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Melksham Town Council

Town Hall, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 6ES
Tel: (01225) 704187

Town Clerk Tracey Predeth BA(Hons) MPA, FLSCC

To:

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

4th March 2025

The Town Council extend a warm invitation to the community of Melksham to the Annual Town Meeting to be held on **Monday 17th March 2025** commencing at 7.00 pm.

The Annual Town meeting is not a Town Council meeting. It is a meeting of the Town electors and must take place between 1 March and 1 June each year. Electors can contribute to the agenda and this meeting will celebrate local activities and debate current issues in the community.

Yours sincerely

Councillor T Price
Melksham Town Mayor



Melksham Town Council

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Town Clerk Mrs T Predeth BA(Hons), MPA, FSLCC

Melksham Town Council Annual Town Meeting

Monday 17 March 2025
At 7.00 pm at the Melksham Town Hall

AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve the Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 25th March 2024.

3. Report of the Town Mayor

To receive the report of the Town Mayor.

4. Reports from Chairs of Town Council Committees

To receive the reports of Chairs of committees.

- Asset Management and Amenities Committee
- Economic Development and Planning Committee
- Community Development Committee
- Finance, Administration and Performance Committee

5. Reports of Wiltshire Councillors

To receive the reports, if any, of councillors who are also Wiltshire Councillors

6. Policing in Melksham

A presentation from Sgt Rutter, Wiltshire Police.

7. Open Forum/Questions from Electors

Electors are invited to contribute to the meeting, celebrate local activities and debate current issues in the community. Electors are also invited to raise any issues they want

to bring to the attention of the Town Council for future consideration by the Town Council.

8. Grant recipients/Refreshments

A chance to enjoy some refreshments, have a chat and watch a video collage of projects supported by Melksham Town Council grants.

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Melksham Town Council

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting meeting held on Monday 25th March 2024

PRESENT:

Councillor S Crundell (Town Mayor)
Councillor T Price (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor P Aves
Councillor J Crundell
Councillor G Ellis
Councillor A Griffin
Councillor J Oatley
Councillor S Rabey
Councillor C Stokes
Councillor J Westbrook

IN ATTENDANCE:

OFFICERS:	Sarah Askew	Communications Officer
	Gloria Delves	Communications and Events Officer
	Andrew Meacham	Committee Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: No members of the public or press were present.

28/23 Welcome from the Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor S Crundell welcomed members of the public and press to the Annual Town Meeting and informed those present that this was an opportunity for the Town Council to report progress made over the last year, hear from organisations that have benefitted from grants this year and give members of the public an opportunity to ask questions to Councillors, local Police and organisations present.

29/23 Minutes

The Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 13 March 2023 were approved and signed by the Town Mayor, Councillor S Crundell.

30/23 Report of the Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor S Crundell took the opportunity to reflect on the past year and the achievements of the Town Council and the Officer Team.

He made specific mentions of the following

- The coronation of King Charles III and how, despite the weather, the community came together to celebrate and make the event something special.
- The Christmas Light Switch-on and thanked Paul Weymouth, the Christmas Lights Group, Councillors, Officers and other involved in a magical event.
- The work of the Amenities Team.
- The work to bring lighting to KGV. He thanked Craig for his work with the Council to bring a new facility to the park in the shape of Jack's Kitchen.
- The Melksham Joint Neighbourhood Plan and the work done by those involved.

Beyond these specific events the Mayor thanked all those councillors, officers, community groups and volunteers who work hard for the benefit of Melksham and to make every event throughout the year a success.

Looking ahead the Mayor mentioned the new CCTV to be installed in the town centre, refurbishment of playgrounds, installation of a BMX track, widening of the footpath opposite Texaco on Sandridge Road and the referendum on Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan 2.

31/23 Policing in Melksham

This item was advanced up the agenda. Sgt. Rutter spoke on Wiltshire Police Community Commitment which sets out Wiltshire Police priorities – safer public spaces, violence in the community & burglary – and how they will deal with them.

