



# Midsomer Norton Town Council

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Mayor: Cllr Michael Evans 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 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020  
Commencing at 7.00pm**

**Present:**

Town Mayor:	Councillor M Evans
Deputy Mayor:	Councillor S Plumley
Councillors:	Councillor J Baker
	Councillor L Clement
	Councillor S Graham
	Councillor B Lawrence
	Councillor G Mackay
	Councillor M Moxham
	Councillor L Robertson
	Councillor R Robertson
	Councillor C Smith

**Also, Present:**

Town Clerk:	Donna Ford
Administrator:	Caroline Brown

**In Attendance:**

- Councillor Paul Myers
- Andy King (New Leaf Studios)
- Eight (8) Members of the Public

## **Fire Safety – Evacuation Procedure / Recording Protocol**

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

<b>84</b>	<b><u>Apologies for Absence and to consider the reasons given</u></b>  <b>Noted:</b> No absences to note at the Meeting.
<b>85</b>	<b><u>Mayor's Announcements</u></b>  The Mayor gave a verbal report covering the points below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Garden of Friendship Gate – the relevant cabinet member from BANES was very helpful at the Cabinet Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Cllr Steve Plumley and I are meeting him on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to progress matters.</li><li>• Ward Councillor Empowerment Fund – an award of £2000 per BANES Councillor to finance local worthy projects for the year 2020/21. With four Midsomer Norton BANES Councillors, that is a potential of £8000. The deadline for applications is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, with completion of the projects due by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.</li></ul>

86	<p><b><u>Clerk's Report</u></b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> That the Clerk's report be noted.</p>
87	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interest.</u></b></p> <p>There were no Declarations of Interest.</p>
88	<p><b><u>Exclusion of the Press and Public</u></b></p> <p>To agree any items to be dealt with after the Public (including the Press) has been excluded under Standing Order 28.1. There were no items that required the Public and Press to be excluded from the meeting.</p>
89	<p><b><u>Minutes</u></b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Midsomer Norton Town Council held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be signed and adopted as a correct record. The Mayor subsequently signed the minutes.</p>
90	<p><b><u>Town Park</u></b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Members noted the report from New Leaf regarding the Town Park and approved the scheme and package of work required.</p>
91	<p><b><u>Wellow Brook</u></b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Members noted the report from New Leaf regarding Wellow Brook and agreed that New Leaf would create a contract of works package based on the recommendation from the report.</p>
92	<p><b><u>To Receive Reports from Councillors on Standing Committees</u></b></p> <p>Planning Committee Finance and Operations Committee</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To note the reports.</p>
93	<p><b><u>To Receive Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies</u></b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To note the reports.</p>
94	<p><b><u>Budget 2020-2021</u></b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Members received a proposal from the Finance and Operations Committee for the 2020/2021 budget and accepted the proposed budget.</p>
95	<p><b><u>Precept 2020-2021</u></b></p>

	<p><b>Resolved:</b> To accept the 2.9% increase of 6 pence per week taking it to £97.19 per annum, or £1.87 per week.</p>
96	<p><b><u>Midsomer Norton Town Council Precept Leaflet 2020-2021</u></b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Following some suggested grammatical changes, to adopt the precept leaflet for 2020/2021 and publish accordingly.</p>
97	<p><b><u>Committee Meeting Dates and Calendar of Civic Events for 2020-2021</u></b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To note the meeting dates.</p>
98	<p><b><u>Climate Emergency</u></b></p> <p>i. Members were asked to consider the Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Action Plan prepared by the Clerk:</p> <p>Councillors resolved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To declare our commitment to raising environmental awareness in the Town and formulating a Climate and Biodiversity action plan for the Council.</li> <li>• To work in partnership with the local community and groups across the Somer Valley to inform and educate the general public about the steps individuals can take as well as the Council.</li> <li>• As a first step to launch an engagement strategy in partnership with the Midsomer Norton Climate Emergency Group in the local press and in the forthcoming issue of Midsomer Norton LIFE – detailing all the local groups and initiatives to support a community objective of becoming a sustainable local environment.</li> </ul> <p>Members noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recent and welcome creation of a Midsomer Norton Climate Emergency Group calling for the need for urgent action on the part of ordinary people working in partnership with the Town Council so that together we can achieve change rather than getting depressed or feeling guilty about the continued impact of human activity on the planet.</li> </ul> <p>ii. Members considered the Solution and Directory paper.</p> <p>Councillor Michael Evans to be the Council representative at the Midsomer Norton Climate Emergency Group.</p>
99	<p><b><u>VE Day</u></b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b></p>

	<p>i) Councillors Lynda Robertson, Richard Robertson and Chris Smith to form a working party to meet with Midsomer Norton Society, Community Trust and other community groups to join the working group for an event to be held in the Town Hall.</p> <p>ii) Approved a budget in the sum of £1000 for the VE Day celebrations.</p>
<b>100</b>	<p><b><u>Anti-Social Behaviour</u></b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To keep a log of complaints raised regarding anti-social behaviour at South Road car park, and to note the issues concerning lighting and the gate not being locked at the car park.</p>
<b>101</b>	<p><b><u>Councillor Email Addresses</u></b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To note the new email addresses and to chase Netitude regarding the remaining issues.</p>
<b>102</b>	<p><b><u>Almshouses</u></b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To note that the Council is unhappy with the situation regarding the Town's Almshouses, and officers to contact BANES to seek clarification on the status of the remaining Almshouses.</p>
<b>103</b>	<p><b><u>20mph Speed Limits</u></b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Members noted that the Town Council's request to consider consulting on changes to the speed limits on various roads around the town has been added to the BANES list for review.</p>
<b>104</b>	<p><b><u>Sponsorship Grant</u></b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To delegate authority to the Finance and Operations Committee to obtain further information regarding the application from Pride and resolve a decision.</p>
<b>105</b>	<p><b><u>Spring Litter Pick</u></b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To change the date to Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020 between 10am and 12 noon.</p>
	<p><b><u>CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS</u></b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> That in view of the confidentiality of the business remaining to be discussed, being staffing matters, the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting.</p>

**Meeting closed at 9.08pm**

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....