

Melksham Town Council

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 18th January 2021

PRESENT: Councillor P Aves (Town Mayor)
Councillor G Mitcham (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor S Brown
Councillor V Fiorelli
Councillor J Hubbard
Councillor C Jeffries
Councillor M Pain
Councillor M Sankey
Councillor T Watts
Councillor T Welch
Councillor A Westbrook
Councillor R Wiltshire

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| OFFICERS: | Linda Roberts | Town Clerk |
| | David McKnight | Economic Development Manager |
| | Patsy Clover | Assistant to the Town Clerk |
| | Christine Hunter | Committee Clerk |
| | Mel Rolph | |
| | Miriam Zaccarelli | Community Development Officer |

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: 2 members of the public and 1 member of the press were present.

7/21 Public Participation

A member of the public asked that before the precept is set, Council considers keeping any increase to a minimum. Many people in Melksham have concerns about their future, been furloughed, and suffered loss of income with no guarantee what will happen in April. Others have been affected by loss of jobs, or may not be eligible for help. Utility bills are increasing and many businesses are struggling financially. There will probably be increase to the Police and Wiltshire Council precept, which add up and can make a big difference to those on fixed or lower incomes. People have put plans on hold and the member of the public asked the Council to put plans on hold.

The member of the public asked the Mayor how much the Council could have saved if the two staff members had not been suspended and what costs were incurred for temporary staff. The amount of money would have been additional for the Council which could save the Council considerable expense . The member of the public asked for a response to her question before the next Council meeting on 25 January 2021.

Councillor Aves stated a reply would be forwarded by the Town Clerk to the question prior to the next meeting on 25 January 2021.

8/21 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Illman and Iles.

9/21 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

10/21 Minutes

Amendment to the Minutes of 16 November 2020.

Councillor Hubbard requested removal of the word “vehement” Agenda item 125/20.

The minutes of 26 October 2020, 16 November 2020 and 21 December 2020, having previously been circulated, were agreed as a true record, subject to the above amendment, it was also agreed that the minutes would be signed by The Town Mayor, Councillor Aves at later date.

11/21 2021 2022 Budget

Councillor Aves advised that due to the sensitive nature of some of the budget options they would be heard in Agenda Item 15 in confidential session. The Town Mayor confirmed that agreement of the budget and precept setting would be heard in public session at the council meeting on 25th January 2021.

12/21 Town Mayor's Announcements

A minute's silence was held in memory of Mr Brian Warwick, an active member of the Melksham community.

The Town Clerk confirmed that MTC have been awarded the Small Apprentice Employer of the Year Award.

An update regarding the roll-out of the Covid 19 vaccination programme was provided by the Town Clerk and Councillor Hubbard.

13/21 Wiltshire & Dorset Fire Service

Councillor Hubbard explained that the removal of the Technical rescue Units from Trowbridge and Chippenham would mean an increase in response times to flooding and other issues from approximately twelve minutes to one and a half hours, as in future units would be deployed from the existing teams in Swindon and Salisbury. This would have a significant impact on major incidents. A petition and this will be advertised on the Council's Facebook page to raise awareness.

Councillor Sankey suggested Council's response should include the fact that over the last 12 months there have been deaths in the River Avon and the Kennet and Avon Canal. Councillor Fiorelli asked for clarification and justification for the decision being made.

Proposed by Councillor Hubbard and seconded by Councillor Aves and

RESOLVED: to request that the Town Clerk write to Wiltshire Council asking for clarification and justification for the decision being made, highlighting recent deaths and raising the Council's concerns.

14/21 Reports from Unitary Councillors

Members received an update from Councillor Hubbard confirming that Wiltshire Council have returned to full lock-down and are implementing the services required in view of this. Wiltshire Council are starting their scrutiny programme this week.

15/21 Accounts

It was Proposed Councillor Sankey, seconded by Councillor Brown and

RESOLVED: to defer the Accounts Item to the next Council meeting on 25 January 2021.

