

MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL

Court Garden, Pound Lane, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 2AG

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY AND LIVE STREAMED TO THE TOWN COUNCIL'S FACEBOOK PAGE AT 7.00pm ON TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2020

Present

**Town Mayor
Leader**

**Cllr R Scott
Cllr J Towns**

Councillor

**T Avery
S Brown
C Funnell
C Keighley
N Marshall
K Thomson
E West**

**Town Clerk
Deputy Clerk**

**Mrs H Martin
Mrs K Joy**

M.38.20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr B Johnson and Cllr R Wilson.

M.39.20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

M.40.20 COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MAYOR

Mayoral engagements

10th July Attended the informal opening of the new Vaasu kitchen and restaurant in Chapel Street

15th August Deputy Mayor, Cllr Johnson, laid a wreath on behalf of the Council at The Causeway war memorial on the commemoration of VJ Day

20th August MS Teams meeting with Red Kite Housing re plans for new development at Foxes Piece

5th September Attended the re-opening of the Marlow Museum following lockdown

The deputy mayor and myself are always available to attend events in the Town, subject to current Government guidelines.

The Leader, the Town Clerk and myself continued to participate in a number of virtual meetings of the Meals from Marlow project, established by Brand Events and Tom Kerridge. This project is now being run down and the establishment of a new charity with similar aims and objects is under consideration.

Lord Lieutenancy

Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher will be retiring at the end of November. His successor will be Countess Elizabeth Howe DL and we look forward to welcoming her to Marlow in due course.

It was noted that the Remembrance Parade and Service would not be going ahead in its usual format this year.

M.41.20 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES DATED 07.07.20 AND 04.08.20

RESOLVED:

THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES DATE 07.02.20 AND 04.08.20 WERE AGREED AND WILL BE SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD

M.42.20 REPORT FROM LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Leader Report for 8th September Town Council Meeting

Covid-19 is still keeping us focused, coming out of lockdown has had its challenges, but we continue to work closely with Buckinghamshire Council, especially the Re-opening team to get our high streets working again. The help provided by recent government initiatives seems to be encouraging restaurant users back to the town, though shops are still not as busy as they have been used to.

During lockdown the MCAN team held a series of three zoom presentations from all environmental groups in the town. I was one of the presenters and gave the background to Sustainable Marlow. On the same call, the team presented on AQMA and the Eco Schools initiative, Releaf was presented on an earlier call. These presentations were well received and are available on U-tube.

- The Releaf team are looking at the winter tree planting programme.
- Refill – the new water fountain on the Causeway will soon be operational.
- AQMA – we continue to work with BC to raise awareness in the town.
- Eco-Schools we hope to be able to slowly move forward on this project.

We continue to work with the EA to finalise everything on Gossmore. The football pitch has been mown and is looking good, and has now been handed back to us. The remainder of the outstanding issues are being dealt with by Buckinghamshire Council who contracted with the EA to finalise the outstanding issues.

The Higginson Park backwater mentioned in my last report is moving forward, permission is now awaited from BC. The land owner on the other side of the stream has agreed to tidy up his area up and has approved the actions suggested. This will really help to tidy up this backwater and make it more fish friendly, the target is to complete this work before the winter.

Cycle Racks, again I mentioned these in my previous report, we are continuing to work with BC to find a more permanent solution to including more bike racks in the town, more news as we have it.

Meals from Marlow, the fantastic initiative kicked off by Tom Kerridge, is to become a fully-fledged charity to provide in the region of 30,000 meals per year to the needy. This has been a brilliant initiative that we are happy to continue to support.

Many of the alleyways around the town have had foliage cut backs to make it easier for passing. We urge everyone to be mindful of distancing.

We planted wild flowers on four designated areas around the town this year, and hope to do similar next year, and are looking into increasing the number of areas.

We continue to work closely with the Bid Board who look after Globe Business Park. Businesses are slowly returning to the work place.

Cllr Jocelyn Towns

M.43.20 INFORMATION REPORTS

a) Committee Minutes

All members of the Council are encouraged to read Committee minutes, whether or not they are sitting on that Committee. Town Council and Committee minutes are posted to the Town Council website within four weeks of the meeting taking place.

MEMBERS NOTED THE REPORT.

M.44.20 WATER REFILL STATION AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Proposed by Cllr Towns Leader, Water Refill Station at The United Reformed Church

The full report and proposal were circulated to all members.

