



## MIDSOMER NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in the Beauchamp Room at the Town Hall, Midsomer Norton on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012 Commencing at 7.00pm

- Present:** Mayor: Councillor P Myers
- Councillors: Cllr L Dunford, Cllr M Evans (Deputy Mayor, Cllr B Lawrence, Cllr J Lewis (7.07pm), Cllr P Moccock (7.20pm), Cllr S Plumley, Cllr L Robertson (7.04pm), Cllr R Robertson (7.03pm), Cllr J Slade  
Cllr S Wellington
- Also Present:** Eleven (11) Members of the Public and One (1) Member of the Press
- In Attendance:** Mrs Carole Sims (Administrative Officer)

#### **93. Fire Safety – Evacuation Procedure**

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

#### **94. Apologies for Absence and to consider the reasons given.**

There were no Apologies of Absence as all Councillors were present.

#### **95. Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor, Councillor P Myers advised the Council that the initial designs for the website had been rejected, new designs had been received but unfortunately too late for inclusion in the Council Meeting. The Mayor informed the Council that two further quotes were expected and would be circulated along with a presentation of the proposed site map at the next meeting of the Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012. The Mayor apologised for the delay.

The Mayor advised the Council of the sad news that Betty Perry a former Town Councillor and BANES Councillor had passed away on Sunday. Mrs Perry had worked very hard over many years for the electorate of Midsomer Norton. The Mayor wished condolences be sent to her family. The Mayor informed Councillors that Mrs Perry's funeral would take place on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

The Mayor advised the Council that he had attended a presentation at the Midsomer Norton Social Club where he had handed out the prizes. The Mayor said he had been impressed with the Social Club's facilities.



**96. Declarations of Interest.**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**97. 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 in view of the confidentiality of Agenda Item 113 the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting.

**98. Minutes of the Midsomer Norton Town Council Meeting – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Midsomer Norton Town Council held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 had been circulated in the Agenda.

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Midsomer Norton Town Council Meeting held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 be signed and adopted as a correct record once amended to record that Councillor M Evans, Councillor P Moccock and Council J Slade were present at the Meeting.

**99. Standing Committees**

The Minutes of the Councils Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012 had been circulated in the Agenda.

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012 be noted.

**100. To Receive Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies**

Councillor J Lewis advised the Council that the next Meeting of the Midsomer Norton Community Association would be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

Councillor S Plumley notified the Council that the next Twinning Exchange visit to Ambarès et Lagrave would be from Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2013 to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2013 when 30 years of Twinning would be celebrated.

Councillor Plumley also informed the Council that Bordeaux currently operated a tramway network and that each car was named after a twinning town. Councillor Plumley advised that there could be a possibility of a car being named after Midsomer Norton.

Councillor S Wellington reported that an Architect had been instructed to produce drawings for the construction of an Amenity Block on the Recreation Ground at West Clewes. The block would include public toilets, a store for equipment, utility space for market stalls along with hand washing facilities and an event/ticket gate house.



Councillor S Plumley advised the Council that the Midsomer Norton Recreation Ground Trust signs had now been installed.

**101. Policy adoption of the Recommendations Arising from the Midsomer Norton Retail Core Feasibility Study**

Members of the Council received the recommendations arising from the Midsomer Norton Retail Core Feasibility Study carried out by Strategic Planning Advice Ltd in association with Lundson Mitchenall and FSP Architects & Planners.

- Resolved:**
- a) That the Midsomer Norton Retail Core Feasibility Study be received.
  - b) That on the recommendation of the Midsomer Norton Economic Development Partnership the Council adopt the report's findings as summarised in the Executive Summary.
  - c) That the Executive Summary be used as a basis for communication with residents.

**102. Town Park: Commitment to the Project**

Members of the Council received a report in respect of the Council's, in principle, commitment to the delivery of a Town Park as per the Core Strategy and to work with Bath & North East Somerset Council to develop an implementation plan to deliver the project.

- Resolved:**
- a) That the Council agrees in principle its commitment to the delivery of a Town Park, as per the Core Strategy and work with Bath & North East Somerset Council to develop an implementation plan to deliver the project.

**103. Provision of Additional Pedestrian Crossings**

Members of the Council received a report on pursuing the provision of additional pedestrian crossings.

The Council noted the desire for crossings at, Silver Street, South Road (between the Car Park and the High Street), outside Welton Primary School in Radstock Road and St John's School in Redfield Road.

- Resolved:**
- a) That representatives of the Council meet with Officers of Bath & North East Somerset Council to discuss their policy with regard to the provision of crossings.



- b) That the Council identify with Bath & North East Somerset Council:
- (i) Priorities
  - (ii) Likely time scales and,
  - (iii) The costs involved and to report back at the next Council Meeting on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012.

**104. Formalisation of the River Somer Management Team under this Council**

Members of the Council received a report regarding proposals to formalise the River Somer Management Team with an option for the Management Team to become 'Friends of the River Somer' under a 'friends of a park' agreement.

