

MALVERN WELLS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Malvern Wells Parish Council duly convened and held in The Village Hall, Wells Road, Malvern Wells on **Wednesday 27th July, 2016** commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor N Chatten (Chairman)

Councillors: M Victory, S Freeman, Mrs C O'Donnell, Mrs J Smethurst, N Johnson, J Wagstaff, K Wagstaff, P Bennett (until 8.30pm), County Councillor Mrs L Hodgson (from 8.25pm)

Apologies for absence: Councillors Mrs H Burrage, B Knibb and J Black

In attendance: David Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

217/16 Declarations of Interest

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

b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature: None were declared.

c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature: None were declared.

218/16 To Consider Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011): There were none.

219/16 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th June, 2016,

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 29th June, had been previously circulated. The minutes were **unanimously approved** as a correct record of that meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

220/16 Matters arising from the Parish Council minutes of 29th June. There were none

221/16 Three Counties Showground (TCS) Liaison and Development Plans–report from Mr Ken Nottage Chief Executive TCS

The Chairman welcomed Mr Nottage to the meeting, who, together with representatives from planning consultants Hunter Page Ltd outlined draft proposals for the future development of the showground over the medium term.

The development plan consists of 3 phases:

Phase 1: Re-cladding of Avon and Wye Event Halls

Phase 2: Construction of a Lodges Park in Langdale Woods
Link Building between Avon & Wye Event Halls

Phase 3: Construction of an Hotel, Farm Shop, Visitor Centre, Café and Outdoor Leisure facilities

Work had already started on **Phase 1** to improve the existing facilities at the Event Halls

A planning application was due to be submitted in September/October with regard to **Phase 2**, which would see the construction of 50 holiday lodges - aimed at increasing the current overnight accommodation available at the site and to provide a revenue stream to finance other development work.

The consultants explained that the site will be visually unobtrusive and well-screened from important local vantage points, environmentally sensitive locations and public highways. Appropriate landscaping will be provided within the site and around its boundaries.

The development will be of a design, form and scale that is well-related to its setting and does not exceed the capacity of the area to accommodate it, having regard in particular to landscape and infrastructure considerations.

The consultants were of the view that vehicular traffic generated by the proposal can be safely accommodated on the local highway network.

Phase 3 of the planned development works would be likely to start in 2018 and would incorporate a new link building between the existing Avon and Wye Halls

This phase of the planned development work would see the construction of an Hotel, a new Visitor centre and a Farm Shop. There would also be provision for enhanced outdoor leisure facilities.

The Chairman thanked Mr Nottage and his team for their informative presentation.

The Chairman then advised Mr Nottage that concerns had been raised by parishioners regarding potential disturbances from forthcoming events which were planned at TCS-especially those scheduled for the Christmas period. The PC asked for assurances that TCS would be taking all steps necessary to attenuate the noise levels emanating from such events.

Mr Nottage replied that TCS staff will be working with South Worcester Regulatory services officers to ensure that such sound levels are contained within acceptable levels

Events will not be licensed to continue beyond 1 a.m. at the latest. There is in fact no intention to "serve breakfasts" after that closure time, and traffic marshals will be employed to ensure that visitors leave the site immediately after this closing time.

Mr Nottage advised that new noise monitoring procedures had recently been implemented and TCS staff had received specific training in the use of the new equipment. A more proactive and hopefully effective approach was being instituted to deal with the resolution of any noise disturbance complaints that were received.

222/16 Reports from Council Committees

- (a) The Clerk presented the previously circulated report of the **Environment Committee** which had been held on 21st July ,2016
The report was **noted and accepted** by the Council

- (b) Cllr Chatten presented the previously circulated report of the **Planning Committee** which had been held on 19th July ,2016
the report was **noted and accepted** by the Council

- (c) Cllr Johnson presented the report of the **Finance & General Purposes Committee** meeting which had been held on 22nd July. The report and the recommendations contained therein were noted and approved by the Council

223/16 Review of Working Groups terms of reference and scope

- i) **Gas lamps working group.** Cllr Freeman advised that he had attended a further meeting with David Armitage of the Malvern Hills AONB to discuss potential grant funding to help fund the new gas lamps prefect.

A public consultation exercise, to assess support for the proposed scheme, was now being undertaken and relevant articles were being publish on the parish website and in the forthcoming edition of the Wells News.

- ii) **Communications working group.** The group would be meeting shortly to establish a protocol for dealing with Council correspondence

- iii) **Open Spaces working group.** There had been no meeting of the group since the pervious Council meeting

- iv) **Events working group.** Preparations for the Summer fete were going well and a final event planning meeting had been scheduled for 9th August

- v) **Jubilee Gardeners working group**
The Clerk and Members of the working group had met with the RHS Britain in Bloom assessor on 4th July. The group had prepared a portfolio, showing how the garden had developed in recent years, and

this had been submitted to the assessor to support the council's entry to the competition. Results were expected around mid-September

224/16

**Financial matters
Approval of the schedule of accounts payable**

(i) The following accounts were approved for payment; -

Chq	Payee		NET	VAT	GROSS
			£	£	£
3364	Steve Maund	Outdoor Work July	937.31	10.74	948.05
3365	Martin Thomas	cemetery work may & June	490.65	-	490.65
3366	Martin Thomas	cemetery work July	572.93	-	572.93
3367	Worc County Council	AONB Running costs grant	1,600.00	-	1,600.00
3368	HMRC	PAYE and Nat insurance June qtr.	1,119.00	-	1,119.00
3369	Malvern Wells Village hall PCC of Malvern Wells & The	room hire - April and may	64.00	-	64.00
3370	Wyche	room hire - June	30.00	-	30.00
3371	British Gas trading	gas lamps - June qtr.	1,283.88	256.78	1,540.66
3372	1st Malvern Scout group	community Grant for fencing imps	250.00		250.00
3373	SADS UK	defibrillator Cabinets	600.00	40.00	640.00
3374	Carolyn Aynsworth	wells News honorarium	100.00		100.00
d/debit					
21/7	British Telecom	Village hall broadband -June qtr.	143.50	28.70	172.20
s/order	David Taverner	July salary	1,521.84		1,521.84
3375	David Taverner	telephone, stationery, and other exp	346.73	39.47	386.20
3376	lloyds Bank plc	transfer to new account	25,000.00		25,000.00
3377	Malvern Hills Foodbank	donation to running costs	250.00		250.00
3378	Malvern Hills District Council	Rural Rate relief - Malvern Wells Post Office	226.76		226.76
TOTALS			34,536.60	375.69	34,912.29

ii) **Community Grant application**
Members unanimously agreed to support a community grant application of £250 from the first Malvern Scout Group to help with the financing of repairs to the Scout Hut Fencing at Assarts Road.

iii) **Rural rate relief application – Malvern Wells Post office 211 Wells Road**
Members unanimously agreed to support an application for Rural Rate Relief in the sum of £226.76 in respect of the sub-post office at 211, Wells Road.

iv)

Malvern Hills Community Foodbank

Members unanimously agreed to make a donation of £250 to support the running costs of the Malvern Hills Community foodbank.

225/16

Review of Council Standing Orders and Financial regulations

The Council's Standing orders were being updated to reflect the changes recommended by the Finance & General Purposes committee (F&GP) with regard to the reduction in the quorum of the Planning Committee from the existing seven members to 6.

Following the detailed review which had been undertaken by F&GP it was agreed that no further changes were needed to the Council's existing Standing orders and Financial Regulations which had last been formally adopted in July 2015.

The Council **unanimously resolved** to approve and adopt the updated Standing orders. It was noted that the Council's Financial regulations would continue to be the subject of ongoing review by the Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee at their quarterly meetings.

226/16

Vehicle Activated speed signs

In view of the ongoing issue of speeding traffic, particularly along the A 449 Wells Road, the County Council were being asked to undertake further vehicle speed surveys near to both the Wells and the Wyche Primary schools and along the Hanley Road.

A meeting had been arranged with the County Council's Senior Highways Liaison Manager – Gerry Brienza to review the locations of existing VAS signage within the parish.

Consideration would be given to the purchase of a mobile VAS system by the Parish Council. This would be capable of being moved to various locations, throughout the parish, as required and could be capable of providing data evidence to support the case for need of speeding enforcement in certain areas. Cllr Hodgson advised that funds could be made available from her divisional fund budget to help to support this scheme.

227/16

Report from the Clerk on actions undertaken since the previous meeting

- i) **Civic regalia.** An order, based on the final agreed medallion design had now been placed with Bromsgrove Medals Ltd

- ii) **Wells News.** Printing was now being completed and distribution of the magazine would commence during the first week of August
- iii) **Summer fete 11th September**– preparatory work was well advanced. The clerk appealed for additional help with the organisation of the event on the day. Additional donations of prizes for the tombola etc. would be welcomed

228/16

Malferna Bus service

The notes of a recent meeting to discuss the 360 Malferna Bus Service had been previously circulated to members

There had been questions regarding the provision of a late afternoon/early evening service and several residents had expressed the importance of a service to enable people to get to and from work.

It had also been stressed how important it is for young people to be able to get to work opportunities.

Questions had been asked whether the parishes/town councils could provide funding towards running the service.

There had been discussion about how many days a week the new service should run. Funding at £90 per day would cost approx. £14k for one year for a three-day service and approximately £27k for six-day operation.

Cllr Hodgson has pledged £5K from her Divisional Fund and other local Councillors had also indicated that they would be prepared to use their own divisional funds to help to support the service.

It was agreed that the Parish council could potentially consider making a financial contribution towards running costs when a clearer picture of the costs of running the service had been properly assessed. The level of such a contribution would be the subject of a review at a future meeting of the Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee.

229/16 Report of County Councillor – Cllr Mrs L Hodgson

County Councillor's Report for Malvern Wells Parish Council on Wednesday 27th July 2016

Highways Issues

Driving Homes Project

The driving home project was announced last week where over £10 million pounds is to be spent over the next 2 years on repairs to estate and category "c" roads across the county to bring the road up to a good standard. In the next few weeks a list roads will be issued by Division and I will share this with you.

Other Highways Issues

- I see from recent emails that a meeting has been arranged with Gerry to discuss the locations for the VAS signage. Apologies I am unable to attend as I go on holiday that day.
- Councillor O'Donnell has contacted me about the issues of the surface dressing on Wells Close. I am told officers did go out and inspect the road and did put down some more surface dressing to stick down the tarmac. Around this time the whole programme was halted as the hot weather was causing the tarmac layer to melt across the county. I am not totally happy with the result of the officer visit and I been reassured that they will monitor Wells Close.
- I am afraid I did not get very far with the parked vehicles on the main road by the care home development. I did contact county and district officers but no one wanted to take responsibility. Councillor Baker has reassured me that she will look at this matter and see if there is anything that can be done as it appears not to be a planning issue. I suspect that it is the police who can really deal with the obstruction of the pavement if that occurs.

Work continues on multi-million-pound Southern Link Road improvements

Work continues to gather pace on the multi-million pound A4440 Worcester Southern Link Road improvement scheme.

With an investment of over £40m to dual between Ketch and Whittington roundabouts, the programme is one of the biggest upgrades to road infrastructure in the County for many years. The scheme has been identified as one of the highest priorities in terms of tackling both current and future levels of congestion, which is a significant barrier to economic growth.

Work to improve Norton Roundabout is progressing well. Contractors have now been given the go-ahead to begin dual-tracking the section of road between Norton and Whittington roundabouts, as well as completing the dualling between Norton Roundabout and the Ketch.

This phase of work will include the creation of a dedicated left-hand turn from Whittington Road (from Junction 7 of the M5) and the removal of the current "give way" arrangement. Work to complete the entire dualling, including the installation of new railway and bridleway bridges, is due to commence in summer 2017 with a spring 2019 completion.

The benefits of delivering the scheme include:

- Improving transport links and infrastructure, which will boost the local economy.
- Contributing towards reducing traffic congestion in the city centre, residential areas and on the Southern Link Road.
- Reducing journey times.
- Improving journey time reliability.

Funding for the improvements comes from a number of sources, including £16.4 million from the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership as part of the Government's Growth Deal and £16.3million provisionally allocated from the South Worcestershire Urban Extension development programme.

Worcestershire's Green Spaces fly the Green Flag again

Waseley Hills Country Park near Ribery, Worcester Woods Country Park and St. Wulstan's Nature Reserve near Malvern Wells are some of the very best in the UK – and that's official.

Keep Britain Tidy has awarded three of Worcestershire's County Council's green spaces the Green Flag Award. Waseley Hills Country Park; Worcester Woods Country Park; and St. Wulstan's Local Nature Reserve in Upper Welland.

The award, now celebrating its 20th year, recognises and rewards the best parks and green spaces across the country. A Green Flag flying overhead is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent facilities.

Ofsted rating boost for WCC Learning provision

The effectiveness of learning provision in Worcestershire has been confirmed following a recent Ofsted inspection.

Ofsted have awarded a rating of 'good' to Worcestershire County Council for their learning provision for 16–19 year olds and adults 19+ following their inspection in June 2016. This is the second highest possible rating.

Inspectors noted that 16-19 year olds not currently in education, employment or training gain vital skills and qualifications in a wide range of areas such as catering and hospitality, business administration and horticulture. Adults on 19+ programmes learn new skills and improve work opportunities through the Adult Learning Programme.

The report also highlights a significant improvement in achievement rates, individual development and progression opportunities for learners. Ofsted inspectors conclude that learning provision is 'well-chosen and responds well to the needs of the local community and local enterprise'.

County Council Have Your Say Roadshows meet more residents than ever before

Latest figures show that over a thousand people had their say this June at the Have Your Say Roadshow – more than ever before.

The final Have Your Say Roadshow took place at the Aston Fields Summer Fete, in Bromsgrove. Scores of people turned out for the event, pushing the number of visitors to the roadshow over the thousand marks.

This has been the sixth year we have taken to the county's roads. The Have Your Say Roadshow visited, Asparafest in Evesham, Kidderminster, Worcester City, Upton Jazz Festival, Kingfisher Centre Redditch and Aston Fields Summer Fete in Bromsgrove.

This year we took a quirky approach to asking residents to tell us which priorities matter the most to them, by using a giant Connect 4 game. Respondents were asked to choose four from seven of our priorities.

A second activity used a map to ask people for their thoughts on the county's highways. Respondents were asked what 'gets their goat' or 'floats their boat', to drill down on which issues matter the most and what people like about our highways.

Full steam ahead for Worcestershire Parkway station

The next key milestone has been reached in the continued progress of the new Worcestershire Parkway Regional Interchange Station.

The Secretary of State has confirmed the compulsory purchase order on land required for the proposed development site.

All statutory objections related to the compulsory purchase order were withdrawn in May, rendering unnecessary a public inquiry that was scheduled to have taken place.

The decision enables Worcestershire County Council to use its powers to purchase the remaining land and interests needed for the station's development. The location of Worcestershire Parkway is strategically important for improving access to London and the wider UK, via the North Cotswold and north-south CrossCountry rail services.

The station will also deliver wider benefits for the local economy and ensure the county is truly open for business.

Economic benefits include: increasing accessibility to markets and employment; encouraging inward investment and economic growth in Worcestershire; and enabling the county to achieve its target of 25,000 new jobs by 2025

Work will start on Worcestershire Parkway Regional Interchange Station in early 2017 and is due for completion in spring 2018.

School Crossing Patrol and other changes

As part of reorganisation of departments across the council the most of the areas I am responsible for have come under a new directorate of Children's, Families and Communities and this includes Road safety which is now with Countryside Service. I was delighted to be told that they have managed to arrange a new patrol for them who will start on 5th September; this will also be permanent as the previous patrol sadly passed away. The school has been made aware as the service wanted them to know before the term ended.

Also as a result of the changes the responsibility for the AONB will also come to Countryside Services and my responsibility.

And Finally

Officers have decided to extend the Malferna bus service to the end of October. I understand Councillor Tom Wells has raised some concerns about the proposed Community Offer and officers wanted to allow Tom to be fully consulted due to his recent absence. The County Councillors who are involved with the project are due to meet with the Cllr Marcus Harte the relevant Cabinet member to discuss concerns that have been raised. As I had promised I have agreed to give £5000 of my divisional fund to help support the proposed community offer in its first year.

There being no other business the meeting the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

Minutes approved Wednesday 28th September, 2016

Signed

Cllr Neil Chatten- Chairman of the Council