

MINUTES

Meeting: Marlborough Area Board
Place: The Assembly Room, Marlborough Town Hall, Marlborough, SN8
1AA
Date: 1 October 2024
Start Time: 7.10 pm
Finish Time: 8.53 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Jane Davies (Chairman), Cllr James Sheppard and Cllr Jerry Kunkler (Substitute)

Wiltshire Council Officers

Andrew Jack – Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager
Dominic Argar – Assistant Multimedia Officer
Matthew Hitch – Democratic Services Officer

Total in attendance: 25

<u>Minute No..</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
45	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Caroline Thomas – substituted by Cllr Jerry Kunkler • Suzy Deering – Kennet and Avon Medical Practice • Sheila Glass – Chairman of Ramsbury and Axford Parish Council
46	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The Chairman read out an amendment to the draft minutes suggested by Cllr Ian Blair Pilling, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities, Leisure and Libraries.</p> <p>On the proposal of the Vice-Chairman, seconded by Cllr Jerry Kunkler, it was resolved to make the:</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 June 2024, as a true and correct record, subject to the following amendment to Minute Item 36 changing:</p> <p><i>The Marlborough Community Area Joint Strategic Needs Assessment identified that there was an under provision of gym facilities in the town.</i></p> <p>To</p> <p><i>Wiltshire Council's market intelligence data showed that there was an under provision of gym facilities in the town.</i></p>
47	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
48	<p><u>Chairman's Updates</u></p> <p>The Chairman gave the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She encouraged the public to take part in Wiltshire Council's Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Consultation, which was open until 4 October. • A Challenging Poverty event would be help at 7pm, on 3 October, in Marlborough Town Hall. Speakers would include local MP Danny Kruger and the CEO of Wiltshire Citizens Advice, Suzanne Wigmore.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She was pleased to report that Alexa Davies had been appointed as the Area Board’s new Engagement and Partnerships Lead and said that the Area Board looked forward to working with her.
49	<p><u>Information Items</u></p> <p>The Area Board noted the information items in the agenda pack, these were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FACT Family Help Project, pg. 17-18 • FACT Transitional Safeguarding, pg. 19-20 • Wiltshire Youth Council, pg. 21-22 • Cost of Living Update, pg. 23-24 <p>The Chairman welcomed the extension of the Household Support Fund scheme and highlighted that Wiltshire Council was able to provide advice about cost-of-living challenges and signpost people to the agencies that were best placed to help.</p>
50	<p><u>Partner Grant Feedback and Community Updates</u></p> <p>The Chairman agreed to take feedback from grant recipients in advance of Items 4 and 5 on the agenda.</p> <p><u>Marlborough Sing-Along Social</u></p> <p>Representatives thanked the Area Board for a £500 grant to support a sing along in St Mary’s Church, which helped older and isolated people and those with additional needs. The Area Board the enjoyed a song played by members of the band.</p> <p><u>Marlborough Sports Forum</u></p> <p>Dominique from Marlborough Sports Forum gave a presentation about the Marlborough Sports and Activity Festival held on 6 May 2024. She explained that they had run 12 different activities for the 161 young people that had attended. A survey, asking for the event to be ranked between one and 10, had been handed out to the young people after the event and had had around 60 responses. The majority of the young people that had attended had ranked the event as being 10 out of 10, although the organisers sought more detailed feedback to help them encourage participation in sport. The young people had identified that not having people to go with and membership fees were the biggest obstacles to the participating. Efforts to improve engagement included providing details about local sports clubs and giving out free vouchers. Climbing had been the most popular activity, and the Sports Forum were working with Marlborough College on running a new community climbing session. Thanks were given to the Area Board for part funding the event.</p> <p><u>Aldbourn Youth Council</u></p>

Peter Hogan, a trustee of Aldbourne Youth Council, explained that they were lucky to be able to use a local building called The Junction, rent free. He reported that 70 young people had registered with the group and confirmed that they did not charge subscription fees. They ran a programme of activities over the summer holidays, with six sessions per week organised between two different age groups. Activities included cooking and financial management. He thanked the Area Board for their financial support and invited them to attend an event on Sunday when the young people would be baking cakes.

MantonFest

Roger Grant from MantonFest explained that they were a community and family friendly festival that were celebrating their fifteenth anniversary in 2024. He reported that they had been able to offer young people from local schools the opportunity to perform, or support, activities. He then gave examples of the way in which some young people had benefitted, such as a young man who had gained experience of stage and lighting management and was due to complete a related apprenticeship next year. Another young student had become involved in amateur dramatics after attending MantonFest and was able to perform in French. Mr Grant thanked the Area Board for their support and was pleased to report that MantonFest planned to run festivals in other areas, including in Devizes next year.

