

MIDSOMER NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in The Town Hall, Midsomer Norton on Monday 5th March 2012 Commencing at 7.00pm

Present: Mayor: Cllr P Myers
Deputy Mayor: Cllr L Dunford
Councillors: Cllr M Evans, Cllr B Lawrence, Cllr J Lewis, Cllr P Moccock, Cllr S Plumley, Cllr L Robertson, Cllr R Robertson, Cllr J Slade, Cllr S Wellington

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

In Attendance: Michael Curry – Town Clerk

175. Fire Safety – Evacuation Procedure

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

176. Apologies for Absence

None - all Councillors present

177. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor reported on a successful visit to the archive in Taunton to research the names of all the past chairmen of Midsomer Norton Urban District Council from 1895 - 1933. Thanks were voted to the Midsomer Norton Society who arranged the visit.

178. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Evans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 185 as a trustee of SWAN and a governor of St John's School.

Cllr Dunford declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 185 as treasurer of the Sarah Ann Trust and a member of the Merriman Theatre.

Cllr Myers declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 185 as secretary of the Sarah Ann Trust and a member of the Merriman Theatre. He also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 187.

Cllr Wellington declared a personal interest in item 185 as a voluntary announcer on Somer Valley FM.



179. 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 190 be treated as confidential and dealt with after the Public (including the Press) had been excluded.

180. Minutes of Midsomer Norton Town Council Meeting – Monday 6th February 2012

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Midsomer Norton Town Council Meeting held on Monday 6th February 2012 be signed and adopted as a correct record.

181. Standing Committees

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

a) Planning Committee Meeting – Monday 20th February 2012.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 20th February 2012 be noted.

182. Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies

Members received verbal reports from Councillors who had represented the Town Council at meetings of outside bodies and reviewed the current representation on such bodies.

Cllr Myers reported the inaugural meeting of the Midsomer Norton Economic Development partnership noting that members were positive and that there was a collective desire to get things done. Aspects of the work will be taken up in the Operations Working Party.

There was a similar positive attitude at the latest meeting of the Midsomer Norton Forum. It was agreed to present proposals reconstituting the Forum as an advisory group for the Town Council with its first task, for a sub-group, being the research for a community plan.

Cllrs L Robertson and Slade reported on a meeting in preparation for the formation of a Welton Residents Association.

Cllr Plumley advised the Council of the plans for the Twinning week Monday 20th August to Sunday 26th August.

183. Accounts for Payment

Members were asked to review and approve a schedule of Accounts for Payment. Cllr Myers requested ALCA be consulted on possible procedural changes that avoid interests in one organisation precluding councillors from consideration of the whole schedule.

Resolved: That the Schedule of Accounts for Payment is approved and cheque signatories would be Councillors Plumley and Slade.

184. Budgets for Community Events

Members were asked to approve the budgets for the Jubilee Celebrations and the Summer Fayre.

Resolved: To set a budget of £6,057 for the Jubilee Celebrations to cover the marquee, loos and band, and a budget of £5,000 for the Midsomer Norton Fayre Day.

185 Determination of Grant Applications

Cllr Evans asked that his concern be recorded that under the current process his declared interest in one of the grant applications was precluding him from consideration of the other applications.

Cllrs Evans, Dunford, and Myers withdrew from the meeting at 7.40 pm. Cllr Plumley took the Chair.

Members received recommendations from the Finance Working Party in respect of the determination of bids submitted for Town Council funding.

Resolved: a) To accept the recommendations of the Finance Working Party
b) Cllr Evans, Myers and the Town Clerk review the mechanism of grant determination.

Cllrs Evans, Dunford, and Myers rejoined the meeting at 7.55 pm. Cllr Myers resumed the Chair.

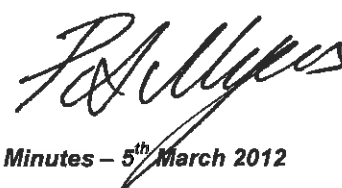
186. Community Alcohol Partnership

Members received an update on the Town Survey on the perceptions of anti-social behaviour and the outcome of the latest meeting of the Community Alcohol Partnership.

Cllr Dunford thanked all those involved in carrying out the survey and those who completed forms. There was a 25% response rate – very good for a survey of this type. The findings will be used to guide the Community Alcohol Partnership and the work of that will be taken forward by the Operations Working Party. This will consist of four aspects: litter & alcohol; speeding and anti-social driving; drug abuse; and pedestrian red zones.

The results of the survey were presented to the latest meeting of the Community Alcohol Partnership. In light of which partners will be bringing proposals on addressing the issues raised to the next meeting.

The Council gave a vote of thanks to Cllrs Dunford and Evans for their work.



187. Promoting the Council's Aims on Community Radio

Cllr Myers withdrew from the meeting at 8.00 pm. Cllr Dunford took the Chair.
Members received a proposal from Somer Valley FM on a joint working venture between the radio station and the council.

There was a general discussion about the proposal.

Council resolved to suspend standing orders at 8:22 in order to hear from Mr Chambers, Somer Valley FM Station Manager.

Standing orders were reinstated at 8:27.

There was general agreement on the benefits of community radio and support for Somer Valley Radio and the contribution it makes to the community. However the proposal itself raised questions on entering into a financial agreement with a media supplier for what was a community service. The proposal also had resource implications in terms of councillor and officer time.

In light of these concerns, there was a general agreement that more appropriate support from the Council could be sought by the radio station through a proposal to purchase specific items of equipment or to support the radio station in its steps to increase coverage.

It was agreed to defer consideration of the proposal.

Resolved: To defer consideration of the proposal.

Cllr Myers rejoined the meeting at 8.31 pm and resumed the Chair.

188. Improving the Public Realm

Members were asked to consider:

a. Littering and the provision and servicing of additional litter bins.

The need for additional bins has been identified particularly on the cycle way. Whilst the latter is a B&NES responsibility the Council recognised the need to take a pragmatic approach in order to achieve the best balance between cost and solving the problem quickly. Pressure should be applied to B&NES; contact made with Westfield Parish Council as the path is along the parish boundary; and opportunities for sponsorship investigated.

Resolved:

- a) To set a budget of £2,500 for the provision of litter bins. Any bins procured in the High Street and surrounds should be in keeping with the existing black and gold style.
- b) That the budget is used with reference to the need to make provision, that B&NES fulfils its obligations; and opportunities for sponsorship explored.

b. Members noted the progress of contracting a Town Warden



Bids have been received from four possible contractors. The bidders will be invited to the next meeting of the Finance Working Party to discuss the task and their bid. The Finance Working Party will then make a recommendation to the Council meeting scheduled for the 2nd April 2012.

189. Implementation of Clause 3.21 of the West Clewes Lease with Welton Rovers


Members received a letter from Welton Rovers FC in respect of the implementation of Clause 3.21 regarding representation on the board. It proposed not being an member executive but reserving the right to be so under the agreement.

Resolved: To accept the proposed exchange of letters subject to scrutiny by Withy King.

190. 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 163 refers) – Commercial in Confidence & Staff in Confidence

- Resolved:**
- a) To write to Westfield Parish Council accepting invoice MSN/GEN003 in full and final settlement of the Council's obligations.
 - b) That John Wainwright & Co. Ltd. be appointed to resurface West Clewes Car Park and that a contingency budget of £5,000 be set
 - c) Two groups from Community Payback be commissioned for the new financial year commencing 1st April.

Meeting finished at 9:34 pm

Signed: 

Dated: 2 - 4 - 2012