



Midsomer Norton Town Council

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

1 - Present

Cllrs Lynda Robertson, Deborah Thatcher, Martyn Plant, Shaun Hughes, Gordon MacKay (Chair), Tim Wells, Cheryl Scott, Charlotte Lucas, Martin Thatcher and Mike Moxham.

Also in attendance Katie Mason (Town Clerk) and Kate Egan (Deputy Clerk)

2 - Public Question Time

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.

A member of BANES spoke briefly about communication and how businesses can be supported in the future. They were invited to join the High Street Working Party.

3 - Apologies

Cllr Alun Pughes

Cllr Tim Wells left the meeting

4 - Extend leave of absence for Mike Moxham

Proposal to extend a further leave of absence of six months for Cllr Mike Moxham as he last attended a meeting on 4th September 2023 and was granted a leave of absence in October for six months. The six month leave of absence would run until the beginning of September 2024.

A member of the public arrived at 7.05pm, so the Public Session was reopened to allow for comments and questions.

Decision: The Council RESOLVED to extend the leave of absence for Cllr Mike Moxham for a further six months.

5 - 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 of requests for Dispensation, although Councillors announced to which Trust they belonged. Cllrs Martyn Plant, Gordon MacKay and Lynda Robertson are on the Community Trust. Cllrs MacKay, Deborah Thatcher, Martin Thatcher and Cheryl Scott are members of the managing committee of the Town Trust

6 - Confirm Previous Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 5th February 2024

Decision: The Council RESOLVED to accept the Minutes from the Town Council Meeting held 5th February as a true record, these were signed and dated by the Chair.

7 - Proposal for the siting of the Pot Bellied Stile

Proposal to install the Pot Bellied Stile at Wellow Brook at a cost of £645.20 + VAT.

Cllr Tim Wells rejoined the meeting at 7.19pm

Decision: The proposal was amended and the Council RESOLVED to defer the decision until grant funding had been sought to cover the costs.

8 - Planning

- [24/00115/FUL](#) Construction of 18 hole Adventure Golf Course together with associated soft landscaping, tree planting, demolition of disused toilet building and new 3 metre high security fence. Play Area, Gullock Tynning, Midsomer Norton

Decision: The Council RECOMMENDED Approval.

9 - Policies

Proposal to approve and adopt the Civility Respect Councillor Officer Protocol

Decision: The Council RESOLVED to approve and adopt the Civility Respect Councillor Officer Protocol.

10 - Proposal to approve the Annual Insurance

Proposal to approve the Annual Insurance for 2024-2025

Decision: The Council RESOLVED to appoint James Hallam to provide insurance for 2024-2025 but to delegate the final decision to the Clerk as the policies had not yet arrived in time for the meeting.

The Council RESOLVED to appoint James Hallam to provide Cyber Insurance for 2024-2025 but more information was required regarding the upgrade to the security features.

11 - Mayor's Announcements

The monthly newsletter has been written and will be published shortly.

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

To receive an update from the Chairs of the following Committees.

1. Planning Committee - Please note the meeting on the 19th February was cancelled.
2. Finance and Operations Committee **Update** Cllr Martyn Plant (Chair of the Finance and Operations Committee) gave a verbal account of the minutes from the last meeting.

13 - Reports from the Town Council's Working Parties

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

1. **Community Alcohol Partnership** Conversations have been held with the Police but no formal partnership has been arranged.
2. **Town Council Strategy Working Group** The working group has not met.
3. **High Street Working Party** A meeting is hoping to be held in April, but they are co-ordinating with BANES.
4. **Media & Communications Working Group** Newsletters are being produced and these are very well received.
5. **Midsomer Norton Neighbourhood Development Plan** Currently on hold.

14 - Reports from Councillors representing the Town Council on Outside Bodies

Verbal reports from Councillors representing the Town Council on Outside Bodies

Cllr Martyn Plant gave a verbal update on the Community Trust and the events happening over the next few months, the new website and grant applications.

Cllr Gordon MacKay gave a verbal update on the Town Trust, the business plan has been updated, a new website is up and running and Trustees now have official email addresses.

Cllr Martyn Plant gave a verbal update on Youth Connect and the discussions being held on providing youth provision within the area.

Cllr Lynda Robertson gave a verbal update on the Somer Valley Forum meeting held on the 27th February.

15 - Clerk's Report

- **D Day commemorations** A small scale event will be held on 6th June jointly between the Town Council and the Royal British Legion.
- **Recruitment update** A Town Trust secretary has now been appointed, interviews will be held shortly for an Assistant Town Warden and an Admin Assistant for the Town Council.
- **Town Hall update - working party - decide colour scheme** A Working Party will be formed to discuss the final details for the Town Hall such as the colours for the Assembly Room. - Cllrs Robertson, Lucas and Plant will form the working party.
- **Annual Meeting of the Town update - 18 April 24** Invitations will be going out shortly, the location has yet to be finalised. The Town Council agreed a budget of £500 for refreshments.
- **Somer Valley Rediscovered - update plus May Day event** A May Day event is being held within the Town on 6th May with lots of family friendly activities taking place.
- **Town Trust - drains update** The drains were checked and the recommendation was to flush them on a regular basis but they may need replacing in the future.

16 - Correspondence

- Midsomer Norton Proposals - Changes to parking restrictions - forwarded 16.01.23
- Environment Agency - Debris Screen Works 2025 - forwarded 07.02.24
- Invitation to the Somer Valley Forum on 27th February at 6pm online

17 - Exclusion of the Press and Public

Proposal under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Decision: The Council RESOLVED that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following two items.

18 - Tenders for the new Website

Proposal to appoint a company to build and install the new website www.msn-tc.gov.uk

Decision: The Council RESOLVED to appoint Netwise to build and install the new Town Council Website.

19 - Lease between the Town Council and Community Trust for the Town Hall

Proposal to approve the lease between the Town Council and the Community Trust for the Town Hall.

Decision: Following a discussion this was deferred to the next meeting as further information was required.

20 - Date of Next Meeting

The next Full Council Meeting will be held on Monday 8th April commencing at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 9.02pm