

MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL

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

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 29TH MARCH 2022 AT 7.00pm IN THE SEYMOUR ROOM, COURT GARDEN, MARLOW

Present	Town Mayor	Cllr R Scott
	Deputy Mayor	Cllr J Towns
	Leader	Cllr C Funnell
	Deputy Leader	Cllr C Hoyle

Councillors:	D Brown
	R Cadman
	C Heap
	N Marshall
	N Mityaeva
	C Stapley

M.98.21 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr T Avery and Cllr R Wilson.

M.99.21 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

M.100.21 Communications from Town Mayor

Mayoral engagements - 29 March 2022

Covid remains with us, although hopefully on the wane. Most restrictions have now been removed and this has enabled the number of events to which the Mayor is traditionally invited to increase.

A civic celebration took place on **Sunday 13 March** to recognise the end of Covid and the excellent community spirit that existed during the pandemic and has continued since. The format of the event featured two community groups speaking about their work and the re-formed Harmony Belles choir. Over 100 attended from local organisations, together with civic dignitaries. Many messages of thanks and appreciation have been received from key attendees.

Since our last meeting, I have attended the following –

27th January With the mayoress, attended Marlow Club of Rotary BBO Concert at All Saints Church
(*Now back after Covid, an excellent event to attend*)

3rd February Participated in the MFM Eclectic Light show programme hosted by Mike Cannon).

9th February With the mayoress, attended re-opening of the Cecily Medi Spa, West Street
(*Re-opening of the Sunrise business following the death of the owner*).

21st February With Cllr Funnell, attended High Wycombe Charter Trustees' Annual Reception
(*First Charter Trustee's reception for two years, with community awards being presented*).

6th March With Cllr Towns, attended Buckinghamshire Council Chairman's Civic Service at St Mary's Church, Hambleden
(*Annual civic service hosted by Cllr Zahir Mohamed, Chairman of Buckinghamshire Council*).

Filming/Recording/Photographing at Meetings – please note that this may take place during the public part of the meeting. Notices are displayed in the meeting room.

- 6th March** With Cllr Stapely, attended Mayor of Beaconsfield's Civic Service at St Mary's Church, Beaconsfield
- 10th March** With mayoress, attended opening of Laurents Deli, Marlow
(Good to welcome another small independent business to the town).
- 12th March** With the mayoress, attended Rotary Club of Marlow Charity Youth Concert
(*Excellent and well supported youth concert by orchestra and choir of Chiltern Music Academy*).
- 13th March** With mayoress and other town councillors, hosted our Mayor's Civic Celebration
(*New format of the old civic service with a strong community theme. Looks like a model to use in future years*).
- 17th March** On behalf of the mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cllr Towns attended a tree planting ceremony at Churchill Retirement Home, Peel Lodge, Dean Street.

Forthcoming future Civic events

Mayor's Charity golf day

The Town Mayor noted that as the support for the proposed Mayor's Charity Golf Day, scheduled for 12th April, was not as strong as in previous years, he had reluctantly taken the decision to cancel this event. Consideration would be given to perhaps holding this in the autumn or hold a different event at a similar time in 2023.

Marly le Roi Town Twining

2022 is the 50th anniversary of town twining with Marly le Roi, France. This very successful arrangement will be recognised in France on May 7 with councillors and members of Marlow Marly town twinning association attending. Elsewhere in this meeting under agenda item 109 is a proposal for civic gifts to commemorate the occasion.

Queens Platinum Jubilee

This Jubilee takes place nationally from 2 – 5 June 2022. The Community Committee has planned an event – *Party like a Queen* - in Higginson Park for Friday 3 June. The informal day will have a 1950's theme including entertainment for the whole family and vintage food and drink trucks; but please bring your own picnics if you wish. Under agenda item 104, there is a budget proposal for this event.

Full details of our Civic and Community events are always on the Town Council website.

Cllr Richard Scott

Town Mayor

24 March 2022

M.101.21 Report from Leader of the Council

I am pleased to report that Marlow is rapidly re - self-generating its footfall and activities thanks to the efforts of all our residents ,businesses and schools and volunteer charity groups as well as voluntary community groups .It would be wrong to say Marlow has simply brushed off Covid because there has been too much pain and distress to forget and put that firmly in the past, however there is a genuine sense of pride in Town now as we return to near normality and continue to open back up for business .

We welcome significant new businesses to Marlow ,Laurent's ,Gail's bakery ,and Megan's who are beginning to operate in our vacant spots in town as well as ongoing developments by Lidl and the Everyman cinema group, keeps pottery and the law firm Blaser Mills as well as the strong return to our business park and offices.

Notably events are beginning to return with a packed agenda as our green space opens up for activity as we lead up to Easter and beyond with ,the Spring regatta ,May fare ,Marlow 5k run ,Triathlon and an invitation to all residents to come back together in community celebration for her Majesty the Queens platinum jubilee on June the 3rd in Higginson Park. We are also delighted that Marlow Town regatta and family festival will return on the 11th and 12th of June an event of significant tradition and importance to the town.

We recognise that we still face an uncertain period and uncertain world, and we continue to recognise the plight and suffering of all those in Ukraine and continue to monitor the efforts support and charitable foundations and groups working hard to support refugees. Marlow will continue to fly the flag of Ukraine in support and report local initiatives on the MTC website.

We recognise that there is a significant resurgence of covid in the last few weeks and we will continue to monitor the that in our community and ask that all residents continue to be vigilant and continue to follow updates and guidance through the MTC website .

Cllr Chris Funnell
Leader

March 2022

M.102.21 Town Council Minutes dated 25.01.22

RESOLVED:

THAT THE MINUTES DATED 25.01.22 WERE AGREED AND SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD

M.103.21 Management Accounts at 31.01.22

Presented by Cllr N Mityaeva.

RESOLVED:

THAT MEMBERS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS DATED 31.01.22

M.104.21 Additional budget for Party like a Queen from the Community Committee

The Community Committee are progressing well with “Party like a Queen” event in Higginson Park on June 3rd. This free to all event will have a 1950’s theme to celebrate the occasion of Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee. Marlow residents of all ages are invited to be transported back to the sights and sounds of the 1950’s with fabulous entertainment, fairground rides, food stalls and a bar. Everyone is welcome to come to the park and bring a blanket to sit on to relax with friends and family and bring a picnic or enjoy the refreshments on offer. The event was set with a budget before any detailed planning and costings took place, the event is being run with a professional stage and bands and the committee request that the agreed budget for the event is £14,000. As we have already agreed a £6,500 budget; thus all we need is the additional £7,500 from this year's projected surplus ie. general reserves.

RESOLVED

THAT MEMBERS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO A TOTAL BUDGET £14,000 FOR THE PARTY LIKE A QUEEN EVENT ON JUNE 3RD, 2022, WITH THE ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF £7,500 BEING MET FROM THIS YEAR’S PROJECTED SURPLUS

M.105.21 Meetings Timetable 2022-2023

RESOLVED:

THAT THE 2022-23 MEETINGS TIMETABLE AS CIRCULATED WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED

M.106.21 Standing Orders Review

RESOLVED:

THAT THE STANDING ORDERS DATED 2022, AS CIRCULATED, WERE UNANIMOUSLY AGREED AND ADOPTED

M.107.21 Use of Gossmore by Racing Line Running

Council approved Racing Line running to use a small section of Gossmore for a running event in 2021. The event was a success and Council were paid £500 for the use of the area. Racing Line would like to run this event again on September 18th 2022, they have safety advisory group approval and Marlow United Football Club are happy that the event will have no impact on the football games that weekend.

RESOLVED

THAT MEMBERS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RACING LINE RUNNING TO USE GOSSMORE ON SEPTEMBER 18TH 2022 WITH A DONATION OF £500 TOWARDS TO THE UPKEEP OF THE GOSSMORE RECREATION GROUND

M.108.21 Internal Audit Observations

The interim internal audit review was circulated to all members.

