

## **Melksham Town Council**

### **Minutes of the Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 9th May 2022**

**PRESENT:** Councillor J Hubbard (Chair)  
Councillor P Aves  
Councillor S Crundell  
Councillor G Ellis  
Councillor C Goodhind  
Councillor S Mortimer  
Councillor J Oatley  
Councillor S Rabey

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor M Sankey - Wiltshire Councillor

<b>OFFICERS:</b>	Linda Roberts	Town Clerk
	Christine Hunter	Committee Clerk

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** One member of the press was present virtually.

#### **234/21 Apologies**

No apologies were received.

#### **235/21 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

#### **236/21 Minutes**

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the minutes of 25 April 2022 having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, the Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard.

#### **237/21 Priority for People**

Gerald Milward Oliver of Priority for People updated members on the work undertaken so far advising that with co-operation from stakeholders a plan for sustainable mobility could be achievable over the next fifteen years. Gerald confirmed that the EU blueprint for initiatives of this kind is a Sustainable Mobility Plan (SMP), which is a long term vision focusing on strategic objectives with high level co-ordination. A Melksham SMP

would be based on Melksham Town Council (MTC) providing strategic direction and leadership to create a safe and healthy environment for the Melksham community.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, questioned why the Priority for People initiative is separate from the Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan as the latter covered a wider area than Melksham town. He believed that there should be joint working with Melksham Without Parish Council (MWPC), as in future there may be changes to the boundaries between MTC and MPC. Gerald replied that he understood concerns about the overlap of work between the Priority for People and the Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan but believed that the two groups should move forward separately, whilst sharing information and working together. Gerald explained that MTC would lead the core group for Priority for People, and that MWPC would be asked to nominate a Deputy Chair with other local councils invited to become involved. Gerald asked for approval to commence discussions with MWPC and other parish councils within the community area.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, raised concerns that the Town Council had solely funded all the Priority for People work undertaken so far.

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to ask the Town Clerk to write to MWPC, briefing them on work undertaken to date, confirming the Town Council were now considering to move to the next stage of the project, and inviting MWPC to become partners in the Priority for People project, taking the project forward on the same financial basis as the Neighbourhood Plan: MTC contributing 70% of the costs and MWPC contributing 30%.

## **238/21 Neighbourhood Plan**

### **238/21.1 Verbal Update**

Councillor Rabey confirmed that the advertisement in the local press on 28 April 2022 requested nominations for protected green space sites, and that local landowners would be contacted for possible housing sites.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Housing Needs Assessment would be advertised in the Melksham Independent News this week to capture housing requirement information which would feed into the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure the right type of housing is built.

Councillor Rabey asked for more Councillor representatives for the Steering Task Groups. Additional membership of the Task Groups was agreed as follows:

Councillors Aves, Goodhind and Oatley      Town Task Group

The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, raised his concern that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Terms of Reference did not allow membership of a Councillor who was a representative on another body (i.e., Wiltshire Council), so automatically excluding three members of the Town Council.

Councillor Oatley confirmed that the terms of reference indicated this fact.

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to ask the Town Clerk to contact MWPC Clerk to clarify terms of reference for the Steering Group and suggest the terms are changed to allow members of the Steering Group to be Unitary councillors or members of other community groups.

#### **238/21.2 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Minutes**

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to note the draft Minutes of the Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting held on 27 April 2022.

#### **238/21.3 Expenditure**

The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, confirmed the Town Council's budget for 2022/2023 includes a budget for expenditure on the NHP and that the authority for payments is delegated to the Town Clerk.

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the current delegated authority to the Town Clerk to approve payments for the Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan up to £10,000, if re-affirmed. Thus, negating the needs for payments to be approved by council before being paid.

#### **239/21 Western Area Planning Committee Notification**

Councillor Sankey confirmed that having called-in the planning application, he would be speaking at the public meeting to be held on 18 May 2022. He explained that members would need to register their wish to speak before the meeting commenced.

Councillor Sankey raised his concern that the Town Council's objections would not be considered as he felt that Wiltshire Council were minded to support the application.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, explained that the original Pathfinder Way development plan had included a new school but that the planning application under consideration was to expand an over-subscribed school rather than build a new one. The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, confirmed that large numbers of children were travelling to schools further away which was against the Town Council's environmental policies.

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to ask the Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, to represent the Town Council and raise the following objections at the Western Area Planning Committee meeting:

- the Town Council's previous planning objections still stand.
- many of the children from the new housing development will be attending Forest and Sandridge school resulting in more cars than the Town Council had estimated in the original planning objection.
- there is the land, the willingness and the funding to build a school on the proposed new housing development which needs to be explored further.
- the use of green spaces to extend the school is against the Town Council's ethos to promote healthy living.
- the danger of accessibility to the school.
- pupils will have to cross three major roads to walk to Forest and Sandridge school from the proposed new housing development.

## **240/21 Planning Decisions**

Members noted the following planning decisions:

<a href="#">PL/2022/01600</a>	82 DUNCH LANE MELKSHAM SN12 8DX Proposed Alterations to Rear Single Storey Extension <b>Decision:</b> Approved with Conditions <b>MTC Response:</b> No objection.
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## **241/21 Community Area Transport Group (CATG) Replacement**

The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, confirmed that Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) had replaced the Community Area Transport Group (CATG).

### **241/21.1 Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) Issues**

Members considered the request for the introduction of a crossing opposite the King George V Park entrance. Discussion covered

widening the footpath, highways issues and the current Union Street crossing.

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** not to support the request for a crossing opposite King George V Park. The Town Clerk was asked to write to applicant confirming that the Council were unable to support the request as there was a crossing in place nearby and ask if the applicant had any other suggestions.

**242/21 Proposed Traffic Regulation Order for Consultation - Off Street Parking Orders 2022**

The proposed Traffic Regulations Order for consultation – Off Street Parking Orders 2022 was received.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, confirmed that the order related to the proposed increase in car parking charges and that a response would be required by 23 May 2022. The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, explained that the location and type of parking payment machines would need to be wheelchair friendly if charges were to be introduced for disabled parking bays.

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Town Council's response to the Traffic Regulation Order consultation would be as follows:

- to request the provision of parking meters suitable for use by disabled persons to be sited in the vicinity of the disabled car parking spaces in each of the car parks.
- to confirm that the Town Council regrets that new residents to the town will be unable to access a free resident's parking permit.
- to confirm that the Town Council's previous objections to the Order still stand.
- to ask for clarification of Paragraph 71 where it states that members of the public without authorisation by the Council cannot enter or drive through the car park unless they are using the car park. This would mean that a number of Melksham Residents are being blocked from accessing their car parking spaces through Central Car Park and King Street Car Park.

**243/21 Sparkle Team and Parish Steward**

Councillors Aves, Rabey, S Crundell and Mortimer asked for the following works to be added to the Sparkle Team and Parish Steward works schedule for:

- Lowbourne – remove dead leaves from pavements.

- Union Street – remove weeds in the gutter and clear nettles in the cut through from Union Street to the Park.
- Broughton Road, clear rubbish and overgrown weeds.
- Lowbourne and Union Street Car Parks – cut back hedges where they encroach on car parking spaces.
- Various roads around Melksham town – remove fly posters on the electrical equipment boxes.
- King George V Park – remove graffiti from the umbrella seating area.

Meeting Closed at: 8.50 pm

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:**