



MIDSOMER NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in the Beauchamp Room at the Town Hall, Midsomer Norton on Monday 9th July 2012 Commencing at 7.00pm

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

Also Present: 3 members of the public and 1 member of the press

In Attendance: Michael Curry – Town Clerk

29. Fire Safety – Evacuation Procedure

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

30. Apologies for Absence and to consider the reasons given.

Councillors P Moccock being on holiday.

Resolved: To accept the apology with the reason given

31. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor, Cllr Myers thanked on behalf of the Council all those involved in putting on the Midsomer Norton Fayre Day and hosting the Annual Civic Service. He also reiterated thanks to all the individuals and groups recognised during the service for their sterling work in the community.

He would like to express on behalf of the Council its concern at the recent incident involving the lorry in Radstock, wish those involved well, and highlighted the community spirit shown in the way in which everyone rallied round to support them.

He thanked Welton Rovers for hosting the wonderful Cajun Dance evening, which over 120 people attended. He also congratulated the Sarah Ann Trust on the appearance of the Town Hall after its redecoration.

He was pleased to report that recent meetings of the Forum and Midsomer Norton Economic Development Partnership Meetings showed that they were both progressing well.

32. Declarations of Interest.

Cllrs Dunford and Myers declared personal interests in item 36a as officers of Sarah Ann Trust



33. 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 43 be treated as confidential and dealt with after the Public (including the Press) had been excluded.

34. Minutes of the Midsomer Norton Town Council Meeting – Monday 11th June 2012

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 11th June 2012 be signed and adopted as a correct record.

35. Standing Committees

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

a) Planning Committee Meeting – Monday 18th June 2012 (Pages).

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 18th June 2012 be noted.

36. Community Properties

a) The Town Hall

Cllr Myers explained the purpose of the survey – to have a record of the state of the building at this time which will not only indicate where things need to be done, but also as a historical record should need arise to prove to B&NES the existing state of any feature in the building.

The summary of the report - circulated to Councillors – has the key findings covering the general state of the building, which was generally good considering the building's age, and things that need doing. Overall whilst there are certain features such as the slope of the main hall floor there is no indication that this and other conditions are worsening.

The Council welcomed the thoroughness of the survey and proposed on the basis of the survey to enter into negotiations with B&NES on a 125 year lease.

Resolved: To get costs for the remedial work identified in the report and to initiate, through the proposed draft letter subject to the agreed amendment, negotiations with B&NES with the aim of securing a viable long lease on the Town Hall for the community.

b) St Chad's Well

St Chad's Well is seen as a neglected site of historic importance close to the town centre with the potential to provide an attractive open space for residents without significant outlay. Funds for capital work would be sourced from grants, whilst maintenance would be an item of revenue expenditure. On this basis an approach



was made to the School's governors for a lease with the intention of acquiring the area for the community in the future.

Proposed Heads of Terms for the lease have been received. Concern was expressed at the possible implications of a full repairing lease; the short break clause; and the lack of reference to the intention to acquire.

Resolved: To present, following advice, the desired amendments to the Heads of Terms to the School Partnership, negotiate and bring the outcome back to Council.

c) Holy Ghost Catholic Church

Downside Abbey approached the Council to lease the garden area behind the Holy Ghost Catholic Church to make it a green space for the whole community. Provisional Heads of Terms for the lease have been agreed.

The Council agreed to the provisional Heads of Terms subject to reassurances on rights of access and clarity on possible implications of historic building consent e.g. when providing disabled access.

Resolved: a) To progress the Heads of Terms subject to reassurances on rights of access and clarity on possible implications of historic building consent.
b) That the Clerk obtain costs for grass cutting at both St Chad's Well and the Church garden.

d) Charities

Costs have been obtained from specialist lawyers to establish the proposed two-tiered charity structure to provide the necessary governance for the acquired community buildings. This can be covered by the dedicated budget and from the budget for general legal costs.

Cllr Lewis reported that whilst it had been agreed that the Somer Centre would not be participating in this initial round of work to secure the future of the town's community buildings, the Somer Centre trustees had not precluded future co-operation. Cllr Lewis and the Clerk will meet with the trustees to keep them fully informed.

Resolved: a) To progress the establishment of the charities associated with community buildings.
b) That those charities be called 'Midsomer Norton Town Trust' for the over-arching charity responsible for the properties and 'Midsomer Norton Community Trust' for the community enterprise responsible for the day-to-day management.

37. Improving the Public Realm

a) Waste Bins

8 bins have been purchase and 6 have now been installed in locations reflecting the findings of the Anti-social behaviour survey:

- 4 on the cycle way (each end and either side of the pit path)
- 1 at the end of Rackvernal Road
- 1 outside Martin's



These will all be emptied by B&NES. Finalising the location of the balance is dependent on suitable arrangements being put in place to empty bins not accessible to B&NES refuse vehicles. B&NES are sourcing a suitable larger bin to accommodate pizza boxes.

b) Signage

Gateway Signs – design to be approved on Wednesday with the intention for them to be installed by the end of July.

General signs – designs and wording approved; with the contractor for production and installation.

Industrial estate – investigating the possibilities of facilitating a self-funding, single composite sign to replace the existing unsightly jumble individual signs.

38. Council Priorities 2012/13

The Council considered a composite paper from its working parties on the project programme and its management. The paper covered the list of projects currently underway and proposed, the necessary allocations from the tier 3 budget, a procedure to prioritise and monitor staff resources, and the process to scope and introduce new projects.

Resolved: To accept the recommendation of the paper:

- a) To accept the project programme with the Finance Working Party's recommendation for financing the programme ,
- b) Approve the financial monitoring proposal,
- c) Approved the objectives and review process for the management of Officer resources,
- d) Adopt the checklist approach for project scoping and proposals

39. West Clewes Thursday Market

Cllr Myers outlined the proposal for a six month trial where the two existing stall holders will run the Thursday Market held at West Clewes Recreation Ground with the aim to extend the market to ten stalls.

Resolved: To conduct the six month trial to develop the West Clewes Thursday Market

40. Arts Development Match Funding Offer

Following Council Resolution 27 made at the meeting of 11th June 2012 to match fund the B&NES grant subject to there being a suitable programme, a proposal from Take Art was discussed.

Consideration was given to the suitability of the programme, the cost of tickets, selling tickets, physically staging and managing the productions/events, stimulating local arts, value for money, and feedback from B&NES.

Resolved: To reject the proposal in favour of developing a programme, finalised by a panel of Councillors, with local theatre groups/performers that satisfies the conditions of the B&NES grant. Within the allocation provision will be made for the marketing and staging of the event.



41. Community Resilience

Each principal local authority is responsible for contributing to resilience within their area. This is part of a national structure aimed at increasing UK Resilience - headed by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat in the Cabinet Office. B&NES have approached the Council to plan local participation in the plans.

Resolved: To hold a workshop facilitated by Richard Look Business Continuity & Emergency Planning Officer, Bath & North East Somerset Council at the end of September followed by an exercise in the last quarter of the financial year

42. Donations to St John Ambulance

St John Ambulance provided first aid support for the Jubilee Celebrations and the Medieval Fayre.

Resolved: To donate to St John Ambulance £50 for each recent event they attended.

43. Resolved – that in view of the confidential nature of the business transacted, the press and public were excluded during consideration of this item – Commercial in Confidence.

Resolved: a) To accept the amendments to the Clerk's Contract of Employment proposed by Ellis Whittam
b) Defer the other matters for further consideration

Meeting finished at 9:10 pm

Signed: *F. S. Myers*

Dated: *6th August 2012*