

MAMBLE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Mamble Village Hall on Thursday 1st February 2024 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs: Mr C Bunn (Chairman), Mr P Bytheway, Mr S Finney, Mrs S Rawlins, and Mrs J Rogers.

In Attendance: Mrs A Watson (Clerk)

1. Apologies: These were received and accepted from County Councillor Mr D Chambers and District Councillor Mr D Godwin.

2. Declarations of Interest: Dispensation has been granted to Cllr. Bunn at each meeting for a Declaration of Pecuniary Interest, to enable participation in all discussions relating to the 'Lengthsman'.

3. Suspension of the meeting for the Democratic 15 mins/Public Question Time: No public present.

4. Minutes: The minutes of the Meeting held on the 04/01/2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Councillors', District and County Council reports: County Councillor Mr D Chambers kindly sent his report, which is appended to these minutes.

6. Progress reports:

6.1 Lay by, road and footpath signs. The Chairman reported there are no new issues regarding the Lay-by, and no update regarding the road and footpath signs, although they are on the Highways system.

6.2 A report of new storm drains going into a ditch along the Frith Common Road will be looked at by the Chairman.

7. Correspondence received and Items for Discussion.

7.1 West Mercia Safer Roads Partnership grants and costs of VAS equipment. Councillors discussed the grants and the various options available for VAS units, including those used by other Parishes the Chairman has experience of in his role as Parish Lengthsman. With a basic portable device from Westcotec starting at £2980 it was agreed that without substantial funding from the County Council these are, at present, beyond the budget of the Parish Council.

7.2 Village Hall Committee response to a suggested tribute to Mr H Jenkins (deceased) and a request to use the Parish Council Website. Although the Village Hall response to the request to hang a painting picture of Mr Jenkins in the Hall has been refused by the committee, the Councillors understood the reasons. Cllr. Rawlins reported that a new Village Hall website is being developed and it was agreed that basic information and a link to the new website could form part of the Village Hall page on the Parish Council website.

7.3 The Hedgehog Highway Project information was read out, but it was unanimously agreed the cost is too expensive.

7.4 Malvern Hills Community Safety Team Property and Home Security Roadshow information was read out by the Clerk. This may be followed up at a later date.

7.5 Lengthsman's Contract 2024-2025. Although not received yet, the County Council has indicated that the Lengthsman's budget is due to be increased by 5% and will launch the 'Digitisation' of the scheme on the 2nd April 2024.

7.6 Clerk & Councils Direct January 2024 Issue 151

8. Finance:

8.1 Mamble Parish Council Budget for 2024-25, agreed at the last meeting, was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

8.2 The Clerk confirmed the Precept request 2024-2025 for £6300 has been submitted to Malvern Hills District Council.

8.3 Bank Statements

8.3.1 26.01.24 Business Account £5158.14

8.3.2 31.12.23 Current Account £3116.45

8.4 Receipts: Worcestershire County Council Lengthsman Payments: Oct-Dec 2023 £524.51

8.5 Payments - The following payments were ratified and cheques signed:

8.5.1 Mr C Bunn (Lengthsman January 2024) £204.75

8.5.2 Mrs A Watson (Clerk Salary & Expenses) £330.00

9.The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.30pm

The Date of next meeting is Monday 4th March 2024

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman

Councillors

Mr C Bunn (Chairman), Mr S Finney, Mrs S Rawlins, Mrs J Rogers & Mr P Bytheway

Clerk to the Council: Mrs A Watson, Brookend Farm, Abberley, Worcs. WR6 6BU Tel: 01299 896841

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APPENDICIES

Item 5

Worcestershire County Council Report

1. As I mentioned last month the County Council, like virtually all other local authorities, is experiencing increasing costs in general and in three expenditure areas in particular. Adult Social Care, Child Care Placements and Home To School Transport are seeing costs escalate, resulting in budget pressures which the Cabinet are addressing as a priority. The Budget for 2024/25 will be presented to a full meeting of the Council on 15th February.

The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel which I chair, has been scrutinising the budget concerns with regards to Child Care Placements and Home To School Transport. I am satisfied that budget concerns are being addressed regarding Child Care Placements, that will have no detrimental effect on the safety and care of any child within the care system in Worcestershire. At the moment over 1,000 children are within the care system in the county.

There remains however, much work to do to overcome the budget deficit with regards to Home To School Transport. The cost of providing school transport for children without any care needs is within budget, it is the cost of providing transport to school, for children with Special Education Needs that is extremely expensive and the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide what ever means of travel is necessary, including individual taxis.

The Budget which will be presented on 15th February will be a balanced budget but it will require the use of the County Council's Reserves in order for this to happen. Once approved, the Budget will be available on the County Council's website for anyone who may wish to view it.

2. The Director of Health who works at Worcestershire County Council, together with Trading Standards have done an excellent job in recent months with regards to challenging the use of vaping in the county, particularly by children aged 11 to 17. The BBC has acknowledged that Worcestershire has undertaken more surveys than the rest of the UK put together. WCC has lobbied the Government to ban disposable vapes and the news "this week", that the Government has announced it intends to do so, is welcomed.

Since the end of 2021 Trading Standards Officers have seized almost 24,000 illegal e-cigarettes from across Worcestershire. Campaigns are ongoing in schools to raise the concerns of vaping by young children.

David Chambers
County Councillor, Tenbury Division

Councillors

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