



Midsomer Norton Town Council

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Mayor: Cllr Paul Myers BEM Town Clerk: Donna Ford PSLCC

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in the Beauchamp Room
at the Town Hall, Midsomer Norton on Monday 4th February 2019
Commencing at 7.00pm**

Present: Town Mayor: Councillor P Myers
Councillors: Councillor M Evans
Councillor B Lawrence
Councillor G Mackay
Councillor S Plumley
Councillor A Purchase
Councillor M Rich
Councillor L Robertson
Councillor R Robertson
Councillor A Slade (Deputy Mayor)

Also Present: 7 members of the public

In Attendance: Donna Ford – Town Clerk

Fire Safety – Evacuation Procedure / Recording Protocol

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

76.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence and to consider the reasons given</u></p> <p>Councillor G Davis – Prior Engagement</p> <p>Resolved: To accept the apologies and reasons given.</p>
77.	<p><u>Mayor's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Mayor gave a verbal report and covered the below points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thanks to the Clerk and Operations team for pushing forward the projects which are now coming into fruition.• Vehicle Activation signs and maintenance to be dealt with by the Operations Committee.
78.	<p><u>Clerk's Report</u></p> <p>Town Park Clearance is now well under way along with the remedial works at the Town Park with a noticeable difference in the appearance already achieved. Prior to Christmas an application to B&NES was submitted for the removal of some trees that had been identified following a site visit with New Leaf,</p>

Councillors Myers, Plumley the Town Warden and myself. This application has now been approved and a contractor has been instructed to facilitate the work required before the bird nesting season. New Leaf is working hard on preparing the spec to go out to tender which is scheduled for March to enable a contractor to be appointed in line with the spending regulations for the 106 money.

Wayfinding

The project is nearing its final stages, the order has been placed and the contractors have tested the areas for the finger posts and an alteration has been agreed for the design of the post to facilitate the locations proposed. Following news from B&NES regarding appointing new contractors the project is still awaiting an installation date, hopefully this will be confirmed soon.

Deputy Clerk

The advert was advertised for a second time and closed on the 18th January, 4 candidates will be interviewed on Thursday 31st January.

Vehicle Activation Sign

Following complaints received from members of the public, Councillor Rich has been investigating the issues of speeding within Midsomer Norton specifically related with the High Street.

The Operations committee commissioned Councillor Rich to ascertain means of researching the speed and being able to monitor the issues and the suitability for having a movable speed sign. B&NES will allocate an officer to ensure the locations are acceptable with highways, this service will be provided free of charge. The signs will be able to provide a data base system that will record the speeds, the evidence will be collated to form a pattern of speeds and will then be used as evidence if needed for any formal speed enforcement projects for the future.

Proposed locations:

- High Street
- Chilcompton Road
- West Road
- Northmead Road
- Radstock Road

Both Finance and Operations have now agreed to purchase the unit and bluetooth system, provide training for the Town Warden for the battery recharge system and downloading of data, the proposed locations will be submitted to B&NES for consideration and suitability.

West Clewes Play Area

The order has now been placed for the new equipment at West Clewes Play Park, I am currently awaiting an installation date but this is likely to be some time during March.

	<p>CCTV Following some recent incidents of vandalism at West Clewes Councillor Plumley and myself have met with Apollo to discuss the current arrangements we have for CCTV. We are looking at upgrading the current system to cover a wider area and include the children's play area for when the new equipment is installed. The quotation will be presented at a future West Clewes Recreational Trust meeting.</p> <p>Christmas Social The event went well, was well attended and positive feedback was received from attendees. We had a few last minute cancellations on tickets through illness which we were unable to reallocate due to the late notice.</p> <p>Following a review of the Christmas Social and transport issues the Operations Committee are considering running the social in the afternoon instead for 2019. A meeting will take place later in the year to finalise plans including the option of Age UK running the event with support of the Town Council.</p> <p>New to 2019 – Children's Christmas Party I am currently looking at organising a Children's Christmas Party in conjunction with WPA, a budget has been set aside for the event of £2,000 and I have provisionally booked the Somer Centre for Sunday 8th December between 2 – 6pm. I will be meeting with WPA in the near future to ascertain a plan and approach for the event, further details will follow.</p> <p>Resolved: To note the report.</p>
79.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest.</u></p> <p>None Received.</p>
80.	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Midsomer Norton Town Council held on Tuesday 6th November 2018 be signed and adopted as a correct record. The Mayor subsequently signed the minutes.</p>
81.	<p><u>To Receive Reports from Councillors on Standing Committees</u></p> <p>Planning Committee Finance Committee Operations Committee</p> <p>Resolved: To note the reports.</p>
82.	<p><u>To Receive Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies</u></p> <p>Resolved: To note the reports.</p>
83.	<p><u>Budget & Precept 2019-2020</u></p>

	<p>Members received a proposal from the Finance Committee for the 2019-2020 Budget and Precept.</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the budget proposal of £400,517.00 for 2019/20. • To increase the Council Tax by 2.9% to £94.45pa and precept £367,467.00 for 2019/20 • To grant £25,000.00 from reserves for the Town Trust support for 2019/20. <p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote of thanks to Councillor Lawrence, the Clerk and Admin/Finance officer for the work carried out on the budget. • Press Release to be prepared and issued.
84.	<p><u>Midsomer Norton Town Council Precept Leaflet 2019-2020</u></p> <p>Members considered the 2019-2020 Precept Leaflet.</p> <p>Resolved: Following some suggested grammatical changes to adopt the precept leaflet for 2019/20 and publish accordingly.</p>
85.	<p><u>Midsomer Norton Town Council – Internal Audit Report 2018-2019</u></p> <p>Members received the Interim Internal Audit Report for 2018-2019.</p> <p>Resolved: To note the report.</p> <p>Noted: Thanks to the Clerk and Admin/Finance Officer for an excellent Internal Audit and the hard work ensuring that the process are carried out to a high standard.</p>
86.	<p><u>Committee Meeting Dates and Calendar of Civic Events for 2019-2020</u></p> <p>Members received proposals for dates of meetings and a Calendar of Civic Events for the Municipal Year 2019-2020.</p> <p>Resolved: To adopt the Calendar of Events and publish accordingly.</p>
87.	<p><u>Spring Litter Pick</u></p> <p>Members considered changing the date of the Spring Litter Pick.</p> <p>Resolved: To change the date of the Spring Litter Pick to the 14th April 2019 from 10am-12 Noon.</p> <p>Noted: To advertise on the Website and prepare a Press Release for the event.</p>
88.	<p><u>Midsomer Norton Cricket Club Outfield Festival 2019 – Commissioning Grant</u></p>

	<p>Members considered awarding the Midsomer Norton Cricket Club a Commissioning Grant to help fund an Outfield Festival.</p> <p>Resolved: To Grant £3,000 to Midsomer Norton Cricket Club to help fund an Outfield Festival.</p>
<p>89.</p>	<p><u>Town Park</u></p> <p>Members received a written progress report from new Leaf Studios.</p> <p>Resolved: To note the report.</p>
<p>90.</p>	<p><u>Asset Transfer</u></p> <p>Members received a report update from Councillors Myers and Plumley</p> <p>Resolved: To note the report.</p> <p>Members considered accepting the conveyancing quote prepared by Thatcher & Hallam.</p> <p>Resolved: To accept the Conveyancing Quote of £1896.40 prepared by Thatcher & Hallam.</p> <p>Members considered a report from the Town Clerk for Solicitor Costs.</p> <p>Resolved: To accept the estimate of solicitor's costs of £6,000 plus VAT from Thatcher and Hallam and delegate authority to the Clerk and Operations Committee to instruct and Liaise with Thatcher and Hallam.</p>

Meeting closed at 8.58 pm

Signed:
(Mayor)

Dated: