board.

c) Wessex Male Choir – Request for use of Town Hall

Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. Fogg, seconded by Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson and –

**RESOLVED:** by 10 votes for with 1 abstention that the request for free use of the Town Hall be denied.

**130/10 SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS**

**June 2010.**

It was agreed that the Schedule of Accounts for June, 2010 in the sum of £55,586.21 be received and signed by the Chairman.

**131/10 TOWN COUNCIL BALANCES**

It was agreed that the Town Council Balances as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 be received and signed by the Chairman.

**132/10 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.**

- a)W.A.L.C. Newsletter – June, 2010.
- b)W.A.L.C. Newsletter – July, 2010
- c)MAVCAP Minutes of meeting held on 08 June, 2010
- d)Action for River Kennet Newsletter June 2010
- e)War Memorials Trust Bulletin – May 2010
- f)Environment Agency Flood Warden Newsletter – Summer 2010
- g)NALC – Being a good employer: a guide for Town Councillors.

A copy of a report from Councillor S. Dobson regarding the meeting he and Councillor Loosmore attended at WALC is attached to these minutes.

133/10

## **MEMBER’S QUESTION TIME**

### **Councillor S.R. Dobson to The Mayor**

Following the disclosure made under oath at the recent Tribunal Hearing in Bristol that a significant number of councillors in the last two years have been in the habit of meeting in secret at places other than the council offices and Town Hall in order to discuss and make policy decisions on matters of public interest, will the Mayor please assure me that he shares my objection to such a practice and will do all in his power to prevent such meetings taking place in future? The meetings are not of political groups as the councillors concerned represent all groups on the council. He will of course be aware that such meetings without published agendas and minutes are not only against the public interest but are totally against this Council’s agreed policy of being open and transparent in all their actions and might run the risk of being considered illegal.

**The Mayor replied** – “As I was not at the Tribunal Hearing I cannot comment on what was said. However, I can assure Councillor Dobson that no secret meetings take place to discuss and make policy decisions on behalf of this Council.

The fact that a few like-minded individuals have discussions on an irregular and informal basis is part of that whole process called ‘politics’. The germination and development of ideas in these kinds of informal political groupings is an everyday occurrence in the political sphere. Political discussion takes place everywhere the workplace, pubs street corners etc., the events of which are not recorded or minuted.

The fact that these informal meetings are cross party, shows that this Council has pioneered the ground where the coalition government has followed. I do not share your objections as stated in the question”

### **Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson to The Mayor**

Despite my numerous failed requests over recent years, will this Council in the best interests of the people they serve publish annually full details in the Greyhound and in the reports for the Parish Meeting of all monies paid to the Mayor and Councillors in that year.

I am aware of course that these figures can be found in the accounts if one is familiar with looking at accounts and knows where to look. However as a Council that prides itself on being open and transparent we should do all that we can to make it easy and convenient for all members of the electorate to see details of any money paid to the Councillors on their behalf.

**The Mayor replied** – the information requested will be published in the Annual Report which I believe is the correct publication to disseminate this information.

**134/10 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by Councillor S. R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford Dobson and –

**RESOLVED:** unanimously that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, if it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

**PART 2**

**135/10 CIVIC HONOURS**

The Council considered a request for an appointment of Freeman of the Town to be made.

The Mayor stated that this is a very sensitive issue and ask that Councillors deal with it in a sensible and sensitive manner. There will be no vote or decision made at this meeting, I am seeking your views and hope to reach a consensus of opinion.

It was agreed that a 'Lifetime Achievement Award' should be considered to be presented alongside the Citizen of the Year Award.

It was agreed that a further meeting should be held to discuss this.

**136/10 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS.**

Proposed by Councillor S.R. Dobson, seconded by Councillor B. Castle and –

**RESOLVED:** unanimously that the Common Seal of Marlborough Town Council be affixed to all documents necessary to give effect to the decisions of this Council.

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The meeting closed at 8.40pm