

**MINUTES OF THE MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT MELKSHAM TOWN HALL  
ON MONDAY 20 APRIL 2009**

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

**2009**

**32. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mark Griffiths and Simon Bridgford-Whittick.

**33. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Simon White declared an interest in the Amenities Minutes of 23 March 2009.

Councillor Adrienne Westbrook declared an interest in the King Park Primary Planning Application (*it was noted after the meeting this item was on the Planning minutes of 14 April 2009 and were not included on this agenda for ratification*) and the correspondence from Wiltshire County Council re Health Services in Wiltshire – Pointing People in the Right Direction.

**34. Public Participation**

**(a) General and Planning Matters**

Paul Carter Jnr, a local taxi driver attended the meeting to voice his and other local taxi drivers' concerns at the decision taken at the Policy & Resources meeting on 6 April to recommend the provision of 6 car parking spaces in the Market Place for taxis as part of the new town centre improvement scheme with two further spaces (possibly 3) in Lowbourne.

Mr Carter explained he had spoken to the Hackney Carriage Officer at Wiltshire Council and other taxi drivers and they all have concerns for this option as this would not allow easy access for passengers or allow easy flow of taxis in and out of the bays suggested. He also expressed his concern that 6 bays is not enough, there are over 20 taxis currently in Melksham. He asked if the Town Council would reconsider their previous decision and invited councillors to visit the

Market Place during the day and evening to get a better oversight of taxi use within the town.

Mr Carter explained that following his contact with Wiltshire Council Licensing Department regarding his concerns he understood Clive Harland, Licensing Officer had also contacted the Town Clerk expressing his concerns.

**(b) Matters arising therefrom**

It was agreed to discuss this matter under item 37a.

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

No questions had been submitted by councillors.

**36. Minutes (to approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meetings listed below)**

**(a) Development Control – 16 February 2009**

These were moved by Councillor Vic Oakman and seconded by Councillor Louise Smith.

**(b) Full Council – 23 February 2009**

These were moved by Councillor Richard Wiltshire and seconded by Councillor Rod Eaton with the following amendment:

*To change the date of the minutes from 24 to 23 February 2009.*

**(c) Development Control – 2 March 2009**

These were moved by Councillor Sarah Cardy and seconded by Councillor Vic Oakman.

**(d) Town Development – 9 March 2009**

These were moved by Councillor Pam Wiltshire and seconded by Councillor Sheila Wilkinson.

**(e) Development Control – 16 March 2009**

These were moved by Councillor Sarah Cardy and seconded by Councillor Vic Oakman with the following amendment:

Item 42 on page 3 (last paragraph) to read ‘...there is concern that refuse lorries ...’ should be amended to read “**refuse**” lorries.

**(f) Amenities – 23 March 2009**

These were moved by Richard Wiltshire and seconded by Councillor Terri Welch.

**(g) Development Control- 30 March 2009**

These were moved by Councillor Sarah Cardy and seconded by Councillor Vic Oakman.

**(h) Policy and Resources – 6 April 2009**

These were moved by Councillor Rod Eaton and seconded by Councillor Pam Wiltshire

**37. Matters arising.**

**(a) Policy and Resources 6 April 2009. To consider the recommendation contained in minute no 39**

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that he had been contacted by Clive Harland, Wiltshire Council who expressed his concern at the proposed provision of taxis in the Market Place as part of the town centre improvement scheme.

**RESOLVED:** After discussion it was agreed to refer this matter back to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee. Also that an item be placed on the same agenda regarding the unloading bay in Church Street.

**(b) Any other matters arising**

***Town Council - 23 February 2009:***

***Item 28 ‘Supporting Employment and Trade in Melksham’***

It was asked if information had been found regarding Leekes original permission some 17 years ago to allow a town map to be erected in their store.

The Clerk informed the meeting that it has not been possible to locate this information.

***Town Development – 9 March 2009***

***Item 25 – Town Plan***

It was asked if any information had been received regarding this matter.

The Clerk reported that he had written as requested but that no reply had been received as yet.

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed the Town Clerk would follow this up.

### ***Policy & Resources – 6 April 2009***

#### **Item 46 – Lorry Park, King Street**

Councillor Pam Wiltshire asked if a letter could be sent to Environmental Health regarding the lorry drivers using this area as a toilet.

Councillor Richard Wiltshire asked if a temporary notice could be placed in the above lorry park asking users to have more respect for local residents.

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed to write a letter to Environmental Health and that an appropriate sign is purchased and displayed.

#### **38. Mayor's Announcements**

These were on the table for perusal. However the Mayor informed the meeting he had been to a 'Topping Out Ceremony' at the Oak Community School today, work is ahead of schedule and the school may open earlier than expected in 2010.

#### **39. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **40. Urgent Business**

The Mayor explained there had been an informal meeting today with Countrywide Stores at the Assembly Hall regarding their plans for their site. There will be an exhibition of their plans at their store on 25 April and shortly after the plans will be submitted to the Town Council when representatives from the store will be available to answer any questions.

The Town Clerk explained he had received the outcome of the public enquiry into the Village Green Application for the current George Ward school site which stated the inspectorate could not find any evidence to support the application for Village Green status.

It was asked if the Town Clerk would contact the Highways Department to have the weeds removed along the central reservation of the A350.

#### **41. CCTV**

The Town Clerk had produced a report (**please see attached**) following a recent meeting of the CCTV working group when consideration was given to the report submitted by a CCTV consultant – Derek Maltby.

The report explained that the Working Group would like more input from Derek and that the cost of him attending a further meeting would be £350 which can be met from £2620 still set aside in the budget.

The report also asked that the Council agrees to meet the £350 costs and delegates the spending of the remainder of the budget (£2270) to the working group in order to avoid the need to report back further on such items of expenditure.

**RESOLVED:** The Town Council agreed to support the recommendation.

#### **42. Request from Councillor Pam Wiltshire for 1 hour free parking in all Town Centre car parks**

Councillor Pam Wiltshire asked if the Town Council would support an application to Wiltshire Council to have one hour free parking in all paying car parks in the town.

During discussion of this councillors felt that the letter should contain the following points

- That such a scheme would help alleviate current traffic issues by removing the concentration of free car parking from Church Street Car Park.
- That it would help to alleviate the problems currently being experienced in the Manor School/Ruskin Avenue where use of the nearby Lowbourne Car Park by parents could be encouraged.
- That this would help traders in the current economic climate.

**RESOLVED:** That support is given to this suggestion and that the Clerk writes to Wiltshire County accordingly.

#### **43. Reports from Councillors:**

##### **(a) To receive any reports submitted since the issue of this agenda**

No reports had been received from councillors. The Clerk asked if councillors still wished this item to be kept on the agenda.

**RESOLVED:** After discussion it was agreed to keep this item on the agenda.

**44. Police Report. To receive a progress report**

Inspector Cullop attended the meeting to give the Town Council an update on progress since his last report on 6 April at the Annual Town Meeting and provided councillors with a leaflet regarding their Policing Pledge.

He supported the views of taxi drivers with regard to taxi provision and stated he would be happy to be involved in any discussions regarding the provision of taxi ranks within the town.

With regard to CCTV he stressed the importance of this, which he felt increases the protection of both the taxi drivers and users in the Market Place and stated he would be happy to help with any future consultation work regarding the development of the CCTV system.

**RESOLVED:** To note the report and to congratulate Inspector Cullop on the positive results set out in the report.

**45. To consider any amendments necessary to the following documents prior to their adoption at the Annual Council Meeting on the 18 May 2009.**

**(a) Dates of Meetings for 2009/10.**

**RESOLVED:** To note, no changes were suggested.

**(b) Financial Regulations**

**RESOLVED:** To note, no changes were suggested.

**(c) Standing Orders.**

**RESOLVED:** To note, no changes were suggested.

**(d) Terms of Reference**

It was noted that any reference to West Wiltshire District Council needs to be amended to read Wiltshire Council.

Under Policy and Resources Terms of Reference the wording needs to be changed to read '...consists of' instead of '... comprise of'.

**46. Finance**

**(a) Payments for approval**

**RESOLVED:** Payments were approved.

**(b) List of Payments since last Town Council Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** The list of payments since the last Town Council meeting were approved.

**47. Correspondence**

**(a) Wiltshire County Council re Health Services in Wiltshire - Pointing people in the right direction**

A letter had been received from Roy While, Chairman, Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Wiltshire Council regarding health services in Wiltshire and pointing people in the right direction.

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed to note this information.

**(b) Wiltshire Council re Community Area Highway Information**

A letter had been received from the Highways Department Wiltshire Council regarding their planned highway scheme programme for the coming year.

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed to note this information.

**(c) Animal Aid re Adoption of Animal Aid's Compassionate Charter**

A letter had been received from Animal Aid asking if the Town Council would consider adopting the Animal Aid's Compassionate Charter.

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed to note this information.

**(d) Age Concern re "Age No Barrier" week**

A letter had been received from Age Concern Wiltshire regarding 'Age No Barrier' week taking place between 20-26 June 2009.

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed to note this information.