

Minutes of Town Team Meeting

Town Hall

Monday 17th February 2020

Present: Sarah Wilde, John Sunderland, Campbell Ritchie, Gavin Grant, Gordon MacPherson, Ashton Scott, Lesley Wood, Bethan Rees, Tom Hocking, Richard Spencer-Williams.

1. Apologies:

Rob Snedden

2. To consider & approve minutes from meeting held on the 20th January 2020

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

3. Update on financial matters

The accounts and financial position of the Town Team were noted as in order and as planned.

4. Update on the Aldi s106 application

A letter has been sent to Cllr Tony Trotman, Chair of Wiltshire Council Northern Area Planning Committee requesting a meeting. No response has yet been received. Copies were also sent to WC Cllr J Thompson, Cllr R Budgen (St Paul Malmesbury Without), WC Cllr G Grant, and Alistair Cunningham. The TT agreed that it was unacceptable they had had to date had no meaningful response from Wiltshire Council (WC) on this matter; particularly as the response to the freedom of Information request (FOI) request does not evidence proper governance in respect of the administration of the due planning processes involved. It was agreed that this matter should now be followed up by lodging complaint with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).

Action SW and CR to log complaint with the ICO, and to alert WC to this action. Also agreed that SW, GM and CR may follow up any response received from WC concerning the previous email and

continue to take steps to get WC to engage in this matter. If appropriate, another action could be to attend WC's Full Council meeting on the 25th February, to raise a public question on this matter.

5. Update on general marketing activity, Great West Way initiative, overview for next three months marketing activity, Feedback from in Malmesbury Community Day on 8th Feb 2020, participation at St Aldhelms Day Market

LW reported on the matters as outlined in the Town Team Report dated 17.2.20.

- The Community day was positively useful in raising awareness about the Gift Card. It was suggested that gift card details be sent to BR and TH for inclusion in 'Forward Dyson'.
- Some local councils have been in touch seeking advice on developing similar initiatives as the gift card, and explore Malmesbury, and that a 'consultancy service' maybe should be considered if interest grows.
- The Market Town Forum Event on the 4th March at the Town Hall will be another opportunity to raise the profile of the work of the Town Team.
- LW asked for feedback on the reporting template and clarification what is required for reporting to Malmesbury Town Council (MTC). Action RSW to put matter on Policy and Resources Agenda for the next meeting on the 1.4.20.

6. Update on the Vibrant Malmesbury Projects

All: There has been an extension allowed until 20th April for the final grant claim.

a. Explore Malmesbury

- The current target is to soft launch Explore on 8th April. Activity is focused on completing system fixes and uploading material.
- The formal launch date is targeted as 13.5.20
- Significant progress is being made with look and feel and the likely visitor experience.

b. Malmesbury Gift card

The immediate priority is to implement additional marketing to achieve sales over Mother's Day and Easter. Lesley is attending a meeting with the scheme provider to consider new development opportunities.

c. Signage

LW is working on signs, with progress expected during March.

7. Market Update

Ash Scott gave an update the Friday market, which is back on the 21st February, weather permitting. Some regular stall holders are unhappy with current footfall; there is a continuing challenge to maintain stall holder interest given the size of Malmesbury, compared to large towns centres.

8. Malmesbury Against Plastics (MAP), Malmesbury Climate Action Network (MCAN)

MTC are supporting MCAN to run x14 more sessions at the Town Hall in support of the x7 working groups. MTC have also underwritten the cost of a showing, with free entry, of 'A life on Our Planet' by Movies @ Malmesbury. SW raised the issue of the need in Malmesbury for electric car charge points in the car parks.

9. To receive an update from Wiltshire Councillor Gavin Grant

Cllr Grant reported the matters of the Park Rad and Backbridge Farm planning applications were ongoing. The matter of CCTV in the Town had been raised at the Area Board, and with MTC; who are looking to engage with the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner to see what partnership work can be done.

10. To receive an update from Malmesbury Town Councillor Campbell Ritchie

Cllr Ritchie reported;

- MTC has written to WC to express its concern at the long time being taken to progress the Backbridge Farm application and the lack of information available at changes being made in response to Malmesbury Town Council concerns. In particular MTC is questioning if the proposed development takes sufficient account of the need to ensure future homes support the issues relating to the Climate Emergency given the time that has elapsed since the original plans were submitted and the new standards for housing being developed by the government.
- MTC had written to both the Government and Wiltshire Council expressing their concern at the potential precedent set by the Park Road planning application. A response has been received from central Government clarifying the definition of 'entry level housing and confirming its corresponds to MTC's view rather than that being put forward by the developer.
- The Community Day was very successful and saw over 70 groups taking part across 7 venues in the Town Centre and over 1,000 visitors. The aim is to run this as a bi-annual event.
- An outline agreement with Malmesbury Live Arts has been supported by MTC to deliver a programme of 10-12 arts events in the Town Hall over 20/21.
- MTC's Annual Town Meeting is planned for April. A short video may be produced by TH (Dyson).
- St Aldhelms Fair is planned for the 25th May.
- There are indications of a positive resolution on the matter of Waitrose Steps. Subject to final quotes, Waitrose have undertaken to repair and maintain the steps.

11. AOB

Rajah Restaurant

The matter of the Rajah Restaurant and if anything further could be done to encourage the owner to see it opened. GG to follow up.

Co-op

The need to highlight to the Co-Op the need for inward investment to ensure a complete offer re: Aldi development. SW to follow up.

Next meeting 7pm, 16th March 2020 at Malmesbury Town Hall