

Melksham Town Council

Minutes of the Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 29th October 2024

PRESENT: Councillor S Rabey (Chair)
Councillor A Griffin (Vice-Chair)
Councillor P Alford
Councillor P Aves
Councillor G Cooke
Councillor G Ellis
Councillor J Oatley
Councillor C Stokes

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor A Westbrook was present virtually.

OFFICERS: Hayley Bell Deputy Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Three members of the public and one member of the press were present.

136/24 Apologies

There were no apologies, all members being present.

137/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

138/24 Public Participation

Mike Sankey, Wiltshire Councillor for Melksham East addressed the committee about various matters.

He had called for a weight limit on Snowberry Lane once the relief road was open and residents had asked him about setting up a Lorry Watch Scheme. A Town Council Officer would need to be appointed as co-ordinator.

Mark Harris advised that Melksham Without Parish Council Planning Committee voted to oppose application PL/2024/07310.

139/24 Minutes

The minutes of 8th October 2024, having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record.

140/24 Economic Development & Planning Budget

141/24 Budget 2024/25

The item was noted.

Councillor Griffin noted that CCTV was overspent and asked if there was any further expenditure expected on the CCTV project. The Deputy Clerk advised that as far as she was aware there was no more expenditure but the Clerk would be able to confirm this.

Councillor Alford asked about Town Floral Displays. He noted budget of £6000, committed expenditure of £5036 and funds available of £4797. The Chair asked if questions could be submitted ahead of the meeting to allow time for an answer to be researched. The Deputy Clerk gave some details and advised she would seek to clarify the Town Floral Displays.

142/24 Budget 2025/26

There was discussion and it was noted that CCTV should not be under this budget as it was a full council project. Only projects in the remit of Economic Development & Planning should be shown.

The Deputy Clerk advised that the RFO was working on the draft budget and suggested any comments be fed back to him direct via the Chair.

143/24 Planning Considerations

144/24 Planning Applications

145/24 PL/2024/01069

It was proposed and unanimously resolved to support the application.

146/24 PL/2024/08989

Councillor Rabey read out a statement from Councillor J Westbrook. Councillors felt that developers should be held to account for failure to comply with conditions. It was noted that there was disagreement over the proposed speed limit of the new road that may delay the road opening. It was accepted that this would be beyond the control of the developers.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Councillor Mike Sankey to speak. He advised the committee that if the condition was removed then the non-compliance and the lack of enforcement action by Wiltshire Council would no longer be in the public record.

It was proposed and resolved to object to the application and request that it be called in.

147/24 PL/2024/09235

It was proposed and unanimously resolved to support the application.

148/24 PL/2024/09278

It was proposed and unanimously resolved to support the application.

149/24 PL/2024/09282

It was proposed and unanimously resolved to support the application.

150/24 Planning Decisions

151/24 PL/2024/03366

The decision was noted.

152/24 PL/2024/07310

The decision was noted.

153/24 Train Services

Councillor Ellis spoke to the item. He also noted that Network Rail had recently published the Wiltshire Rail Strategy.

154/24 Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) Issues

154/24.1 Clackers Brook

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Oatley and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders.

Councillor Mike Sankey and a member of the public spoke to the item.

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Stokes and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to re-instate Standing Orders.

Member discussed the request. Issues were raised on frequency of flooding, usage of the pathway and appropriate action and materials given the flooding issues.

It was proposed by the Deputy Town Mayor Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Aves and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to contact Wiltshire Wildlife Trust with a view to getting a report on the condition of the bank and a plan of action.

Councillor Oatley advised that as Wiltshire Council for the area he would monitor the situation and take it forward with Wiltshire Council if required.

155/24 Parish Steward

The Deputy Mayor Councillor Rabey noted that she had seen a lot of evidence of the Parish Stewards work in recent weeks.

Councillor Aves asked for leaves on Lowbourne to be cleared.

Councillor Aves asked about the cut through to King Street Carpark and who was responsible for it. The Deputy Clerk said she would find out.

Standing Orders were suspended and a resident advised he had walked through that day and it had been cut back.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

156/24 Project Update

The Deputy Clerk gave some updates.

Avon War Memorial. Works completed. Barriers will be removed before Remembrance Sunday.

Town Centre CCTV. Signed off as completed. Policy will be coming back to Full Council.

Wiltshire Towns Programme Funding. Application submitted. Thanks to Miriam Zaccarelli for her work. Grant for coming year £50000 and £25000 in following year.

Real-Time Passenger Information at bus stops. In conversation with Melksham Without Parish Council Clerk to take this forward.

Meeting Closed at: 8.00 pm

Signed:

Dated: