

MIDSOMER NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in The Town Hall, Midsomer Norton on Monday 2nd April 2012 Commencing at 7.00pm

Present: Mayor: Cllr P Myers
Deputy Mayor: Cllr L Dunford
Councillors: Cllr M Evans, Cllr P Moccock, Cllr S Plumley, Cllr L Robertson, Cllr R Robertson (part), Cllr J Slade, Cllr S Wellington

Also Present: 11 members of the public and 1 member of the press

In Attendance: Michael Curry – Town Clerk

191. Fire Safety – Evacuation Procedure

The Officer present explained the fire evacuation procedure as detailed in the Agenda.

192. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr B Lawrence (on holiday) and Cllr J Lewis (bereavement).

Resolved: To accept the apologies with the reasons given.

193. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor thanked all those involved in the production of the second edition of Midsomer Norton Life and the football club for the distribution of the newsletter. The second litter pick was held on 1st April thanks to the efforts of Cllrs Dunford & Evans.

Over 100 people attended first community cinema showings. The Mayor thanked the Bath Film Festival and all those involved in bringing community cinema to the town.

He reported that a bid had been submitted to the Portas Review Pilots thanks to the Chamber of Commerce and the input from the Midsomer Norton Society.

Cllr Dunford and the Mayor attended a meeting with all those agencies involved in children's services in Midsomer Norton. A summary of the services offered will be put to the Operations Working Party for consideration in relation to the Council's objectives in the coming year.



There is a dialogue with business representatives in the town concerned that they cannot get access to superfast broadband from BT because they are too close to the exchange.

194. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Dunford declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 201 and 204 as Treasurer of the Sarah Ann Trust

Cllr Myers declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 204 as Secretary of the Sarah Ann Trust and a member of the Merriman Theatre. He also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 198.

Cllr Wellington declared a personal interest in item 198 as a voluntary announcer on Somer Valley FM and a personal and prejudicial interest in an item under agenda item 206

195. Exclusion of the Press and Public

To agree any items to be dealt with after the Public (including the Press) has been excluded under Standing Order 28.1.

Resolved: That Agenda item 206 be treated as confidential and dealt with after the Public (including the Press) had been excluded.

196. Minutes of Midsomer Norton Town Council Meeting – Monday 5th March 2012

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Midsomer Norton Town Council Meeting held on Monday 5th March 2012 be signed and adopted as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the following sentence in the record of agenda item 187 at the end of the first paragraph: "Concern was also expressed at the station's coverage of Midsomer Norton"

197. Standing Committees

The Minutes of the Council's Standing Committee had been circulated in the Agenda:

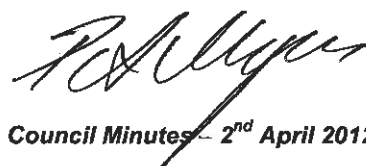
a) Planning Committee Meeting – Monday 19th March 2012.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 19th March 2012 be noted.

198. Revised Request for Financial Support from Somer Valley FM

At 7:40 Cllr P Myers left the meeting. Cllr L Dunford took the chair. Cllr R Robertson joined the meeting.

Members of the Council were asked to consider a revised request received from Somer Valley FM in light of the Council's comments on coverage and the nature of the previously proposed business relationship. The new proposal was for equipment to enhance outside broadcast facilities and to provide a listen again capability.



A concern was expressed that procedurally this application should be routed through the grant-making process and consideration of it now could establish a precedent.

The following resolution was passed following a vote – 7 for the resolution, 0 against the resolution and 1 abstention.

Resolved: To award a grant of £4,630 to Somer Valley FM on an exceptional basis in light of the importance of the planned summer events including the Jubilee celebrations

The award is subject to the conditions of the Council's grant-making policy. Somer Valley FM to liaise with Cllr J Slade on the equipment to be purchased.

At 7:48 Cllr P Myers rejoined the meeting and resumed the chair.

199. Recommendations from the Finance Working Party

Members of the Council were asked to consider matters referred by the Finance Working Party:

a) The report of the Interim Internal Audit and the resulting actions.

Resolved: a) That the Council notes the actions being taken in light of the interim internal audit report.
b) That the Council approves the banking facilities in place

b) A recommendation that the schedule of expenditure continues to be presented at Council, but for information and to be noted only.

Resolved: That the schedule of expenditure continues to be presented at Council, but for information and to be noted only

c) That the programme for the next round of grant-making be as given below:

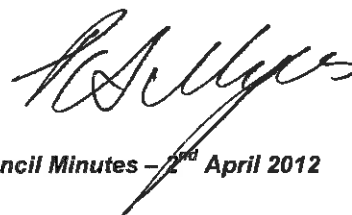
Grant-making publicised	Week Commencing 16 th April 2012
Bids Close	Friday 25 th May 2012
Finance Working Party reviews bids	Wednesday 30 th May 2012
Council determines grants	Monday 11 th June 2012

Resolved: To approve the grant-making programme as proposed

200. Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies

Members of the Council received verbal reports from Councillors who have represented the Council at meetings of outside bodies.

Cllr L Robertson reported on Norton Radstock Area Community Safety and Drugs Group. Following the report there was a discussion of child protection. Councillors were invited to volunteer for CRB checks.



Cllr Plumley advised the Council of the progress being made on the resurfacing of West Clewes Car Park. The gates are being installed 3rd/4th April and the resurfacing will start on 16th April subject to the weather. The work will take 3 days to complete. The specification has been extended to include kerbing – the expenditure will extend the life of the new surface at the edge and the expenditure can be met from the contingency approved by Council (Resolution 190b). The extension of the specification was agreed between Cllr Plumley, Cllr Wellington and the Clerk in accordance with the discussions relating to resolution 190b.

Resolved: That the Clerk review the inherited Norton Radstock Child Protection policy and investigate the cost of CRB checks.

201. Accounts for Payment

In light of resolution 199b members of the Council were asked to note the Schedule of Accounts for Payment.

Resolved: That the Schedule be noted and cheque signatories would be Councillors Plumley and Robertson

202. West Clewes Recreation Ground

Members of the Council were asked to agree the following items relating to the management of the Recreation Ground.

a) Signatories for the West Clewes Recreation Ground Trust Bank Account.

Resolved: That these be the existing Council signatories plus Cllr Wellington

b) Deed of Dedication for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge.

Resolved: To accept the deed of dedication on the condition that the West Clewes name is not lost

203. Agenda – Annual Town Meeting

Members of the Council were asked to consider an Agenda for the forthcoming Annual Town Meeting to be held on Monday 14th May 2012.

Resolved: To accept the proposed draft agenda for the Annual Town Meeting

204. Relocation of the Council Offices within the Town Hall

Members of the Council were asked to consider an offer of alternative accommodation (within the Town Hall) for the Town Council Offices received from the Sarah Ann Trust.

Cllr Myers outlined the long term ambition for the Town Hall and the proposal from the Sarah Ann Trust then left the meeting with Cllr Dunford at 8:30. Cllr Plumley took the chair.

Building on the experience of the previous year, the proposal facilitates public access, provides a meeting room and a members room. The aim is to complete the move in time for the Annual Town Meeting.

Resolved: To accept the proposal to relocate the Council Offices in the Town Hall

Cllrs Myers and Dunford rejoined the meeting. Cllr Myers resumed the chair.

205. Monitoring and Assessment of Midsomer Norton River Project

Members of the Council were asked to consider a proposal received from Woodland Water & Gardens in respect of monitoring and maintaining of the River Somer.

Resolved: To accept the proposal for two inspections per year and authorise expenditure for two visits in 2012/3

206. In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public were excluded during consideration of the following items (Item 195 refers) – Commercial in Confidence

Cllr Wellington left the meeting for consideration of item 206d.

Resolved:

- a) That Miranda Wood be awarded the contract for Town Warden
- b) That David Simmonds Associates be appointed to survey the Town Hall and Orchard Vale Hall
- c) That CR Fencing be contracted to install a deer fence at the allotments
- d) That Wellington Signs be contracted to update Council signage throughout Midsomer Norton. Design to be approved by Cllr Myers
- e) That Mrs C. Sims' role be regraded to Administrative Officer
- f) The contract of employment for the Town Clerk was approved subject to observations from Ellis Whittam

Meeting finished at 8:52 pm

Signed: 

Dated: 23 - 4 - 2012