Merchant's House

Thanks were given to the Area Board for providing £3,000 towards roof repairs and £500 towards museum display exhibits. The representative explained that the £500 was invested to help them to run self-guided tours and that 71 percent of their visitors now experienced Merchant's House that way. The changes to the visitor experience had not only allowed them to significantly increase their revenue from £10,000 last year, to £15,000 in the current year, but also helped the venue to become more accessible.

Details about some of the recent events and exhibits were provided, including a Civil War event in July. Poppys, previously on display in the Tower of London, were due to be installed on 10 November and people would be invited to write the names of people that they wanted to be remembered on them. On 11 November, there would be free entry to the museum between 10am and 1pm to mark Armistice Day. Further changes to the museum were planned in 2025, with more post-war content to be included. Thanks were given to the Area Board and to Marlborough Town Council for their support.

2nd Marlborough Scouts

Donna from 2nd Marlborough Scouts thanked the Area Board for contributing £3,000 towards roof repairs at their hut. She explained that unforeseen costs had emerged during construction, including the discovery of a rotten beam, lack

of joists in their flat roof and a tree root growing through a soakaway, which had meant that the original budget of £26,000 had increased. However, she was pleased to report that the hut was now watertight. They had installed insulation in the roof and the roof had been covered in an environmentally friendly, fully recyclable, product. The hut was used by a wide section of the community, not just the Scouts, and the new roof would help to secure the building's long-term future.

Marlborough Tennis

Andrew Payne, Chairman of Marlborough Tennis Club, explained that they were a volunteer run organisation. They had completed their new two-storey clubhouse, which was built by a local builder on a fixed price contract, in July. He thanked the Area Board for providing funding for the top-floor fit out. He was also pleased to report that they had received help from the Lawn Tennis Association to support more youth and walking tennis and to allow people from disadvantaged backgrounds to play the sport.

The Area Board thanked the grant recipients for their feedback and were pleased to hear about the positive impact that grant funding was having in the community.

After the Area Board had heard from grant recipients, Acting Inspector Chris Wickham provided an update on behalf of the Neighbourhood Police Team. Points included:

- Inspector Simon Garrett would be joining the team in October and Acting Inspector Wickham would return to his previous role as Sergeant.
- Acting Inspector Wickham had worked with Inspector Garrett previously. He stated that Inspector Garrett would do a good job and had recently had experience working in Swindon.
- Overall levels of crime were stable, although there had been a decrease in the number of reported thefts.
- Reports of 'violence against the person' crimes had gone up slightly over the past two months, although they were still down on the equivalent period in 2023.
- A local Shop Watch scheme allowed businesses to share information about suspected shoplifters.
- There had been an increase in vehicle offences in July and August. This was largely a seasonal issue as cars were targeted during the summer when parked near popular beauty spots.
- There were no sexual offences under investigation in the Area Board's area where the offender was unknown.
- It was clarified that crimes categorised as miscellaneous included impersonating a police officer and creating indecent images.
- Wiltshire Police were aiming to attend 100 percent of reported burglaries.
- Wiltshire Police's Formal Action Taken (FAT) rate for burglaries was

	<p>around a percentage point higher than similar forces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the burglaries of business premises in the Area Board's area targeted farms and there had been recent instances in Baydon. • There was often an increase in hare coursing at this time of year and a number of incidents had been reported on Marlborough Downs. Two people had recently been arrested on the border between Pewsey and Marlborough for hare coursing offences. • More police patrols were taking place in villages to deter burglaries and provide reassurance to residents. <p>During the discussion, the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Area Board thanked the Acting Inspector for his presentation. • When asked about how to identify signs of hare coursing, the Acting Inspector explained that four by fours driving erratically were often a sign that hare coursing was taking place. He noted that there was a good network of local spotters and encouraged people to come forward if they had any information. • Cllr Jerry Kunkler thanked Acting Inspector Wickham for how his team had marshalled the recent Pewsey Carnival and praised him for stepping up and taking responsibility for the team whilst Inspector Ben Huggins was on secondment. • In response to a query from Roger Grant about drug offences in the local area, Acting Inspector Wickham reassured him that offences in the Area Board's area were relatively low when compared to other areas. However, they were aware of a few individuals trying to sell drugs in the local area and they were working hard to tackle the issue. An illegal immigrant had been arrested for possession. <p>The Area Board also noted the following written and online updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Policing Team, pg. 25-32 • Wiltshire Road Safety Partnership, pg. 33-43 • Healthwatch Wiltshire Annual Report, The Value of Listening - online • Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue – online • BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire Together - Integrated Care Board, pg. 45-47 • Community First, pg. 49-54
51	<p><u>Marlborough Area Board Priorities</u></p> <p>The Area Board received updates on the progress made towards its priority areas.</p>
52	<p><u>Action Plan for Marlborough</u></p> <p>Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager, Andrew Jack, outlined the</p>

	<p>Area Board's workplan for 2024/25. He reminded the Area Board that he had provided an update at their previous meeting about the Community Area Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (CAJSNA). The Area Board had then used the findings of the CAJSNA, and a public survey, to inform their priorities for the forthcoming year. He then outlined some of the specific targets across the Area Board's three priority areas.</p> <p>He explained that Cllr Caroline Thomas and he had been working to try to reestablish the Marlborough Local Youth Network. He also noted that Marlborough Town Council had recently employed a full-time youth worker.</p> <p>Efforts were ongoing to tackle isolation in older people. Marlborough Health and Wellbeing Group had held a very successful event in the Autumn. They were considering holding similar events in future, possibly hosted in Marlborough's recently refurbished leisure centre. Other events planned included hosting a Techie Tea Party to help older people improve their IT skills.</p> <p>The Area Board would continue to work closely with local councils to progress projects through the Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group. They also aimed to work closely with local parishes and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to make the most of the data obtained by Community Speed Watch teams and Speed Indicator Devices. Furthermore, the Area Board would encourage people to use active transport, such as working with local schools to take up Bikeability training.</p>
53	<p><u>Children and Young People Update</u></p> <p>The Area Board's lead member for children and young people, Cllr Caroline Thomas, was unable to attend the meeting, but provided the following written update:</p> <p><u>Marlborough Area Youth Forum Summer Events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>With funding from the Area Board, Wiltshire Community Foundation, Marlborough College and the National Lottery, our amazing trustees and volunteers, led by Lisa Farrell, ran two summer afternoon events in August at Marlborough's Community and Youth Centre with scooter tuition and games on the skatepark, football and cricket coaching on the Rec, a climbing wall, music and karaoke. Burgers and hot dogs were provided through the afternoon. All at no charge.</i> • <i>The Forum is looking for a part time youth worker. We are offering £15 per hour for 15 hours per week but can be flexible.</i> <p><u>Marlborough Town Council Youth Worker Apprentice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>With Marlborough's Town Clerk and Councillor support, I led the initiative to recruit a Youth Worker Apprentice offering a level 6 (degree) qualification to the successful candidate, Matt Powell, who is joining MTC today; 1 October. As well</i>

	<p><i>as being a hands-on role with local young people, the job will entail working across partners and stakeholders to expand what's on offer to young people - as a volunteer or recipient - through a wide range existing organisations.</i></p> <p><u>Local Youth Network</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• We'd like to re-ignite the 'Local Youth Network' of organisations supporting young people across the Community Area - quarterly meetings (face to face or via Microsoft Teams) to help support one another, share expertise and awareness of what is on offer and maybe plan new initiatives and events. Ideally, this group would involve Matt any anyone involved with young people across clubs and organisations in the area, including schools and the police, as well as local young people themselves and could help plan the use of Area Board's Youth Grant funding to maximise the benefits funding can bring.</i>
54	<p><u>Older and Vulnerable People Update</u></p> <p>Jill Turner, Chair of Marlborough Health and Wellbeing Group, provided further information about the networking event that they had held in July. She explained that a street artist had provided advanced publicity to attract people to the event. The event had been well attended and there were displays from a wide range of statutory and non-statutory organisations. She thanked the Area Board for their financial support and highlighted that they had only spent £700 of the £1,000 contribution. The next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Group would be on 3 October and it was planned to have 27 different organisations represented in the room.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that she really enjoyed attending the event and thanked Jill for her hard work.</p>
55	<p><u>Road safety Update and Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)</u></p> <p>The Vice-Chairman was pleased to report that the Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) had held a well-attended meeting on 11 July. He explained that the group was a useful forum to discuss issues with town and parish councils that helped to move forward important projects. He then provided further detail about some of the applications discussed, including Issue 8-22-17, where the Area Board were seeking to find a solution alongside the neighbouring authority of West Berkshire. He also noted that it might not be possible to take on any further projects until April, as there was a need to focus projects already in the pipeline.</p> <p>In response to a query about the timeframe to deliver application 8-23-2 in Mildenhall, the Vice-Chairman explained that negotiations were ongoing with landowners, and they hoped to reach an agreement by the next meeting.</p> <p>On the proposal of the Vice-Chairman, seconded by the Chairman, it was resolved to make the:</p>

	<p>Decision</p> <p>To progress and/or allocate funding towards the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8-21-8 – Aldbourne Virtual Paths – to take forward the £20,500 scheme. To allocate £15,375 subject to the agreement of £5,125 from Aldbourne Parish Council and to progress an advert for the 20mph limit. • 8-19-10 – Marlborough Frees Avenue 40mph limit extension – to take forward the scheme as amended, whilst querying readvertisement. To allocate £3,525 (subject to £1,175 from Marlborough Town Council). • 8-22-17 - Chilton Foliat HGV Issues – to request a revised scheme from West Berkshire Council. LHFING ringfencing £3,750 (subject to a £1,250 contribution from Chilton Foliat Parish Council). • 8-23-2 – Mildenhall Proposed Footway – to allocate £10,000 towards the proposal for a substantive project. • 8-23-15 – Ramsbury, Isles Road - to progress the scheme, estimated at between £8,000 and £9,000 (subject to legal agreements and the agreement of a £2,500 from Ramsbury Parish Council). <p>To add the following issues to the priority list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8-24-03 - Marlborough Town Boundary A4 Manton • 8-24-04 - A346 Postern Hill • 8-24-05 - A346 Port Hill • 8-24-06 - A345 Granham Hill <p>To close the following issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8-23-3 – Chilton Foliat Bollard – total cost £1,200
56	<p><u>Grants</u></p> <p>The Area Board noted the budgets remaining for allocation at the meeting and heard from representatives in attendance who gave a brief overview of, and answered questions about, their projects.</p> <p>Community Area Grants:</p> <p><u>Ramsbury and Aldbourne Bowls Club Requesting £1,017 Towards a Sprayer and Equipment Storage</u></p> <p>Mr Martin Smith, a committee member of the club, spoke in support of the project. He explained that the club were spending £7,000 per year on maintaining their green and that a sprayer would allow them to do this themselves, rather than paying a company to do it.</p> <p>During the discussion, the Area Board sought assurances that checks were</p>

undertaken to ensure that the person who would be operating the sprayer had the appropriate licence to use the equipment. Mr Smith stated that they would investigate the issue and ensure that the appropriate licence was in place.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, it was resolved to make the.

Decision

To award Ramsbury and Aldbourne Bowls Club £1,017 towards a sprayer and equipment storage on the condition that they ensured that any required licences to use the equipment were in place.

Reason – The application met the Community Area Grant Criteria 2024/25.

St Peter's and St Paul's Marlborough Trust Ltd., Requesting £3,000 Towards Roof Restoration

Ann Marie Newbigin, Chair of Trustees at St Peter's and St Paul's, spoke in support of their application. She gave a detailed overview of the history of the trust, outlining some of the challenges they had faced to putting it on a sustainable footing and in maintaining their historic building. She explained that they had spent over half a million pounds on repairs over the past 20 years and noted that a number of local charities had held events at the venue. Over recent years they had built up their reserves so that they had £400,000, but they were keen to receive support from the community, to attract more visitors and host a greater range of events. She reported that they had recently had a leak under their café which had forced it to shut for 10 weeks. They needed to spend £30,000 to £40,000 replacing guttering and also needed to complete repairs to masonry to prevent future leaks.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To award St Peter's and St Paul's £3,000 towards roof restoration.

Reason - The application met Community Area Grant Criteria 2024/25.

Older and Vulnerable People's Grants:

Monday Club Requesting £1,600

The Chairman noted that the Monday Club were unable to attend as they were on their annual trip to Weymouth.

	<p>On the proposal of the Vice-Chairman, seconded by Cllr Jerry Kunkler, it was resolved to make the:</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>To award the Monday Club £1,600.</p> <p><i>Reason – The application met the Older and Vulnerable People’s Grant Criteria 2024/25.</i></p> <p>Information links: Area Board Grants and Grants Criteria</p>
57	<p><u>Any Other Questions</u></p> <p>Jill Turner, from University of the Third Age, suggested that they collaborate with the Area Board in planning Techie Tea sessions for older people. The Chairman agreed that this would be a good idea.</p>
58	<p><u>Urgent items</u></p> <p>There were no urgent items.</p>
59	<p><u>Close and Future Meeting Dates</u></p> <p>7:00 – 9:00pm with networking from 6.30pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 December 2024 • 18 March 2025 - Minal Village Hall, SN8 2LR • 20 May 2025 – County Hall, Trowbridge • 3 June 2025 • 30 September 2025 • 18 November 2025 <p>Meeting details, agendas and minutes can be viewed here.</p>