

Melksham Town Council

Minutes of the Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 2nd April 2024

PRESENT: Councillor S Rabey (Chair)
Councillor J Oatley (Vice-Chair)
Councillor P Aves
Councillor A Griffin
Councillor C Stokes
Councillor J Westbrook

IN ATTENDANCE:

OFFICERS: Andrew Meacham Committee Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: One member of the public was present. Councillor Ellis was present virtually to observe.

687/23 Public Participation

Sue Mortimer asked the following questions.

When is the signed section 3 of the External Auditor Report and Certificate for 2022/23 going to be on MTC website? As I understand it - It should have been published by 30th September 2023.

Did Wiltshire Council originally agree to pay 50% of the cost of demolition of the maintenance building?

The costs of demolition included:

23/11/23 £3,716.00 Asbestos removal

23/11/23 £29,795.00 Demolition of Shed

19/05/23 £369.00 Bat Survey (currently in climate costs)

12/07/23 £737.00 Bat Survey (currently in climate costs)

Total £34,617.00

Has an invoice been raised for Wiltshire Council?

Skateboard signage.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents recommend appropriate signage to assist with management of litigation. Clear and visible signage must indicate who can use the facilities, use of appropriate protective equipment and contact details of the facility owner. This was discussed months ago.

When are MTC going to put up signage at their skatepark?

The Local Government Act 1972 states at section150(5) “Every cheque or other order for the payment of money by a parish or community council shall be signed by two members of the council”
Why then is Unity bank set up for the online payments to require only the authority of one Councillor?

688/23 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Alford and Councillor Ellis.

689/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

690/23 Minutes

The minutes of 12 March 2024, having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by Councillor Rabey.

691/23 Planning Applications

692/23 PL/2024/01704

It was proposed by Councillor Aves, seconded by Councillor Oatley and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to support the application.

693/23 PL/2024/10673

It was proposed by Councillor Griffin, seconded by Councillor Stokes and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to support the application.

694/23 PL/2024/02123

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Griffin and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to support the application.

695/23 Planning Decisions

696/23 PL/2023/11135

The decision was noted.

697/23 PL/2024/00493

The decision was noted.

698/23 PL/2022/08155

The decision was noted.

699/23 PL/2024/01096

The decision was noted.

700/23 PL/2023/01949

The decision was noted.

701/23 Melksham Station Car Park Charges.

The item was noted.

702/23 Clackers Brook

The committee clerk advised that, as members probably knew, a land owner was generally responsible for water running through or at the edge of their property, up to halfway across the waterway.

An email from the Environment Agency stated that recent problems were due to abnormally high water levels in the Avon, into which Clackers Brook flows. It is this, rather than a blockage in Clackers Brook, that has caused Clackers Brook to back up.

The committee clerk advised members that the only way to map ownership of Clackers Brook would be to make land registry searches along its length.

Members asked about previous plans to make improvements to Clackers Brook, which were submitted under planning application PL/2022/02499. The committee clerk said he would look into this.

703/23 Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Aves gave an update. Information is still being collated. Workshops have been held and there is a Steering Group meeting on 3rd April.

704/23 Sparkle Team and Parish Steward

The committee clerk advised that the Sparkle Team had been disbanded but there should soon be an additional two-person team to assist the parish steward. Training is taking place and they should be available sometime in April.

Members raised the following: -

Alleyway from Union Street to KGV. Cut back, tidy and sweep.

The cut out at the entrance to KGV car-park. Remove leaves, debris and weeds.

Members discussed ways of engaging businesses in keeping the area around their premises clean.

Meeting Closed at: 7.35 pm

Signed:

Dated: 23 April 2024