All the attached observations have been discussed with the internal auditor; three issues have been raised. The Treasury Management Policy has been amended at the Resources meeting on March 22nd. Standing Orders are being reviewed on this agenda item M.106.21. Members allowances will be published with the final accounts. The auditor is satisfied with the procedures put in place and will complete the final audit with the final accounts in June 2022.

RESOLVED:

THAT MEMBERS UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED THE INTERIM AUDIT OBSERVATIONS

M.109.21 Marlow Town Twinning- 50th Anniversary

Civic and Marlow Marly-le-Roi Town Twinning Association (MMTTA) gifts are suggested to mark the 50th Anniversary of the twinning relationship with Marly- le- Roi. Members are asked to approve a spend of up to £1,000 for gifts to mark the occasion.

Approval is sought that the Mayor's visit to Marly-le-Roi in May 2022 be classed as an official civic visit.

RESOLVED

THAT MEMBERS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED A SPEND OF UP TO £1,000 FOR CIVIC AND MMTTA GIFTS TO MARK THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY AND THAT THE MAYORAL VISIT TO MARLOW-LE-ROI IN MAY 2022 BE APPROVED AS A CIVIC VISIT

M.110.21 Sustainable Challenge

Circulated to all members was the project to start the process of sharing best practice and educating residents in how they can make a difference. The brief was presented by Cllr J Towns who confirmed the date of the public meeting was Tuesday 26th April 2022 from 5pm until 6.30pm.

RESOLVED:

THAT MEMBERS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE PROJECT BRIEF, AS CIRCULATED, FROM THE ENVIRONMENT GROUP FOR THE LAUNCH OF THE SUSTAINABLE MARLOW CHALLENGE, WHICH WILL BE BY HOLDING A PUBLIC MEETING ON 21ST APRIL 2022 TO START THE PROCESS OF SHARING BEST PRACTICE AND EDUCATING RESIDENTS IN HOW THEY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

M.111.21 Information Reports

a) French Market

The French market have made the difficult decision that they will not be coming to Higginson Park this year. Members are requested to note that this will affect the income budget by £2,000.

b) Social Media Summary Report Information Report

Facebook

From November 2021 to February 2022

Facebook Reach 7.2k up 47% on previous quarter

Most engaging shared post 17th February 600 reach, 86 shares Amber weather warning for Storm Eunice

Most engaging Council post 18th February 439 reach, 179 likes and 87 shares, new sustainability programme to be launched in Marlow

Instagram

From November 2021 to February 2022

Instagram reach increased by 30% to 1,562 followers

Most engaging post Marlow Remembrance Parade with 868 people reached

Twitter

November 2021 to February 2022

Top tweet Remembrance Parade 6,873 impressions

Profile visits 236 up 72% on previous quarter

Mentions 15 up 114% on previous quarter

MEMBERS NOTED THE REPORTS

M.112.21 Reports from Outsides Bodies

Cllr C Funnell

Attended a MTRF committee meeting.

Cllr N Marshall

Attended a recent Marlow Society Meeting.

Cllr Mityaeva

Attended the AGM of Marlow Town Twinning Association.

Cllr C Heap

Attended the AGM of Marlow Town Twinning Association.

Cllr J Towns

Attending a BidCo meeting on 31st March.

Cllr R Scott

Attended the AGM of Marlow Community Association.

M.113.21 Reports from Buckinghamshire Council

Cllr J Towns

Reported that the Cabinet meeting of 29th March approved the draft version of the Buckinghamshire Strategic Vision 2050.

Cllr C Heap

Referred to the Members’ briefing on Ukrainian refugees.

Cllr N Marshall

Reported that the Cabinet meeting of 29th March approved the principle of charging householder in the old Wycombe District Council are £50 per annum for a green waste bin as part of equalisation of charges across the Unitary Council. Effective date has yet to be confirmed.

The Cabinet meeting also approved a new anti-littering policy enforceable by enforcement officers.

A new Buckinghamshire Council local plan was in the course of preparation. Likely to be only minor changes for Marlow as matters had previously been considered under the recent WDC local plan.

M.114.21 Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 7.00pm

Town Mayor**Date**.....