In summary, Christ Church United Reform Church (URC) is part-way into a project to redevelop a previously underused garden area at the corner of Quoiting Square and Oxford Road, for the benefit of the community. This includes:

- Easy access from the pavement of Oxford Road, with wheelchair-quality paths
- A water bottle filling station, providing a handy free alternative to plastic bottles
- A choice of seating areas to encourage the whole community to enjoy the garden
- Attractive landscaping, improving the built environment in this part of Marlow

The garden will continue to be owned and maintained by the URC.

The URC had expressed a wish to incorporate a water fountain or bottle filling station into the new garden design. The preferred approach is to install a wall-mounted bottle filler just inside the new entrance, prominently visible from Oxford Road and hopefully also encouraging users to enjoy the garden.

There are two possible designs of equipment being considered.

Costs and timeframes were provided to members with the proposal.

Subject to support from Marlow Town Council work could be completed in autumn 2020.

RESOLVED:

THAT MEMBERS AGREED TO MAKE A FUNDING CONTRIBUTION OF £2,000 FROM THE ENVIRONMENT RESERVE TOWARDS THIS PROJECT FOR A WATER REFILL STATION OUTSIDE URC FOR USE BY THE PUBLIC. THIS WOULD BE A DONATION TO THE PROJECT AND NO LIABILITY OR MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY WOULD FALL TO THE COUNCIL

M.45.20 MEETINGS TIMETABLES 2020-21 AMENDED 2021-22 PROPOSED

Circulated to all members was the amended meetings timetable for 2020-21

The amendments, as a result of the rescheduled local elections to May 2021 were as follows:-

- 20.04.2021 PET meeting postponed until 27.04.2021
- 20.04.2021 Charity Golf Day event
- 27.04.2021 Full Council, Resources Committee and PET Committee scheduled to meet
- 04.05.2021 Full Council meeting postponed until 08.06.2021
- 11.05.2021 PET Committee (Plans Only) meeting postponed until 25.05.2021

Also circulated was the proposed meetings timetable for 2021-22. These dates have been scheduled taking into account the following:-

- end date of current administration
- 2021 election date / new administration / formation of committees
- training new Councillors
- external audit submission
- Precept request deadline
- planning application comments - time constraints

The dates for civic events for 2021-22 will be added as and when confirmed and the timetable re-issued.

RESOLVED:

THAT MEMBERS APPROVED AND ADOPTED THE AMENDED MEETINGS TIMETABLE FOR 2020-21 AND THE PROPOSED MEETINGS TIMETABLE FOR 2021-22

M.46.20 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDES BODIES

Cllr T Avery

Reported that the Marlow Community Association had re-opened.

Cllr J Towns

Reported that the Marlow Chamber of Trade and Commerce had cancelled the Late Night Shopping event for 2020.

Cllr R Scott

Stated that the Town Council would be making a statement about its Christmas events later in the month.

Cllr E West

Reported that the Marlow Museum had re-opened.

Cllr C Keighley

Reported a change to the Marly-le-Roi Town Twinning Association secretariat.

Cllr N Marshall

Reported a meeting of the Marlow Society.

Cllr S Brown

Reported that Brinkhurst was going well

M.47.20 REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

Cllr S Brown

As Chairperson of one of the Community Board's sub committees, Cllr Brown asked for proposals to be submitted for the Covid19 fund.

Cllr R Scott

Reported that there had now been a couple of socially distanced “face to face” meetings.

Subject to the weather, micro re-surfacing would take place in Lock Road and Mill Road in October.

Missing yellow lines would also be repainted.

M.48.20 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 09.11.2020 at 7.00pm

There were no questions submitted from the public.

With full approval from those attending the meeting, the following agenda item was heard with the press and public excluded in accordance with section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972.

M.49.20 4 FRONT SECURITY CONTRACT REVIEW

Currently the following spaces are covered by 4Front Security patrols :-

- Seymour Park
- Gossmore Recreation Ground
- Higginson Park (north)

The meeting agreed that the scheme has been very successful and helped to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour in Marlow.

It was proposed that the scheme be increased to include two new sites:-

- Rookery Court
- Higginson Park (south)

Costs for the proposed scheme expansion were provided.

RESOLVED:

THAT MEMBERS RESOLVED TO AGREE ON A CONTRACT EXTENSION UNTIL 31ST MARCH 2022, AND TO EXPAND THE SCHEME TO INCLUDE HIGGINSON PARK SOUTH AND ROOKERY COURT. THE COSTS TO BE MET FROM CIL RESERVES 2017/18. THE RECOMMENDATION IS NOT TO INCLUDE DAY WEEKEND PATROLS FOR THE DURATION OF THIS CONTRACT BUT FOR THIS TO BE REVIEWED AT 6 MONTHLY INTERVALS

Town Mayor **Date**

Meeting closed at 7.25pm