

## **Melksham Town Council**

### **Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 8th October 2024**

#### **PRESENT:**

Councillor T Price (Town Mayor)  
Councillor S Rabey (Deputy Town Mayor)  
Councillor P Alford  
Councillor P Aves  
Councillor G Ellis  
Councillor A Griffin  
Councillor J Hubbard  
Councillor J Oatley  
Councillor A Westbrook  
Councillor J Westbrook

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Harris of Melksham Without Parish Council

<b>OFFICERS:</b>	Andrew Meacham	Committee Clerk
	Hayley Bell	Deputy Clerk

#### **105/24 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Stokes.

#### **106/24 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **107/24 Public Participation**

Councillor Harris of Melksham Without Parish Council urged members to ratify the Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan.

The Town Mayor Councillor Price introduced the new Deputy Clerk to members who had not met her at the meeting on Monday.

Councillor A Westbrook mentioned that Melksham had been awarded a Gold in South West in Bloom and members congratulated Melksham Bloomers. The Deputy Clerk suggested an official letter from the Mayor.

#### **108/24 Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillor Ellis spoke to the work done by the Steering Group and officers and commended the plan to members.

It was proposed by Councillor Hubbard, seconded by Councillor A Westbrook and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to approve for submission to Wiltshire Council at Regulation 15 the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan and suite of evidence pending any typo/grammar amendments; with delegated powers for the Chair of the Steering Group, Cllr David Pafford, Place Studio and the MWPC Clerk to approve the outstanding evidence documents to be finalised this week.

#### **109/24    Transfer of Reserves**

There was discussion on the request

Concerns about the effect on future years budget and precept were raised and discussed.

It was suggested that the funds should be ring-fenced rather than transferred so that budget discussions for 2025/26 will show an accurate overspend on 2024/25 budget.

Councillor Ellis wanted it recorded that he had misgivings but had trust in those who made the decision on staffing and would support the request.

It was pointed out that there were one off cost burdens to the staffing budget this year and that £100000 had been cut during 2024/25 budget discussions.

Some members expressed the view that if projects and events were to be actioned then council must provide the resources.

It was proposed by Councillor Hubbard, seconded by the Town Mayor Councillor Price and

**RESOLVED** to ring-fence the sum of £120000 from general reserves for additional staffing costs.

Meeting Closed at: 7.10 pm

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:**