

MALVERN WELLS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Malvern Wells Parish Council duly convened and held in The Village Hall, Malvern Wells **on Wednesday 6th February, 2013** commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present

Councillors:

K Wagstaff (Chairman)	
A Hull	Mrs A Bradshaw
Mrs C O' Donnell	J Black
B Knibb	P Buchanan
S Atwell	N Johnson
S Freeman	

In attendance: Mr D Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

Apologies recorded: Mrs H Burrage M Victory

99/12 To Record a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests for the Meeting and b) any changes to be notified to the Register of Interests and Gifts & Hospitality

A dispensation had been granted by the monitoring officer at Malvern Hills District Council to allow Members to participate in the debate, *under agenda item 10b*, relating to the setting of the 2013/14 precept and the related Council Tax Rate at Band D. As well as repealing the legislation relating to the former Code of Conduct, the Localism Act 2011 also repealed the general dispensation permitting any councillor with an interest to take part in meetings relating to setting their Council's precept. Therefore Parish Councillors living in the parish must, as council tax payers, declare a pecuniary interest in the item and would not have been able to discuss or vote on the precept, unless such a dispensation had been granted.

A general dispensation was also granted to Members to allow them to participate in the debate, *under agenda item 5* relating to the consideration of the applications received for the Parish Council vacancy which had been declared. As residents in the Parish all the applicants were personally known to Members to some degree and the dispensation would enable Members to take part in the debate and vote on the choice of the candidate to be co-opted to the Parish Council.

100/12 Closure of the meeting to allow parishioners the opportunity to speak on any matter on the agenda

No questions or statements from parishioners were received.

101/12 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th November, 2012 to be confirmed and signed.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28th November, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record of that meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

102/12 Matters Arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising from the approved minutes.

103/12 Report from Malvern Hills District Councillor– Cllr C Cheeseman

Cllr Cheeseman advised the District Council would be increasing their Council Tax demand by 1.99% for 2013/14.

From May 2013, the majority of households will have their recycling collected using a green wheeled bin which will replace the cherry recycling sacks. Households using the recycling bins will be able to recycle glass bottle and jars in addition to the range of materials already recycled using the cherry sack. Recycling bins will be collected once every fortnight on the same day that black refuse sacks are. The weekly black sack refuse collection service will not change. From the spring recycling will no longer be collected in sacks every week, with homes instead receiving a green wheelie bin that will be emptied once a fortnight.

104/12 Winter Gritting arrangements

A request had been received for the siting of a new grit bin in Gordon Terrace at its junction with Old Wyche Road. Additional bins would also be sited at appropriate locations on the Holywell Road. Members unanimously approved the purchase of up to four additional grit bins from the County Council at a cost of £150 each. The costs to be contained within the 2013/14 open spaces budget.

105 /12 Reports from Committees / Committee Chairmen

Cllr N Johnson presented the report of the **Finance and General Purposes Committee** which had been held on 17th January. This particular report contained details of the recommendation made to Council in respect of the setting of the 2013/14 precept, in the sum of £75,150 which represented an increase of 1.94% over the 2012/13 figure.

This report and the recommendations contained therein were **accepted and approved** by the Council.

106/12 Reports from working groups

Cemetery Working group -Cllr Johnson presented he report of the Cemetery Working Group which had been held on 10th January. The Group had recommended that the Cemetery Fes and Charges for 2013/14 should be increased by 5%, rounded to the nearest £5 .The report and the recommendations included therein were **unanimously accepted and approved** by the Council.

Play and Open Spaces Group - the Clerk advised that a meeting of the Group had taken place on 14th January. Competitive quotations had been received for the construction of fencing around the Jubilee Garden and the quotation from Paul Stanley Fencing Ltd in the sum of £1,495.22 had been recommended for acceptance by the Council.

The group had also recommended that a report should be commissioned, by a specialist drainage consultant, to draw up a report and a specification for remedial measures to alleviate drainage issues on Assarts Road playing field .The objective would be to put a suitable scheme out to competitive tender by 1st April

Quotations for the renewal of fencing on Assarts Road playing field had also been received but these were to be reviewed once the anticipated drainage scheme works had been completed.

A report on the Council's request for the release of land on Peachfield Road Common, for the construction of a play area, was being considered by the Malvern

Hills Conservators at their Land and Management Committee meeting on 7th February.

It had been agreed to purchase a tree for siting on the Fruitlands Green with the objective of having the tree in place to be illuminated at Christmas time.

These reports and the recommendations contained therein were **accepted and approved** by the Council.

Gas lamps working group – the clerk circulated the notes of the Gas lamps Working Group meeting which had taken place on 7th February. A further report on the content of that meeting would be made by the Chairman of the Group at the Council meeting on 20th February.

It was noted that all the renovation work to the individual lamp heads had now been completed and remedial work was being undertaken, by the contractor, to address some of the snagging issues on lamps which had been completed earlier in the process.

A bill in the sum of £21,696 had been received from Sight designs for payment representing work that had been completed to the final batch of 16 lamps.

There was some debate as to whether this invoice should be paid until the snagging work on all of the lamps had been completed.

Following considerable discussion it was **resolved by a majority vote** of 7 votes to 3 that this particular invoice should be paid. Cllrs Wagstaff, Knibb and Freeman wished their names to be recorded as having voted against the payment of this particular invoice.

Consideration of the release of payment for £6,870 for additional work claimed by Sight Designs was **deferred** to a future Council meeting pending the receipt of a report from the Gas Lamps working group.

107/12 Co option of New Council Member

Three applications had been received for the Council vacancy which had been declared. The résumés of each of the candidates had been circulated to all Members for their consideration and the candidates had each been given the opportunity to personally present their applications to Council Members.

Following careful consideration of the applications which had been received a ballot then took place which resulted in **Mr Kevin Hurst being elected** to serve as a Parish Council Member.

The Chairman formally welcomed Mr Hurst to the Parish Council and the Clerk was asked to complete the relevant new member registration process with the elections team at Malvern Hills District Council. Mr Hurst then joined Councillors for the remainder of the meeting.

108/12 Financial matters

(a) The following accounts were approved for payment:-

Cheque number	Payee		Amount £
2961	Martin Thomas	Cemetery work November	258.07
2962	Steve Maund	Outdoor work - November	1,096.99
2963	D M Taverner	Clerk Salary and Expenses - December	1,410.85
2964	Steve Maund	Outdoor work - December	1,342.76
2965	D M Taverner	Clerk Salary and Expenses - January	1,567.83
2966	n power	Cemetery electricity	29.06
2967	Severn Trent Water	Cemetery Water	53.44
2968	British Gas	Gas lamps - December Qtr	613.86
2969	Exell print	Wells News printing	797.00
2970	Martin Thomas	Cemetery work December	372.77
2971	Branchworks	Tree Works - St Wulstans	240.00
2972	Helen Burrage	Carol Concert Expenses	93.68
2973	Steve Maund	Outdoor work - January	860.80
2974	Sight Designs Ltd	Gas lamps invoices 264 and 265	21,696.00

(b) The 2013/14 Parish precept

Further to the recommendation of the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 17th January the Council **unanimously resolved** to set the 2013/14 Parish Precept at £75,150 .

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.05 pm

Signed.....k Wagstaff.....
Chairman -20th February, 2013