- Resolved:**
- a) That the Council clarifies with Bath & North East Somerset Council what its obligations would be if it signed the 'Friends of the River Somer Agreement'.
  - b) That a report be presented to Council with a recommendation for the best way forward, including an estimated annual budget and possible arrangements with a group of volunteers under the River Somer Management Team name.

**105. Temporary Staff Resource for Community Development**

Members of the Council received a report proposing the provision of a temporary staff resource to progress the Council's community development programme.

- Resolved:** That the Town Clerk source the staff resource in conjunction with Councillor M Evans, Councillor Myers, Councillor S Plumley and Council L Robertson (Midsomer Norton Community Trust).

**106. Process Improvement – "What Happened Form"**

Members of the Council received a report proposing the adoption of a "What Happened Form" to form part of the Council's aim to continue to improve processes.

- Resolved:** That the 'What Happened' Form be adopted as a no-blame process improvement tool for use by the Council.

**107. Improving the Public Realm – Trees**

Members of the Council received a report in respect of necessary works to improve trees in locations throughout the town.

The Council noted the locations of the trees in the High Street, St Chads Wells and St John's Church Yard.

It was reported that the one dead tree in the High Street would be replaced by a London Plane, due to its tolerance to salt which is spread repeatedly through the winter months.



- Resolved:**
- a) That the Council maintain ongoing discussions with Bath & North East Somerset Council on the health and/or possible replanting of the High Street trees.
  - b) That the Council fund the following subject to the agreement of Midsomer Norton School Partnership:
    - (i) The removal of a sycamore tree in the Well garden which is currently growing out of the river wall;
    - (ii) Coppicing of a chestnut tree by the bridge;
    - (iii) The removal of the Wellingtonia tree stump which is being used illegally as a barbeque and represents a health and safety hazard;
    - (v) The pruning of the lower branches of the trees bounding Somer Valley FM.
  - c) That the Council:
    - (i) Support a long term management plan for trees in St John's Church Yard;
    - (ii) Fund the removal of the conifer at a cost of £740.00.

Councillor J Lewis requested that the Conifer Tree in the Church Yard be checked for historic significance.

Councillor S Wellington left the Meeting at 7.50pm.

#### **108. Promoting Civic Pride – Welton Project**

Councillor M Evans introduced this item referring Members of the Council to the report received requesting consideration be given to the following proposals to complete two elements of the project to improve the public realm in Welton:

(i) The provision of 2 new benches one to be sited on Millards Hill and one on the green space at Welton.

- Resolved:**
- a) That the style of new benches be:
    - (i) Cavendish Seat sited on the green space at Welton;
    - (ii) Hawthorn Seat sited on Millards Hill;
  - b) That the Town Clerk source the best value supplier.

Councillor J Slade requested that both seats are strongly fixed into concrete to avoid removal.

(ii) The renovation of the Bus Shelter on Station Road.

**Resolved:** That the Council agreed the renovation of the Bus Shelter on Station Road to a budget as stated in the proposal



#### **109. Purchase of Event Road Closure Signs**

Members of the Council received a report requesting the consideration of a proposal to invest in the purchase of event road closure signs for use in the community.

- Resolved:**
- a) That the Council invest in the purchase of event road closure signs for use by the Community.
  - b) That the Town Clerk source a supplier on the Internet or locally for the best price and the signs be purchased to a budget not exceeding the target price.
  - c) That a booking system be implemented to protect the Council's investment.

#### **110. Councillor Expenses**

Members of the Council received a note on the procedure to reimburse Councillors for the cost of printing items circulated electronically.

The proposal set out in the Agenda was as follows:

*'That Councillors let the Clerk know which of the alternatives they want and those wanting supplies detail the necessary ink cartridges required'.*

Councillors put forward that they preferred the alternative of requesting the Office to print out specific documents and post them.

- Resolved:** That Councillors request copies of papers/documents from the Office as and when required.

#### **111. Provision of a Remembrance Day Wreath**

Members of the Council were asked to approve the following motion in respect of the purchase of a Remembrance Day Wreath.

*'That the Council accordance with its powers under section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure: the purchase of a Remembrance Day Wreath'.*

- Resolved:** That the Council approved the motion as worded to purchase a Remembrance Day Wreath.

#### **112. Distribution of Midsomer Norton Life**

Members of the Council received a report on the continuation of the distribution policy to issues 5 & 6 of Midsomer Norton Life.

- Resolved:** a) That the Council agree to the continuation of the distribution



Policy for issues 5 & 6.

- b) That a checking method be introduced to ensure delivery to all Midsomer Norton properties and be presented to the December meeting for the spring issue

113. In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is likely that the press and public will be excluded during consideration of this item (Item 97 above refers) – **Commercial in Confidence**

- Resolved:**
- a) That the Council agree to work on a plan with and for B&NES to secure a town park as outlined in the draft Core Strategy
  - b) That the Council agree a budget of £1,000.00 to fund the commissioning of a consultant designer to produce an outline plan for the project detailing the basic boundaries and landscape.

**Meeting finished at 9.05pm**

**Signed:** ..... *P. Williams* .....

**Dated:** ..... *3 - 12 - 2012* .....