32/23 Reports of Wiltshire Councillors

Councillor Oatley spoke of the Health and Wellbeing Group, the Forest Community Centre and how the community had rallied round the community centre after the fire. He also expressed his appreciation to all residents.

33/23 Reports from Councillors/Chairs of Town Council Committees

Councillor Price as chair of Asset Management & Amenities.

It has been a challenging year but thanked everyone who has helped shape Melksham in the last year. He thanked Paul Weymouth and the Melksham News for their input with the lights in KGV, Colin Goodhind and Councillor Hubbard for their support of the café project and the Amenities Team for their hard work.

Councillor Rabey as Chair of Economic Development & Planning.

It has been a mixed year with some planning applications that it was easy to take a view on, and some that required more time, thought and discussion. On the whole, Wiltshire Council decisions have accorded with Melksham Town Council.

Councillor Rabey as Chair of Community Development.

There have been some fantastic initiatives in the past year, including the Coronation of King Charles III and the Christmas Lights Event. The committee is looking to bring new events to the town in the coming year.

Councillor Rabey as Chair of Finance, Administration and Performance.

Has only recently become chair. There have been challenges with grants but things should be clearer over the next twelve months.

There was a break for refreshments and a presentation from officers to the Town Mayor, Councillor S Crundell of a deerstalker hat.

34/23 Reports from Major Grant Recipients.

Councillor Westbrook gave a brief report on behalf of the chair of the Food & River Festival, Adrienne Westbrook.

35/23 Community Groups

The following community groups spoke.

British Cactus and Succulent Society – Wiltshire Branch.

Derek May. Short presentation and thanked MTC for the grant that allowed them to have their annual show at the Assembly Hall.

Cat Action Trust N & W Wilts.

Tracy McPhail. Explained how she became involved with the Trust. They currently have 6 foster families and two spares. 59 cats were rehomed last year and there are currently 4 on the website. Most of their funding comes from legacies and shop takings. Any assistance people can offer would be gratefully received.

Melksham Gardener's Society.

Barbara Cropp. Thanked MTC for the grant. Group has 96 members and meets at Rachel Fowler on the last Tuesday of the month. Non-members are welcome to attend the shows.

Melksham Lions.

Phil Gaskell. The group exists to help local community groups and charities. MTC grant was used to buy a new gazebo. The old one needed 6-8 people to put up. This year is the 50th anniversary and events are planned to celebrate.

Melksham Remembers and Melksham & District Historical Association.

Paul Carter. Showed copies of Around Melksham in Old Photographs, which has had a new print run and Melksham's War, which evolved from a WW1 centenary presentation. Copies are available to purchase in the Tourist Information Centre.

A copy of each book was presented to Melksham Town Council.

Wessex Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre.

Sarah Folker. Handed out some leaflets on the work of the group. Based in Warminster and cover Wiltshire and Dorset. Grant from MTC used to set up a singing group.

36/23 Open Forum/Questions from Electors

Paul Carter asked if there was a maintenance program for the lights in the KGV. The Amenities Team would monitor the lights as part of their normal rounds and replacement bulbs were relatively inexpensive.

Paul also asked whether it would be beneficial for a Mayor to serve a full four year period rather than changing after two. The Mayor, Councillor S Crundell pointed out that Melksham Town Council mayor is not an executive position. The Mayor is the civil head and the chair of full council meetings but is not the leader of the council. He also noted that Melksham had a relatively young council or working age and he felt it appropriate that the Mayor should stand down after two years. Councillor Ellis felt it important to empathise that councillors are all volunteers

There were no more matters raised and the Town Mayor Councillor S Crundell thanked all those present, reminded them that meeting agendas were published on the Melksham Town Council website and all were welcome to attend.

Meeting Closed at: 8.35 pm

Signed:

Dated: