



Midsomer Norton Town Council

Council Offices, The Town Hall, The Island, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2HQ

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Mayor: Councillor Gordon Mackay

Town Clerk: Katie Mason

Minutes

1 - Thought of the Day

Thought of the day given by Reverend Guy Scott.

2 - Present

Cllrs Shaun Hughes, Mike Moxham, Martyn Plant (Chair), Cheryl Scott, Tim Wells and Deborah Thatcher.

3 - Apologies

Cllrs Lynda Robertson and Gordon MacKay.

4 - 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 were five members of the public in attendance and no members of the Press.

A question was raised about cyclists using the footpath at Wellow Brook Walk and the addition of possible culverts to deal with flooding.

Cllr Deborah Thatcher arrived at 7.06pm

Concerns were raised about the vandalism at Silver Street Nature Reserve and the possibility of some construction work. This will be passed onto the Town Trust.

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 or requests for dispensation.

6 - Confirm Previous Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 4th March 2024

Decision: The Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes from the Town Council meeting held on 4th March as a true record, these were signed and dated by the Chair of the meeting.

7 - Community Trust Grant Request (iaw SLA)

Proposal to approve the Grant Application from the Community Trust for events to be held throughout the year.

Decision: The Council RESOLVED to approve the grant application from the Community Trust for £35,000.

8 - Town Trust Grant Request

Proposal to approve the Grant Application from the Town Trust for a grant of £15,000 to help with running costs.

Decision: The Council RESOLVED to approve the grant application from the Town Trust for £15,000.

9 - Town hall redecorations

Proposal to appoint a Contractor to decorate the Assembly Rooms, Stairs and Upstairs Toilets.

Decision: The Council RESOLVED to appoint Smiles Decorating to decorate the stairs and Assembly Room in the Town Hall at a cost of £21,755.00 and the Council RESOLVED to appoint Ryans to sand varnish the floor at a cost of £3,600.00.

10 - To note the second interim Internal Audit for the Town Council

The second interim Internal Audit Report for 2023-2024 was noted by the Council.

11 - Discontinuation of the Town Council Newsletters

Proposal to consider ending the Town Council's commitment to producing a monthly newsletter.

Decision: The Council RESOLVED to end the Town Council's commitment to producing a monthly newsletter for the time being.

12 - Discontinuation of attendance by Councillors at the Monthly Farmers Market

Proposal to consider discontinuing the official Town Council presence at the Farmers' Market.

Decision: The Council RESOLVED to discontinue the official Town Council presence at the Farmer's Market.

13 - Repairs to the Fingerposts in the Town

Proposal to consider obtaining a quote to have the MSNTC fingers signs painted.

Decision: The Council RESOLVED to some quotes for the repainting of the Midsomer Norton Town Council finger signs, these will be brought back to a future meeting.

14 - Additional Training for Councillors and Staff

Proposal to consider finding any costs with a view to inviting ALCA for Councillor and Staff Training.

Decision: This was deferred to a future meeting

15 - Approval of the Dispensation Policy

Proposal to approve and adopt the Dispensation Policy as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee

Decision: The Council RESOLVED to approve and adopt the Dispensation Policy

16 - Mayor's Announcements

There were no Mayor's announcements as the mayor was not in attendance.

17 - Clerk's Report

- 1. Annual Meeting of the Town update** This is taking place at Welton Rovers on Thursday 18th April, everyone is welcome.
- 2. Assistant Town Warden has begun employment with the TC, 16 hours a week effective 8 April 24.**
- 3. Town Hall update.:**
 - 1. Island work and Town Hall working together to complete respective works**
 - 2. Guttering rear elevation**
 - 3. Cross wall brick work**
 - 4. Planning consent received**
- 4. Cllrs in the Town Hall working party have been consulted on colour schemes for the Assembly Rooms. No decision yet made.**

5. **A Freedom of Information request was received (11 March 2024) concerning refurbishment costs for the Town Hall, this was responded to (14 March 24).**
6. **Update on grant applications (COF and Rural WECA).** Unfortunately these were both refused.
7. **Volunteer days with TCV and SVR in the Town Park for path construction in the Wild Meadow: 17th April, 23rd April, 1st May, 8th May.**
8. **Website (msn-tc.gov.uk) ready for launch - date**
9. **TC is working with B&NES, Community Trust and Age UK to host a workshop in Midsomer Norton to understand "What makes an Age Friendly Community" "[You can read more about Age Friendly Communities here.](#)**
10. **Alun Pughe has resigned as a Councillor**
11. **Following the resignation of Martin Thatcher the Council are able to proceed down the co-option route.**
12. **Resignation of the Town Clerk.** She was thanked in absentia for her hard work over the last six months. The effort she has put into the Council is appreciated and the council is sorry to see her go. An additional meeting will be held on Monday 15th April to discuss the next steps.

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

To receive an update from the Chairs of the following Committees

1. **Finance and Operations Committee held on 18th March** Cllr Martyn Plant gave a verbal update.
2. **Planning Committee held on 18th March** Cllr Shaun Hughes gave a verbal update.

19 - Reports from the Town Council's Working Parties

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

There were no updates from the Town Council's working parties.

20 - 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 upcoming events.

21 - Correspondence

- Notice of the closure of the Halifax Branch in Midsomer Norton - forwarded 13th March 2024
- WESTlink Service Changes - forwarded 13th March 2024
- Extension of the Local Plan Consultation, the deadline is now 16th April - forwarded 29th March 2024

22 - 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 to 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.

23 - Allotments

Proposal to approve the annual rent review for the Allotment Association and agree the Lease for a further five years.

Decision: Following a discussion the information will be passed to the Allotment Association for approval.

24 - Date of Next Meeting

The next Full Council Meeting will be held on Monday 13th May commencing at 7pm following The Annual Council Meeting which will start at 6pm.