

MIDSOMER NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber at The Town Hall, Midsomer Norton on Monday 1st August 2011 Commencing at 7.00pm

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

Also Present: Rev'd Christopher Chiplin
2 members of the public

In Attendance: Michael Curry Town Clerk

66. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Lawrence who was away on holiday.

Resolved: To accept the apologies with the reasons given.

67. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor, Councillor P Myers thanked all those involved with the Town's recent 'In Bloom' judging day including B&NES staff and the volunteers.

The Mayor, with Councillors S Plumley and R Robertson, attended the opening of Bath Bakery. He noted that Bath Bakery taking-over the site saved the majority of jobs of those employed previously at the site.

The Mayor commented on concerns being raised by business groups on the impact of the expansion of Tesco on the High Street. He suggested that such a development was of economic importance to the Town and should be considered by the Council in addition to the Planning Committee.

68. Declarations of Interest

Councillor P Moccock declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item Number 73 (d) as he is known to the applicant.

Councillor Mrs L Dunford declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item Number 78 (b) as Treasurer of the Sarah Ann Trust.

Councillor P Myers declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item Number 78 (b) as Secretary of the Sarah Ann Trust. He also declared a personal

interest in Agenda Item Number 73 (e) as the Midsomer Norton Society, of which he was a member, had lobbied in connection with this development.

Councillor Mr R Robertson declared a personal interest in Agenda Items Number 73 (a) & (b) as a tenant of the Duchy of Cornwall.

- 69. 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 82 be treated as confidential and dealt with after the Public (including the Press) has been excluded.

- 70. Minutes of Midsomer Norton Town Council Meeting – Monday 18th July 2011**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Midsomer Norton Town Council Meeting held on Monday 18th July 2011 be signed as a correct record subject to a manuscript amendment to Minute Number 55 replacing “De facto” with “Ex Officio”

- 71. Accounts for Payment**

Members were asked to review and approve a schedule of Accounts for Payment.

Resolved: That the Schedule of Accounts for Payment is approved and cheque signatories would be Councillors Mrs L Dunford and J Slade

- 72. Schedule of Council Meetings**

A revised schedule of Council and Committee meetings was considered by the Council following the creation of the Planning Committee (Agenda Item Number 54 18th July Council Meeting).

Resolved: To adopt the new schedule as proposed

- 73. Planning Applications for Consideration**

Members considered a schedule of applications for planning consent that had been submitted for consultation by the Local Planning Authority.

Resolved: That the Local Planning Authority be advised of the recommendations of the Council as follows:-

- a. 11/02872/LBA (2011/12/028) Duchy of Cornwall, Manor Farm, Millards Hill, Welton, MSN
Renewal of application 08/01810/LBA (Internal and external alterations to convert from agricultural use to office/workshop use)

Recommended Approval

- b. 11/02871/REN (2011/12/029) Duchy of Cornwall, Manor Farm, Millards Hill, Welton, MSN
Renewal of application 08/01809 (Change of use from agricultural use to office/workshop use)

Recommended Approval

- c. 11/002830/FUL (2011/12/030) Land between 15 and 17 Valley Walk, Welton, MSN
Erection of 5 1 bedroom apartments, shared communal facilities and 'sleep over room' on land adjacent to number 15 Valley Walk, MSN

Recommended Refusal on the following grounds:

- a) Traffic and Highway Safety – through increased on-street parking as a consequence of the development and loss of car parking spaces within the development

Councillor P Moccock withdrew from the meeting at 7.45 pm and took no part in the next item of business.

- d. 11/03042/FUL (2011/12/031) Mr Rob James, 17 Berkeley Avenue, MSN, BA3 2EF
Erection of two storey side and rear extensions (Revised proposal)

Recommended Approval

Councillor P Moccock rejoined the meeting at 7.46 pm.

- e. 11/02876/VAR (2011/12/032) Guinness Hermitage, Demolished 52 High Street, MSN BA3 2DL
Variation of condition 7 of application 09/04488/FUL (Erection of 23 affordable dwellings and demolition of existing residential property)

Recommended Approval

- f. 11/03124/FUL (2011/12/033) The Orchard Vale Trust, St Chads Lane, MSN
Erection of 2 single storey extensions and entrance door and internal alterations following demolition of existing conservatory

Recommended Approval

74. Planning Decisions

Members received a schedule of decisions made recently by the Local Planning Authority.

Resolved: To note the Planning Decisions as contained in the schedule.

75. Works to Trees

Notification was received of proposed works to trees in the Conservation Area:-

- 2 Ivy Walk, Midsomer Norton BA3 2EE

Recommended Approval

76. Notice of Motion

A Notice of Motion from Cllr Michael Evans received on 20th July 2011, "That the Council consider developing a litter improvement scheme".

Resolved: To accept the motion and defer the development of the scheme to the Operations Working Party

77. Centre for Sustainable Energy

The Council considered the circulated presentation on becoming a Renewable Energy Action Area from the Centre for Sustainable Energy (fulfilling the resolution arising from Agenda Item Number 45 of the 20th June 2011 Council meeting).

Resolved: To show support for the Renewable Energy Action Area and to assist the Centre for Sustainable Energy hold a public consultation event in Midsomer Norton; both aspects subject to there being no financial obligation

78. Procurement of Audio System

a) To facilitate meetings the Council was asked to approve an investigation of the purchase of a (conference) audio system by Council staff.

Resolved: Cllr J Slade to assist the Town Clerk research and develop a specification of an audio system for use at Council meetings

Having briefed the Council on the offer by the Sarah-Ann Trust Councillors P Myers and Mrs L Dunford withdrew from the meeting at 8.12 pm and took no part in the next item of business. Councillor S Plumley took the chair.

b) Consider an offer by the Sarah-Ann Trust of a joint purchase of an audio system for use in the Town Hall.

Resolved: Whilst welcoming the offer, consideration of the offer would not be taken further until the outcome of the research above (Agenda Item Number 78 (b)) was known

Councillors P Myers and Mrs L Dunford rejoined the meeting at 8.15 pm. Councillor P Myers resumed the Chair.

79. The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

The members received a report from the Town Clerk on the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. The Council accepted the recommendations included in the report

Resolved: To pursue participating in the Challenge, asking the Town Clerk in conjunction with Councillor S Wellington to identify possible sites for nomination

80. Planning Celebrations to mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee

The Council considered mechanisms by which to develop and oversee a programme of celebrations to mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. The importance of engaging with as many clubs and societies within Midsomer Norton as possible was agreed.

Resolved: To task the Operations Working Group to compile a database of clubs and societies within Midsomer Norton. A budget of £300 was allocated for the task (within the Town Clerk’s delegation following recommendations from the Operations Working Group).

81. Reports from Representative

Representatives to Outside Bodies and Organisations were asked if they had any reports to submit. No written submissions were received.

Councillor P Myers gave a verbal report of the meeting of the Somer Valley Partnership held on Wednesday 27th July 2011.

Resolved: No written reports received

82. 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 8:25 pm 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: To note:
a) The progress with regard to the West Clewes Recreation Ground
b) Matters raised in relation to staffing

Meeting finished at 9:06 pm

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

Signed:

Dated: