

MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL

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

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23RD JANUARY 2024 AT 7.00pm IN THE HIGGINSON ROOM, COURT GARDEN, MARLOW

Present

Town Mayor	Cllr D Brown
Deputy Mayor	Cllr C Stapley
Leader	Cllr C Funnell
Deputy Leader	Cllr C Hoyle
Councillors	R Cadman
	C Heap
	N Marshall
	N Mityaeva
	R Scott
	J Towns
Town Clerk	Mrs H Martin
Deputy Clerk	Mrs K Joy

Public present

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M.82.23

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr R Wilson.

M.83.23

Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

M.84.23

Communications from the Town Mayor

The Town Mayor presented the list of engagements that he had undertaken since the last meeting.

M.85.23

Report from Leader of the Council

As we embark on the promising year of 2024, we extend our heartfelt wishes to each and every one of you on behalf of Marlow Town council . May this new year bring abundant joy, prosperity, and good health to all our residents.

I am delighted to share that our recent Christmas events were a resounding success, fostering a festive atmosphere that truly brought our community together ,switch-on ceremony and the late-night carols on the Causeway resonated with the spirit of the season. It was truly heartening to witness the unity and festive cheer that these events brought to our community. We would extend our sincere thanks again to Robert Thorogood for switching on the lights for us ...even if he has recently murdered the mayor in his new Marlow murders book !

On a more practical note, I would like to provide you with an update on the recent testing of our flood defences ,a challenge that came quickly in this new year, particularly considering the challenging weather conditions experienced in early January. I am pleased to report that most of our flood defences performed admirably, ensuring the safety of our residents, and safeguarding resident properties.

Specifically, Pound Lane and Gossmore were effectively shielded from flood threats, with our defences tested for the first-time since 2014 proving very robust in maintaining the safety and integrity of these areas and even allowing our junior footballers to continue playing at Gossmore fields during this period ...a first for Marlow in flood .

Regrettably, at the intersection of Mill Road and Goss more road our defences faced a more significant challenge, resulting in localised flooding within the car park and entrance lobbies and discussions have begun with the EA to .

We are aware that St Peters Street residents and the two brewers suffered with building flooding, and we wish them well in their endeavours in reinstating homes and business there soon.

Looking to our year ahead we will be presenting our findings on next year's budget at this meeting focusing on fiscal responsibility is critical in these times when many councils are coming under increasing pressure up and down the country on finance .We will be providing an overview of our progress on this year's budget and our Chair of Resources will present our proposed budget detailing how we have once again successfully navigated significant inflationary issues to protect our residents from undue financial burdens in the future.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. We will continue to navigate the challenges ahead and ensure our town remains a wonderful place to live.

Cllr C Funnell | Leader

M.86.23 Town Council Minutes 05.12.2023

RESOLVED:

THAT THE MINUTES DATED 05.12.2023 WERE AGREED AND SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD

M.87.23 Management Accounts

RESOLVED:

THAT THE MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS DATED 30.11.2023 WERE APPROVED

M.88.23 Budget 2024-25

RESOLVED:

1. THAT MEMBERS APPROVED THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FORECAST
2. THAT MEMBERS APPROVED THE PROPOSED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BUDGET FOR 2024-25 AND
3. THAT IN PURSUANCE OF ITS POWERS CONFERRED BY SECTION 137 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED) THE TOWN COUNCIL: -

APPROVED PROPOSED EXPENDITURE FOR 2024-25 ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ARE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE TOWN OR ITS INHABITANTS:

MAYORAL FUNCTIONS AND CIVIC EVENTS; GROUNDS MAINTENANCE
GRANTS ; TOWN TWINNING ; CHRISTMAS TREE AND DECORATIONS; FLORAL DISPLAYS AND
SUMMER BUNTING ; ALLOTMENT PRIZES; COMMUNITY, LEISURE AND ENTERTAINMENT
YOUTH PROJECT; SECURITY PATROLS ; TOWN BUS

M.89.23 Precept 2024-25

RESOLVED:

THAT THE MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT FOR THE YEAR 2024-25 BE AGREED IN THE SUM OF £382,289.67

M.90.23 Defibrillator Proposal

A previous request for Council Members Approval on 19th March allocated £4,000 to be used for defibrillators and associated costs in Quoiting Square.

This proposal is to top-up the monies available to this project, to enable extension of the project to additional locations. Details of the request are as follows:

1. Top-up the monies available to a fund of £7,500
2. Allow the use of these monies across de-fib projects or associated costs for de-fib projects within the boundaries of the Marlow Town Council Parish
3. Allow the use of these funds to be managed by a working party consisting of members of the Community Committee:
 - a. Councillor Funnell
 - b. Councillor Brown
 - c. Councillor Hoyle

All activity and spend will be communicated to both the Community Committee and wider members within Marlow Town Council.

RESOLVED:

THAT £7,500 FROM TOWN IMPROVEMENT RESERVES BE EARMARKED FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE DEFIBRILLATOR SCHEME AS DETAILED ABOVE AND

THAT THE WORKING GROUP OVERSEEING THE SCHEME BE COMPRISED CLLRS FUNNELL, BROWN AND HOYLE

**M.91.23 MVAS Proposal
Purchase of additional MVAS machine**

The Environment Committee are recommending that Council purchase an additional MVAS machine so that multiple roads in Marlow can be monitored in both directions simultaneously. Council currently owns three MVAS machines.

RESOLVED

THAT MEMBERS AGREED TO THE PURCHASE OF AN ADDITIONAL MVAS MACHINE AT A COST OF £3,200 THE COST BEING MET FROM TOWN IMPROVEMENT RESERVES

**M.92.23 Information Reports
a) Committee Minutes**

INFORMATION

Members are reminded that all minutes are posted to the Town Council website and all members are invited to review all Council and Committee minutes regularly.

MEMBERS NOTED THE REPORT

M.93.23 Reports from Outside Bodies

Cllr J Towns

Will be attending a BidCo meeting this week.

Cllr N Mityaeva

Reported attending a Marlow Museum meeting. The Museum was busy with accreditation procedures and the extensive refurbishment project.

Cllr C Funnell

Reported that the Marlow Town Regatta and Festival had launched a new sponsorship package.

The planning application to light Marlow Bridge might now be subject to a Bat Survey. Cllr Funnell would be working with the planning consultant.

M.94.23 Reports from Buckinghamshire Council

Cllr J Towns

Reported that storm warnings / SSEN advice had been shared. Issues with bins has been resolved. Verge reinstatement works were ongoing, any complaints should be directed to Cllr Towns who would feed back to Buckinghamshire Council. The Newt Ditch project was being pushed forward.

Cllr C Heap

Reported a meeting had taken place involving engineers and maintenance contractors regarding reinstating the width restriction bollards on Marlow Bridge, following the damage caused by a heavy goods vehicle.

Works would necessitate a road closure of a couple of days. A revised timetable of works to the bridge was being worked on.

Cllr N Marshall

Reported that residents were being consulted about proposed car parking charges in Quoitings Square.

Joy Morrissey MP had been written to requesting that Buckinghamshire Council be granted permission to install vehicle recognition equipment and prosecute drivers of overweight vehicles. The decision would rest with the Minister for Transport.

M.95.23 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 05.03.2024 at 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 7.35pm

Town Mayor Date

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions