



Midsomer Norton Town Council

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Mayor: Cllr Paul Myers BEM

Town Clerk: Clive Stilwell MILCM

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in the Beauchamp Room
at the Town Hall, Midsomer Norton on Monday 5th February 2018
Commencing at 7.00pm**

Present: Town Mayor: Cllr P Myers

Also Present: Cllr G Davis, Cllr G Mackay, Cllr A Slade, Cllr M Evans, Cllr S Plumley, Cllr M Rich, Cllr B Lawrence, Cllr L Robertson, Cllr R Robertson.

In Attendance: Clive Stilwell – Town Clerk

4 Members of the Public and Press

Fire Safety – Evacuation Procedure / Recording Protocol

The Officer present explained the fire evacuation procedure and the Town Council's recording protocol.

162	<p><u>Apologies for Absence and to consider the reasons given</u></p> <p>Cllr A Purchase sent her apologies due to illness.</p> <p>Resolved: To accept the apologies for the reasons given.</p>
163	<p><u>Mayor's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Mayor informed Members that an agreement had been signed for Business West to create a 400 desk Business Centre at the Somer Valley Enterprise Park.</p> <p>The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had attended the Norton Radstock Swimming Club awards evening and presented trophies.</p> <p>An archaeology initiative was being run by B&NES Council with the Midsomer Norton Society this year which was to be launched on 8th February. An excavation day was planned for July.</p> <p>The Mayor had attended a Tourism meeting.</p> <p>The Community Trust, Off the Record and the WPA had run a consultation event in Gullock Tynning regarding anti-social behaviour and youth hubs. A meeting had also been held with the Street Pastors to explore the feasibility of after school Pastors.</p> <p>The developers for the new school site in Silver Street had organised a well-attended consultation event in the Town Hall.</p>

<p>164</p>	<p><u>Clerk's Report</u></p> <p>The War Memorial had been listed at Grade II. This listing action had taken effect on 5th February. The work the Council had been planning would now have to take the listing in to account although it appeared unlikely that there would be significant cost increases. Quotes had been requested for the survey work on the Memorial and an initial visit had indicated that there was indeed some structural work that would be required.</p> <p>The second meeting of the Town Park client project team took place on 30th January which included a site meeting. Work was continuing on the draft Masterplan and it would be reviewed at the next meeting on 22nd February.</p> <p>The Selection Panel had completed its work to recruit a new Clerk and an offer letter and draft contract had been sent to the successful applicant. The Clerk had formally given his notice and would leave at the end of March, hopefully after a handover.</p> <p>The conference table covers had been received and Members expressed their approval as they were being used at the meeting.</p> <p>Comments had been submitted on the W of E Joint Spatial Plan and the B&NES Council Local Plan.</p> <p>An advertisement had been placed for the Grounds vacancy. Work was in hand with the OWP to finalise the task list.</p> <p>The Town Council had not been drawn out of the hat with ALCA for the Queens Garden Party so there was no need to nominate anyone.</p>
<p>165</p>	<p><u>Declarations of Interest.</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest and the Clerk confirmed that there was a blanket dispensation for Members to discuss and agree the Precept level for 2018-19.</p>
<p>166</p>	<p><u>Exclusion of the Press and Public</u></p> <p>To agree any items to be dealt with after the Public (including the Press) has been excluded under Standing Order 28.1.</p> <p>Resolved: That the Public (including the Press) to be excluded under Standing Order 28.1 for Item 178, Street Marshal Contract, due to commercial sensitivity.</p>
<p>167</p>	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes of the Meeting of the Midsomer Norton Town Council held on Monday 8th January 2018 had been circulated in the Agenda.</p>

	<p>Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Midsomer Norton Town Council held on Monday 8th January 2018 be signed and adopted as a correct record. The Mayor subsequently signed the minutes.</p>
168	<p><u>Accounts for Payment – December 2017</u></p> <p>Members reviewed the ‘Schedule(s) of Accounts for Payment’ for December 2017 and authorise the payments.</p> <p>Resolved: That the ‘Schedule(s) of Accounts for Payment’ for December 2017 be approved.</p>
169	<p><u>Working Parties</u></p> <p>a. Finance Working Party – Members received a verbal account of the meeting of the Finance Working Party held on Tuesday 16th January 2018 from Cllr B Lawrence.</p> <p>b. Operations Working Party – Members received a verbal account of the meeting of the Operations Working Party held on Tuesday 16th January 2018 from Councillor Paul Myers.</p> <p>Resolved: That the verbal reports from the working parties be noted.</p>
170	<p><u>To Receive Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies</u></p> <p>Members received verbal reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies.</p> <p>Resolved: That the verbal reports from Outside Bodies be noted.</p>
171	<p><u>Midsomer Norton High Street Regeneration</u></p> <p>The Mayor updated Members on progress with various initiatives.</p> <p>Resolved: To note the update from Cllr P Myers on Regeneration.</p>
172	<p><u>Mendip Local Plan Part II: Sites and Policies</u></p> <p>Members received the recommendations which had been compiled by the Members of the Planning Committee. Whilst it was agreed that the Town Council did not need to raise any objections given the position stated in the policies regarding the suitability of sites near Midsomer Norton, it was also agreed that the Town Council should make some form of response to ensure that it would be consulted again in the future.</p> <p>It was also agreed that letters should be drafted by Cllrs Evans and Myers to be sent to Mendip District Council and to B&NES Council expressing the Town Council’s concerns over a survey that had been issued under Mendip District Council’s name.</p>

	<p>Resolved: That the Clerk respond to Mendip District Council on the Local Plan and that letters be drafted to both Mendip and B&NES Councils regarding the survey.</p>
173	<p><u>Midsomer Norton Town Council Budget 2018-19</u></p> <p>Members received proposals from the Finance Working Party for the 2018-19 Budget.</p> <p>Members discussed the impact of the reduced support grant and the need to make provision for work expected to be required in the Town Park. It was also suggested that a Council Strategy might be developed which could be used to plan forward expenditure and to inform future Budget and Precept discussions.</p> <p>Resolved: That the Council approves a budget of £360,936 (£359,286 net) for the Municipal Year 2018-19.</p>
174	<p><u>Midsomer Norton Town Council Precept 2018-19</u></p> <p>Members received a recommendation for the Precept for 2018-19 from the Finance Working Party.</p> <p>Members discussed the merits of raising the Precept to cover the reduction in the support grant and additional costs associated with land including the new post. Given the level of reserves and the detailed work on the budget, Members debated the merit of three options for the Precept for 2018-19.</p> <p>Resolved: That the Town Council should set the Band D Precept at £91.79 for 2018-19 producing a net income of £352,703 that, together with the Local Council Tax Support of £6,400, would produce total income of £359,103.</p> <p>At 8.45pm, Cllr Myers invited Members to agree to a resolution that the meeting extend beyond 9.00pm to enable business on the agenda to be completed.</p> <p>Resolved: That the meeting should be extended to complete the business on the Agenda.</p>
175	<p><u>Midsomer Norton Town Council Precept Leaflet 2018-19</u></p> <p>Members were requested to approve the final version for publication the Precept Leaflet for 2018-19.</p> <p>A number of minor changes were discussed and the Clerk was requested to produce a final draft and circulate for comment before submitting it to B&NES Council for publishing on the web site.</p> <p>Resolved: That the Council approves the draft Precept leaflet subject to some minor changes.</p>

176	<p><u>Asset Transfer</u></p> <p>Members received an update on progress towards the Asset Transfer from the Project Group.</p> <p>Resolved: To note the update on Asset Transfers.</p>
177	<p><u>Consultation on Contracts for Support Bus Contracts</u></p> <p>Members considered suggestions for comments on the Consultation on Contracts for Support Bus Contracts.</p> <p>Resolved: That Cllr Mackay should draft a response and share this with Members and that the Clerk should forward the agreed response by 9th February.</p>
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178	<p><u>Award of the Street Marshall Contract</u></p> <p>Members reviewed tenders for the award of the Street Marshal Contract from 4th April 2018.</p> <p>Resolved: That the contract for Street Marshal services be awarded to RS Security following some amendments regarding monitoring performance and reporting.</p>

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm

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

Signed:

(Mayor)

Dated: