



Midsomer Norton Town Council

Council Offices, The Town Hall, The Island, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2HQ
Temporary Offices, Unit 14, South Road, Midsomer Norton
Phone: 01761 418701 Email: townclerk@msn-tc.gov.uk
Mayor: Cllr Gordon Mackay Town Clerk: Katie Mason

Monday 4th January 2024, meeting commenced at 7pm

Present: Cllrs Lynda Robertson, Martyn Plant, Gordon MacKay (Chair), Tim Wells, Cheryl Scott, Deborah Thatcher, Martin Thatcher, Shaun Hughes and Alun Pughe.

Also Present: Town Clerk Katie Mason and Deputy Town Clerk Kate Egan

1 - Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2 - Declarations of Interest

1. Members to declare any interests which are not currently entered in the member's register of interests or if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of it.
2. To receive written request for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests
3. To grant any request for dispensation as appropriate

Decision: There were no declarations of interest from Councillors and no requests for Dispensations.

3 - Public Session

This section (at the Chair's discretion may last up to 20 minutes) is not part of the formal meeting of the Council and minutes will not be produced.

There was one Member of the Public in attendance and no Members of the Press. Various items were mentioned which may be brought back to a future meeting.

4 - Confirm Previous Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 4th December 2023

Decision: The Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the Town Hall meeting held on 4th December be accepted as a true record, these were signed by the Chair.

5 - Proposal to fill vacant positions on Standing Committees

Proposal to fill the vacant positions on the Planning Committee and Finance and Operations Committee and the Staffing Committee (meeting 29 Jan 24).

Decision: Cllr Gordon MacKay proposed Cllr Cheryl Scott be appointed to the Finance and Operations Committee, this was seconded by Cllr Lynda Robertson and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Cheryl Scott proposed Cllr Lynda Robertson be appointed to the Planning Committee, this was seconded by Cllr Martin Thatcher and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Martyn Plant proposed Cllr Cheryl Scott be appointed to the Personnel Committee, this was seconded by Cllr Gordon MacKay and unanimously agreed.

6 - Proposal for the Town Council to appoint members to the Town Trust Managing Committee

To agree to appoint Cllr Gordon MacKay and Cllr Cheryl Scott to the Management Committee for the Town Trust as per the proposal made at the Town Trust Meeting, held Mon 11 Dec 23.

Decision: The Council RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Gordon MacKay and Cllr Cheryl Scott to the Management Committee for the Town Trust as per the proposal made at the Town Trust Meeting held on 11th December 2023.

7 - Proposal to apply for grant funding from the Rural Prosperity Fund

Proposal to apply for grant funding of between £10,000 and £40,000 from the Rural Prosperity Fund being managed by B&NES. The window for applying runs from Monday 8th January until Friday 16th February.

Decision: The Council RESOLVED that the Town Clerk can apply for grant funding from the Rural Prosperity Fund on behalf of the Town Council.

8 - Proposal to apply for the Community Ownership Fund

Following a submission of an Expression of Interest correspondence was received saying the Town Council is likely to be eligible for the Community Ownership Fund so a result a proposal is required for the Town Clerk to submit an application for the funding. The deadline for this round of applications is 24th January 2024

Decision: The Council RESOLVED that the Town Clerk can apply for funding from the Community Ownership Fund on behalf of the Town Council.

9 - Approval of the Interim Internal Auditor's Report

Proposal to approve the Interim Report from the Internal Auditor and to note any actions to be carried out.

Decision: The Council RESOLVED to approve the Interim Internal Auditor's Report, the recommendations were noted and are currently being actioned.

10 - Proposal to approve the Budget for 2024-2025

Following a review of the budget by the Finance and Operations Committee on 18th December, the recommendation was to present the Budget to the Full Council for approval.

Cllr Alun Pughe joined the meeting at 7.47pm

Decision: The Council RESOLVED to approve the Budget for 2024-2025.

11 - Proposal to approve precept 24/25

Proposal to agree the precept figure for Midsomer Norton Town Council for 2024-2025

Decision: Cllr Cheryl Scott proposed the precept amount for 2024-2025 is £558,734.00, this was seconded by Cllr Lynda Robertson and unanimously agreed.

12 - Mayor's Announcements

Newsletters are being produced on a regular basis, the present one is currently being composed.

13 - To note reports from the following Committees and to ratify any actions

To receive an update from the Chairs of the following Committees and to note the minutes from the last Meetings held on Monday 18th December 2023.

1. Finance and Operations Committee - There was nothing to report.
2. Planning Committee - There was nothing to report.

The minutes from the Planning Committee and the Finance and Operations Committee were noted and will be approved at the next relevant committees.

14 - Reports from the Town Councils Working Parties

Verbal updates and to consider any recommendations for decisions from the following working parties.

1. Community Alcohol Partnership - This is still a work in progress, a meeting has yet to be arranged.
2. Town Council Strategy Working Group - This is still a work in progress, a meeting has yet to be arranged.
3. High Street Working Party - The next meeting is scheduled for February.
4. Media & Communications Working Group - Newsletters are being produced regularly and a meeting will shortly be scheduled to discuss the Website.
5. Midsomer Norton Neighbourhood Development Plan - This has currently been paused although a grant application will be made to the Locality Funding, the deadline being 26th January.

15 - Reports from Councillors representing Outside Bodies

Verbal reports from Councillors representing the Town Council on Outside Bodies.

Cllr Martyn Plant gave a verbal report on behalf of the Community Trust.

16 - Clerk's Report

- Report on the CCTV in B&NES
- Update on Street Marshalls over the Christmas period
- Update on CT business development
- Update on website tenders
- Pension deficit and rates - query

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on the above items.

17 - Correspondence List

To note Correspondence sent to Councillors during the previous month.

- The Seed and Read Project at Welton Primary School - forwarded 27.12.23
- PC Mark Graham - Carers Card UK - Dementia ID Cards - forwarded 27.12.23

18 - Date of Next Full Council Meeting

The next Full Council Meeting will be held on Monday 5th February commencing at 7pm.

The Council thanked the staff for the hard work in preparing the Budget.

Meeting closed 8.34pm