

MIDSOMER NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall,  
Midsomer Norton on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012  
Commencing at 7.00pm

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

**Also Present:** One Member of the Press

**In Attendance:** Michael Curry – Town Clerk

**146. Fire Safety – Evacuation Procedure**

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

**147. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr B Lawrence gave his apologies due to illness.

**Resolved:** To accept the apologies with the reasons given.

**148. Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor, Councillor P Myers thanked the members of the public who supported the litter pick held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January. The numbers attending exceeded 50 and 63 bags of rubbish were collected. The Mayor also thanked B&NES for the provision of equipment and collecting the rubbish sacks; and Cllrs M. Evans and L. Dunford for organising the event.

The Mayor reported the Community Group meeting on 6th January was well attended with positive feedback on the proposals for the diary of events (Steering committees are being formed amongst interested groups) and also on initiatives previously taken.

The Christmas Social (14<sup>th</sup> December 2011) went well – again with positive feedback including letters of thanks. Well done to all those who helped organise especially Carole Sims.

**149. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor L Dunford declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 153 as Treasurer of the Sarah Ann Trust.



Councillor P Myers declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 153 as Secretary of the Sarah Ann Trust

**150. 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 158 be treated as confidential and dealt with after the Public (including the Press) had been excluded.

**151. Minutes of Midsomer Norton Town Council Meeting – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Midsomer Norton Town Council Meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011 be signed and adopted as a correct record.

**152 Standing Committees**

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

a) Planning Committee Meeting – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011 be noted.

**153. Accounts for Payment**

19:12 Cllrs P. Myers and L. Dunford left the meeting. Cllr S. Plumley took the Chair

Members were asked to review and approve a schedule of Accounts for Payment. It was noted that one payment has been challenged and a revised sum awaited.

**Resolved:** That the Schedule of Accounts for Payment is approved and cheque signatories would be Councillors S. Plumley and R. Robertson

19:14 Cllrs P. Myers and L. Dunford rejoined the meeting. Cllr P. Myers resumed the Chair

**154 Allotment Rules**

To adopt the rules for allotment holders recommended by the Allotment Working Party. The rules were put together having studied those used locally, including B&NES, and the National Allotment Association and the resulting draft was then finalized at the allotment holders meeting.

The rules were approved subject to a correction to paragraph 6k.

**Resolved:** That the rules for allotment holders recommended by the Allotment Working Party be adopted by the Council.



**155 Community Events 2012**

Following the meeting of community organisations held on the 6th January 2012 the Council considered:

- a) A programme of proposed community events for 2012
- b) Plans for the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee
- c) A memento for school children in Midsomer Norton (3,051 pupils in all primary and secondary schools)

The proposed diary of events was approved. The lack of a spring and autumn event was noted – it arising due to the lead time required to stage such events – and efforts will be made to plug these gaps in the following year.

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations will be at West Clewes with the Council providing marquees totalling 39m x 12m. One steering group (principally churches) will be organising the afternoon children's event and another (principally sports clubs) steering group will organise a family event for the evening. The children's Olympics will be held at several venues and every effort is being made to make the games as inclusive as possible.

A further Community Groups meeting will be held in February, chaired by the Town Council. Notes of the meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> January will be circulated to Councillors.

In discussions of a suitable memento of the Jubilee the suggestion of a year book received favour. A possible alternative for younger children should be considered. The idea (and the events) should be progressed, but in so doing schools should be consulted on the suitability of the proposal.

B&NES funding for any of the above should be sought

**Resolved:**

- To adopt the programme of events
- To adopt the broad outline for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations subject to a detailed plan
- For the Clerk to prepare a proposal on the production of a year book and any suggestions for a possible alternative for the younger children

**156 Litter Pick**

The outcome of the Litter Pick held on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan was reviewed. The support and the community spirit displayed were praised. The Litter Pick showed the amount and quality of equipment required to stage further Picks and also to support Litter Heroes.

It was agreed to purchase the following: 30 litter pickers; 4 eight foot litter picks for river use; 30 Hi-Vis Jackets; plus any appropriate ancillary equipment. The need for child-friendly equipment and equipment that was durable/repairable was noted.

The Litter Pick also identified where there was a shortage of litter bins and dog bins.



**Resolved:**

- That the Clerk with Cllrs M. Evans & L. Dunford to purchase the necessary equipment
- That the Operations Working Party consider the provision of additional litter bins and dog bins and recommend to the Council accordingly

**157 Trees in the High Street**

The Council was asked to consider a programme to manage the possible replacement of the (dead) trees in the High Street because of the 10 trees in the High Street 2 were replaced last year; 4 are dead; and the condition of the remaining 4 is suspect.

The dead trees will be sawn down for safety reasons when officially pronounced dead. The health of the remaining four trees monitored throughout the summer. The aim would be to replace all the trees together in the autumn should the need arise. Plane trees have been recommended because they are more tolerant to the conditions in the High Street.

**Resolved:**

- That the Council will be guided by the expert advice
- That the Operations Working Party consider the cost of providing replacement trees and report to the Council

**158 In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public were excluded during consideration of this item (Item 150 above refers) – Commercial in Confidence**

**Resolved:**

- The Horticultural Services contract be awarded to Flowers by Nicola
- The Town Caretaker contract be retendered with the title be changed to 'Town Warden' . That copies of the tender specification to be re-circulated to Members
- To note the securing of a marquee for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee from Archers Marquees

**Meeting finished at 8:25 pm**

**Signed:**

.....  


**Dated:**

.....  
6-2-2012