

# MALVERN WELLS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Malvern Wells Parish Council** duly convened and held in Malvern Wells Village Hall at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2017**

**Present:** Councillors N Chatten (Chairman), H Burrage, J Smethurst, S Freeman, J Black

**Also in attendance:** David Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)  
Alice Spearing – Community Engagement Officer- St Richards Hospice  
Paul Esrich- Malvern Hills AONB  
County Cllr Lucy Hodgson

**73/17**     **Apologies for absence:** Councillors K Wagstaff, J Wagstaff, M Victory  
N Johnson, P Ditchburn, T O'Donnell, C O'Donnell, B Knibb

**74/17**     **Declarations of Interest**

**a) Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests:** No such changes were required.

**b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature:** There were none.

**c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature:** There were none.

**75/17**     **To Consider Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011):** There were none

**76/17**     **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2017**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting, held on 26th July 2017 had been previously circulated. The minutes were **unanimously approved** as a correct record of that meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

**78/17**     **Matters arising from the minutes**

There were none.

**79/17**     **Presentation from Alice Spearing – Community Engagement Officer- St Richards Hospice**

Ms Spearing gave an informative and interesting presentation on the work of the Hospice which is based near to the main Worcestershire County Council building. All the care given by the team at St Richards is unique to everyone – whatever his or her physical, emotional or spiritual needs. The hospice team includes their own doctors, nurses, social worker, counsellors and therapists working alongside highly trained volunteers

Staff provide support and assistance through care in the patients' home or as in patients, In-patient Unit, Day Hospice and other support services, each year dealing with more than 3000 patients

Funding for the work of the Hospice comes principally from donations, bequests and from their shopping outlets. The Hospice were holding an open day on 15<sup>th</sup> October to and everyone interested was invited to attend.

Ms Spearing advised that she would be preparing an article for inclusion in the next edition of the Wells News on the work of the team at St Richards.

80/17

**Malvern Hills AONB – Verges and Grassland Management**

Paul Esrich of Malvern Hills AONB had previously requested permission to raise awareness of the initiatives being undertaken to promote verges and grassland management in the Malvern wells and the wider Malvern Area

The Malvern Hills AONB Partnership has been working with Worcestershire Highways on a pilot project to explore whether some verges in the parish can be managed to make them better for nature. There are two key ambitions in the pilot:

- Cutting verges less frequently – nature cannot flourish where it is not given a chance to grow.
- Removing the cut material – when left on the verge cut grass decomposes, enriches the soil and makes it harder for a wide variety of plant life to grow.

With the right management it is likely that all verges could improve their offer for nature. However, some verges are simply 'better' than others because of past management, soil composition and the seed bank that they contain. One example close by is the Green at Welland. The Parish Council there is currently working with the AONB Partnership and Worcestershire County Council to manage this entire area as a hay meadow.

Similar work could be undertaken on St Wulstan's Village Green by extending the currently preserved area of wild flower growth during the early summer months and members were asked to consider this possibility.

The conserved area is delineated by the parish council, with marker posts and is left uncut during the flowering and seeding season after which the posts are lifted, and the grass is cut and removed.

It was agreed that this matter should be deferred for consideration by the Parish Council at its next meeting.

81/17

**Reports of Committees: -**

**Report from the Planning Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2017**

This report was noted and accepted by the Council

82/17

**Reports from working groups**

**a) Gas lamps working group**

Following a meeting with David Armitage letters of support for the project from local Councillors and organisations were being obtained. These would be used to help facilitative funding grant bids for the scheme. Updated costings for the project were being obtained

**b) Events working group**

The working group had been met to review the outcome of the summer fête. After allowing for the slightly inclement weather during the later stages of the event it was agreed that the day had passed successfully.

The date for the 2018 fete had been set as Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September .

**c) Communications working group.**

No meeting had taken place since the previous Council meeting

**d) Jubilee Gardeners Working group**

The Jubilee Garden Entry into the RHS "Its your Neighbourhood event" had been awarded a "level 3 advancing" categorisation by the judging team. The working group were congratulated and thanked for all their efforts during the year.

**e) Open Spaces working group.**

No meeting had taken place since the previous Council meeting

**f) Cemetery working group**

No meeting had taken place since the previous Parish Council meeting.

**g) Neighbourhood working group**

An evening drop-in meeting had been held on 3rd October to present feedback to residents of the results of the initial consultation work undertaken. A further meeting of the working group was due to take place towards the end of November, with a view to selecting consultants who would be appointed to work towards the production of the final NDP submission

**83/17 Chairman's Correspondence**

**a) Funding request from Malvern Wells Primary School**

A request had been received from Malvern Wells Primary School for help with funding for the Reception class Indoor and Outdoor Learning classes. The funds would help to support the purchase of new equipment and the development of creative play environment.

Whilst Members were broadly sympathetic to the request the Clerk was asked to ascertain the details of the funding for the project raised so far and how the funds which had already been secured would be allocated if those funds fell short of the total needed for the whole scheme. A report would be brought to the next meeting of the Parish Council for consideration.

**b) Wells News article content**

The Chairman advised that he had received a letter of complaint about what had been seen by a resident as overly political content in an article in the summer edition of the Wells news. The Chairman had replied underlining the Council's politically neutral stance on all such matters.

84/17

**Finance**

a)

**The following accounts were approved for payment.**

REF	Payee	FOR	NET £	VAT £	GROSS £
1120	Malvern Bouncy Castle Hire	Fete Bouncy Castle	70.00		70.00
1121	Brandon Hire	Generator for Fete	143.99		143.99
1122	Office Outlet	computer paper	35.96		35.96
1123	Toner Giant	Computer Ink	94.66	18.93	113.59
1124	First paige	Fete Flyers	22.00		22.00
1125	Print Plus	Wells News printing	1,500.00		1,500.00
1126	Printed Banners and Signs	Fete Advertising	87.60	17.52	105.12
s/order 23/8	David Taverner	Salary August	1,623.97		1,623.97
1127	HP Ink	Computer Ink	80.51	16.10	96.61
1128	Office Outlet	NDP Display Board Stationery	19.98	3.99	23.97
1129	Office Outlet	NDP prints for fete	13.33	2.67	16.00
1130	Event Hire	Picnic Tables at Fete	280.00	46.00	326.00
	XI Displays	NDP Noticeboard	84.00		84.00
1132	First paige	Fete Flyers	40.00		40.00
1133	Brandon Hire	Fête Toilets	40.00	8.00	48.00
1134	Martin Thomas	Outdoor work August & Sept	518.33		518.33
1135	R K Adams	Phone Kiosk Refurb	270.00		270.00
1136	NEST Pension	Auto Enrolment pension	25.56		25.56
	NEST Pension	Auto Enrolment pension	25.56		25.56
1138	Information Commissioners Office	Data protection registration	35.00		35.00
s/order 23/9	David Taverner	Salary September	1,623.77		1,623.77
1139	Howard Allen	Fete trophy Engraving	80.00		80.00
1140	Waterplus	Cemetery Water ac 0152004172	54.01		54.01
1148	David Taverner	Admin expenses August & Sept	128.16	7.99	136.15
1147	Steve Maund	Outdoor work August & Sept	1,847.16		1,847.16
1148	PCC of Malvern Wells &The Wyche	Room hire June & July Cemetery Water ac	60.00		60.00
1149	Waterplus	0703032842	82.47		82.47
1146	n power	Cemetery Electricity	78.25	3.92	82.17
1145	Martin Thomas	Outdoor work Sept	241.05		241.05
1144	Grant Thornton	Audit Fee 16/17	400.00	80.00	480.00
1143	British Gas	Gas Lamps Fuel	1,283.88	256.78	1,540.66
1142	Nick Johnson	Fete Expenses	115.30		115.30
1156	Trish Beecroft	RHS Britain in Bloom Travel	58.50		58.50
1157	Mrs S Black	Fete Marquee Hire	50.00		50.00
1141	Sight Designs	Gas Lamps Mtce	2,182.20	436.44	2,618.64
	<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>13,295.20</b>	<b>898.34</b>	<b>14,193.54</b>

**b) 2016/17 Annual Audit report from Grant Thornton PLC**

The Clerk reported that the 2016/17 audit return and governance statement had been successfully signed off, without qualification, by Grant Thornton PLC.

**85/17 Remembrance Sunday Service – 12<sup>th</sup> November**

Preparations for the Remembrance Sunday Service at The War Memorial had now all been put in place. The Wells Road would be closed to traffic between 11.45am to 12.30pm. The Remembrance Wreath had been purchased and the bugler had been asked to play the Last Post and Reveille at the service, which would be led by either Rev David Bruce or Peter Buchanan.

**86/17 Report of County Councillor**

**The report is available at the following weblink**

[County Councillor latest report](#)

**87/17 Report of District Councillor**

**The report is available at the following weblink**

[District Councillor latest report](#)

**88/17 Reports from representatives on other bodies**

There were no reports from representatives on other bodies to present to this meeting.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm

Minutes approved .....(Chairman)

31<sup>st</sup> October 2017