

MIDSOMER NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber at The Town Hall, Midsomer Norton on Monday 5th September 2011 Commencing at 7.00pm

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

Also Present: Reverend Christopher Chiplin
1 Member of the Public and 1 Member of the Press

In Attendance: Michael Curry (Town Clerk)
Mrs Carole Sims (Administrative Assistant)

83. Fire Safety – Evacuation Procedure

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

84. Apologies for Absence

There were no Apologies for Absence received.

85. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor, Councillor P Myers on behalf of the Council expressed deep concern at the loss of local jobs following the announcement of the relocation of Welton Bibby & Baron to Westbury, Wiltshire. The paper bag company had been unable to find a larger site within the Midsomer Norton area which would have enabled them to continue their expansion. A meeting had been requested with Bath & North East Somerset Council, to which Midsomer Norton Bath & North East Somerset Council Councillors will be invited. Bath & North East Somerset Council Officers have also been invited to the next Midsomer Norton Town Council Meeting – having been unable to attend this meeting.

The Mayor advised Members on the strong feelings being received from residents about the new road layout on the junction of Silver Street and Charlton Road and requested that this be discussed at the next meeting of the Council on Monday 3rd October 2011.

The Mayor thanked Ambares et Lagrave for the hospitality shown to him and all visitors on the recent twinning visit. The French presented a basket of food to the Council which will be used at a future community function.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Simon Wellington for designing and printing the Community Advertisement posters. The Mayor reported that the response to the Community Group Survey had proved positive.

The Mayor notified the Council of an invitation open to all Members which had been received from Somer Valley FM. The Council would have the opportunity to view the facilities and operations of the station.

The Mayor advised Members that he would be attending a 'Songs of Praise' at Midsomer Norton Methodist Church at 10.30am on Sunday 9th October 2011. Also the same day in the afternoon an invitation had been received for the Bath & North East Somerset Council Annual Civic Service.

The Mayor informed the Council that an invitation had been received from Rupert Crosbee, Area Manager, Sustrans to attend the opening of the Five Arches Greenway on 24th September 2011 at 1.00pm.

86. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs L Dunford declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item Number 91 (a) as Treasurer of the Sarah Ann Trust.

Councillor P Myers declared a personal interest in Agenda Item Number 93 as he had recently taken part in the Ambares et Lagraves twinning visit; a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item Number 92 as Director of the Chamber of Commerce; and a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item Number 91 (a) as Secretary of the Sarah Ann Trust.

Councillor S Plumley personal interest in Agenda Item Number 93 as Vice President of the Norton Radstock Twinning Association.

87. 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 95 be treated as confidential and dealt with after the Public (including the Press) had been excluded.

88. Minutes of Midsomer Norton Town Council Meeting – Monday 1st August 2011

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Midsomer Norton Town Council Meeting held on Monday 1st August 2011 be signed and adopted as a correct record.

89. Standing Committees

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

Resolved: That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 15th August be noted.

90. **Allotment Working Party Update**

Members received an update from Cllr R Robertson the Chair of the Allotment Working Party on the progress of the Working Party.

- Resolved:**
- a) That the annual rent be increased from £13.00 to £20.00;
 - b) That the Working Party continue investigating potential sites, including the possibility of purchasing;
 - c) That a letter be sent inviting all allotment holders to a meeting on Monday 10th October 2011 at the Town Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

The Mayor, Councillor P Myers wished the Council's congratulations and thanks be recorded on the Gold Award presented to allotment holders John Paget and David Paisey during Bath in Bloom.

91. **Accounts for Payment**

- a) Members were asked to review and approve a schedule of Accounts for Payment.
- b) Members were asked to note the intended change in financial controls and cheque reporting to be introduced at the next Council Meeting (3rd October 2011).

Councillor Mrs L Dunford and Councillor P Myers withdrew from the meeting at 7.34pm.

Councillor B Lawrence took the chair.

- Resolved:**
- a) That the Schedule of Accounts for Payment be approved and cheque signatories would be Councillor B Lawrence and Councillor J Slade.

Councillor Mrs L Dunford and Councillor P Myers rejoined the meeting at 7.35pm.

Councillor P Myers resumed the chair.

Councillors requested that the Town Clerk write to Withy King Solicitors expressing the Council's thanks and appreciation on the prompt conclusion to the West Clewes Lease.

- Resolved:**
- b) That the intended change in financial controls be deferred to the Finance Working Party and that a report of their findings be submitted to the next meeting of the Full Council on Monday 3rd October 2011.

92. **Midsomer Norton High Street Christmas Lights**

Members received a report in respect of the arrangements for the Christmas Lights.

Councillor P Myers, having given the Council an outline of the intended Christmas Lantern Fayre, withdrew from the meeting at 7.58pm.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs L Dunford took the chair.

- Resolved:**
- a) That the display be extended to the three street lights adapted last year at the Stones Cross end of the High Street;
 - b) That three further street lights opposite Mallards in the High Street be adapted and included in the display;
 - c) That a further adapted street light at the end of the High Street by St John's Church be incorporated in the display;
 - d) That the Council award a grant of £3,000 to the Midsomer Norton & Radstock Chamber of Commerce for the Christmas Event to ensure the appropriate safety measures are in place.

Councillor P Myers rejoined the meeting at 8.10pm.

Councillor P Myers resumed the chair.

93. Twinning

Following a report from Cllrs Myers and Plumley Members reviewed the Council's relationship with the Norton Radstock Twinning Association following the re-organisation. The Council agreed that it was appropriate for the current arrangement of a single Norton-Radstock Twinning Association to remain whilst the new Councils determined their relationship with Ambares et Lagrave.

- Resolved:**
- a) That Midsomer Norton sign a new Twinning Agreement with Ambares et Lagrave with a simple ceremony to mark the occasion at the earliest possible date prior to next years twinning visit;
 - b) That Radstock Town Council and Westfield Parish Council be encouraged to sign their own separate agreements maintaining relations with the French.

94. Towns-4-Towns Exchange Fund Visit by Churchdown Parish Council to the Skate Park

Members considered a report in respect of the above Exchange Fund.

- Resolved:**
- a) That the Council agree to the request from Churchdown Parish Council;
 - b) That two representatives are nominated to support the visit once a date has been set.

95. 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.

At 8.27pm the members of the public and press departed from the meeting.
Councillor P Myers updated the members on matters commercial-in-confidence and staff-in-confidence

- Resolved:**
- a) That Ignyte be appointed to produce the Council Newsletter;
 - b) That IAC be appointed as the Council's Internal Auditor;
 - c) That the provision of ground services for the coming financial year be reviewed.

Meeting finished at 9:14 pm

A signed copy of the minutes can be viewed at the Town Council Offices

Signed:

Dated: