

Melksham Town Council

Minutes of the Community Committee

At Melksham Town Hall on Tuesday 14 September 2026

PRESENT: Councillor J Westbrook Chair
 Councillor G Elson Vice Chair
 Councillor P Aves
 Councillor E Calland
 Councillor J Crossley
 Councillor T Price
 Councillor A Whitlock

IN ATTENDANCE Councillor A Westbrook

OFFICERS Ian Cunningham Community Officer
 Andrew Meacham Committee Clerk
 Dom Rutterford (virtually) Communications

PUBLIC members of the public or press were present, and one member of the public was present virtually.

21/26 Apologies

There were no apologies, all members being present.

22/26 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

23/26 Minutes

The minutes of 8 June 2026, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair Councillor J Westbrook.

24/26 Skatepark Statement (not agenda item)

The chair read out a statement about damage to the Skatepark.

25/26 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

25/26 KGV Income Summary

Views were expressed by individual councillors that the park must always remain open to residents and that events should be located away from the café area. It was noted that this would require power to be supplied to the bottom end of the park and members requested this be an item on the next Full Council agenda.

It was also noted that action may be needed on climate issues affecting how events in the KGV are run.

The item was noted.

26/26 Move Melksham

There was a general view that the working title needed to be changed. There was discussion of stakeholder's, how the event should proceed and whether Melksham Town Council should hold a facilitator role only.

It was proposed by Councillor J Westbrook, seconded by Councillor Elson and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to support the concept and hold an initial stakeholder forum, including councillors from the Community Committee and both traditional and non-traditional organisations, and then to bring the matter back to committee with a plan for the way forward.

27/26 Holiday Activities 2026

Councillor Whitlock reported that there was increased interest in the Canoe Club as a result of the events.

It was proposed by Councillor Whitlock, seconded by Councillor Elson and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to stop separate SEND screenings and advertise films as relaxed, air-conditioned screenings. Promotion of screenings by engagement with SEND schools and FAQ's on website.

Occasional captioned or audio described screenings were requested.

28/26 Park Yoga

Members discussed future funding.

The item was noted.

29/26 Friday Light Live

There was discussion on clashes and sponsorship. The general mood of the meeting was to retain control of the event and take a balanced approach to sponsorship. It was accepted that the report was to note and no decision was requested.

It was proposed by Councillor Elson, seconded by Councillor Calland and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to adopt Friday Light Live as a regular monthly summer event, held on the last Friday of each month from April to October, with funding from the existing Community Events budget, code 4920/190.

30/26 Remembrance 2026

The Community Officer gave the following updates that were not available at time of report.

- A band had been booked.
- Paul Martin would be attending as Deputy Lieutenant.

Members made the following requests:

- More promotion for the wreath laying at the Avon Memorial in Queen Mary Gardens.
- Mics for the band and possibly the Town Cryer.
- Clear communication on who would or would not be announced during wreath laying.

The Chair asked Councillors to please volunteer to help in the Assembly Hall if possible.

It was proposed by Councillor J Westbrook, seconded Councillor Elson and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to support shortening the Remembrance Sunday road closure to 12:15, from 10:30-12:15.

31/26 Sham Jam Festival.

Members discussed a clash of events, the issue of separate websites/Facebook pages for events and the main MTC website. Members asked for the audit of the website to come to Full Council.

32/26 Melksham at Christmas 2026

Members asked about fireworks and stakeholders. Members noted the experience of stakeholders and asked officers to be led by stakeholder advice.

Members asked that when meetings had been held they be given confirmation that everything was on track.

33/26 Age UK Wiltshire

The report was noted.

34/26 Bra Bank

The report was noted.

35/26 Wiltshire Digital Drive

The report was noted

36/26 Shipping Container

Members asked officers to be mindful of water ingress and correct storage procedures to avoid damp and mould.

Members asked about the security of the containers.

37/26 Updates from Previous Meeting

Members asked for Website Audit to come to next possible Full Council.

Members asked for Community Hub and Refreshments Vendor Strategy to come back to the next meeting with full plans for next steps.

38/26 Partnership Officer Report

Members discussed the format and content of report, the use of LinkedIn and toilet facilities.

The following were requested

- The Community Toilet Scheme details be updated to show that the toilet at BP Service Station was not 24 hour opening. It was in the Greggs/Subway building and available during opening hours.
- A report on the issues with Market Place toilets for Assets & Facilities.
- The events elements of the report should be incorporated into the Community Officers report and the business elements should go to the Planning Committee.
- More communication with councillors when issues arise that they may be asked about.

Meeting closed at: 21:20

Signed

Dated