

**MINUTES OF THE MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT MELKSHAM TOWN HALL  
ON MONDAY 12 JANUARY 2009**

<b>Present:</b> Mr Simon Bridgford-Whittick	Louise Smith
Ms Sarah Cardy	Mrs Terri Welch
Mr Geoffrey Carr	Mrs Adrienne Westbrook
Mr Rod Eaton	Mr Simon White
Mr Mark Griffiths	Mrs Sheila Wilkinson
Mr Jon Hubbard	Mrs Pam Wiltshire
Mr Vic Oakman	Mr Richard Wiltshire (Chairman)
Mr Chris Petty	

**2009**

**1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Public Participation**

Mr Bruce Petty of St Michael's Road, Melksham attended the meeting to thank a Mr Griffin for his letter in the Melksham News calling for councillors to resign if ASDA did not get planning permission.

**4. Matters arising**

Councillors and The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council had always been in support of the Asda application subject to concerns in respect of highway matters and access. The Clerk explained that sometimes residents misunderstood which councillors served on which council.

The Clerk offered to meet up at any mutually agreeable time in the future with Mr Petty if ever he felt clarification of councillor's action needed further explanation.

**5. Urgent Business**

Councillor Vic Oakman informed the Town Council that along with the Town Clerk and Councillors Richard Wiltshire and Chris Petty he had met with a consultant regarding updating the CCTV system within the town. The consultant suggested that if at any time the

roads within the town were 'open' that consideration be given to laying new CCTV ducting at the same time.

It was noted that Wiltshire County Council had written regarding the road closure notice for Bank Street from 2 February 2009 for 6 weeks.

**RESOLVED:** It was asked if clarification could be sought on point c) ie Suspension of One Way Traffic Order – Union Street, Melksham; from its junction with Bank Street in an easterly direction to its junction with Lowbourne for its entire length.

It was also agreed to inform traders in Bank Street on the commencement date of road works once they are available.

**6. Questions. To receive any questions submitted by Councillors in accordance with Standing Order 21.**

No questions were received.

**7. Budget 2009/10: To consider a recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee held immediately prior to this meeting.**

Councillor Rod Eaton, seconded by Councillor Pam Wiltshire moved the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee (held earlier in the evening) i.e.

“That the precept requirement should be exactly the same as last year, in the sum of £325,070. The Band D equivalent figure was likely to be £66.49 (£66.64 last year) but could change slightly once the final number of properties is calculated by West Wiltshire District Council”. Additionally it is recommended that some further items of financial control are introduced as set out below

1. That the Finance Officer attends future meetings of the Assembly Hall Working Group and presents monthly income and expenditure statements to those meetings.
2. That minutes of the Assembly Hall Working Group are considered at Policy and Resources Committee rather than at Amenity Committee meetings.
3. Work is undertaken to bring the presentation of timesheets for the Town Caretaker and his Assistant to a similar format to those being used for office staff.

Councillor Cardy sought an amendment that an extra £10,000 be added to the precept requirement to assist towards obtaining additional resources to be spent on improving the economic viability of the Town. This was seconded by Councillor Jon Hubbard.

A recorded vote was requested:

**FOR THE AMENDMENT:** Councillors Sarah Cardy, Louise Smith, Jon Hubbard and Terri Welch

**AGAINST THE AMENDMENT:** Councillors Sheila Wilkinson, Rod Eaton, Pam Wiltshire, Richard Wiltshire, Simon Bridgford-Whittick, Geoffrey Carr, Mark Griffiths Simon White and Chris Petty.

**ABSTENTIONS:** Councillors Vic Oakman and Adrienne Westbrook.

Councillor Simon Bridgford-Whittick suggested it would be worthwhile having a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and Traders and any other interested parties to discuss if there is anything that can be done locally to improve matters during the current difficult economic climate.

It was noted that at the next Town Development meeting in March the group will be meeting officers from West Wiltshire District Council to discuss a town plan for Melksham.

A second amendment was proposed by Councillor Jon Hubbard and seconded by Councillor Adrienne Westbrook that the precept remain the same but that serious consideration be given to the appointment of an Economic Development Officer from any savings made within the budget throughout the year.

Following the suggestion by Councillor Bridgford-Whittick the mover and seconder agreed to add this to their amendment.

A recorded vote was requested.

**FOR THE ABOVE PROPOSAL:** Councillors Geoffrey Carr, Mark Griffiths, Simon White, Chris Petty, Terri Welch, Louise Smith, Jon Hubbard, Sarah Cardy, Adrienne Westbrook and Vic Oakman.

**AGAINST THE ABOVE PROPOSAL:** Sheila Wilkinson, Rod Eaton, Pam Wiltshire, Richard Wiltshire and Simon Bridgford-Whittick.

The successful amendment was then put to the vote as a **SUBSTANTIVE** motion and was carried unanimously.

For clarification the decision taken is set out below.

“That the precept requirement should be exactly the same as last year, in the sum of £325,070. The Band D equivalent figure was likely to be £66.49 (£66.64 last year) but could change slightly once the final number of properties is calculated by West Wiltshire District Council”. Additionally it is agreed that:

- a) The Finance Officer attends future meetings of the Assembly Hall Working Group and presents monthly income and expenditure statements to those meetings.
- b) That minutes of the Assembly Hall Working Group are considered at Policy and Resources Committee rather than at Amenity Committee meetings.
- c) Work is undertaken to bring the presentation of timesheets for the Town Caretaker and his Assistant to a similar format to those being used for office staff.
- d) That serious consideration be given to the appointment of an Economic Development Officer from any savings made within the budget throughout the year
- e) That a meeting be arranged with the Chamber of Commerce, Traders and any other interested parties to discuss if there is anything that can be done locally to improve matters during the current difficult economic climate.