.1 Payments

.2 Monthly Financial Statement

.3 Detailed Income & Expenditure Report as at 31 December 2020

16/21 New Premises Licence Application

New Premises Licence Application:

Concerns were raised that the application related to a residential property and whether the storage of large quantities of alcohol for delivery to customers was appropriate such a setting.

It was proposed by Councillor Aves, seconded Councillor Fiorelli and

RESOLVED: to request that the Town Clerk responds to the application on behalf of the Town Council raising concerns that this application relates to an address in a residential area but leaving the final decision to Wiltshire Council.

17/21 Committee Minutes

.1 Economic Development and Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED to note the minutes of the Economic Development and Planning Committee meetings held on 17 November 2020 and 8 December 2020.

18/21 Markets Costing Report

Members were asked to consider the revised Markets Costing Report for the purchase of gazebos for an additional range of markets, and to approve the recommendations contained therein, noting that the resulting costs were already incorporated in the budget proposals for 2021/2022.

The proposal was greeted with enthusiasm as a boost to Melksham, as a market town. The number and types of markets to take place were discussed together with costings and anticipated occupancy rates. The creation of a Sinking Fund to support the purchase of replacement gazebos in the future was mentioned.

It was proposed by Councillor Fiorelli, seconded by Councillor Westbrook and

RESOLVED: to approve the request for £4,000 to purchase five unbranded market gazebos. Market stall fees will be charged at £15 per stall in year one, £20 per stall in year two and £25 per stall from year three.

.1 Community Development Committee

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

RESOLVED to note the draft minutes of the Community

Development Committee meeting held on 23 November 2020.

19/21 Chairs Committee

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

RESOLVED to note the draft minutes of the Chairs Committee meetings held on 17 November 2020 and 8 December 2020

.1 Asset Management Committee

It was agreed to defer the draft minutes of the Asset Management Committee meeting held on 14 December 2020 until the Full Council Agenda on 25 January 2021.

20/21 Sub Committee Minutes

.1 HR Sub-Committee

Members noted the draft minutes of the HR Sub-Committee meetings held on 18 November 2020 and 16 December 2020

.2 King George V Sub-Committee

Members noted the draft minutes of the King George V Sub-Committee meetings held on 14 October 2020 and 16 December 2020

21/21 Working Groups

22/21 CCTV Working Group

Amendment

Councillor Hubbard requested the wording of 'non-council officer' be replaced by 'elected member'.

Members received the draft notes of the CCTV Working Group meeting held on 7 December 2020, subject to the above amendment.

Peter Dunsford – Community Area Manager and an Area Board member be appointed to the Working Group. The terms of reference will reflect that the area board will reflect that the Area board will decide on their representation in the Working Group.

It was proposed by Councillor Westbrook, seconded by Councillor Fiorelli, and

RESOLVED: to approve the membership of the CCTV Working Group subject to the inclusion of the Community Area manager and a unitary councillor from the Area Board.

23/21 Confidential Session

It was proposed by Councillor Aves, seconded by Councillor Fiorelli and:

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: that in view of the confidential nature of the information to be discussed, concerning the budget for 2021/2022 and the implications thereof, that the press and public be instructed to withdraw.

24/21 Confidential Item

The advice received by Council was noted.

25/21 Confidential Item

.1 Confidential Item

Councillors reviewed the four budget calculation proposals.

It was proposed by Councillor Pain, seconded by Councillor Welch and

RESOLVED: to approve Option 4 in principle and recommend the presentation of Option 4 for adoption in public session, where questions can be received, at the Full Council meeting to be held on 25 January 2021, subject to any information or advice being received by the Town Clerk, who will amend the budget accordingly and distribute to Council.

26/21 Date and time of Next Meeting

25 January 2021 at 7.00 pm

Meeting Closed at: 9.20 pm

Signed:

Dated: