

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 24th October, 2012** commencing at 7.30 pm

Present

Councillors:

K Wagstaff (Chairman)
A Hull
Mrs H Burrage
S Atwell
M Victory
S Freeman
J Black

Mrs A Bradshaw
B Knibb

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

Apologies recorded: Cllrs P Buchanan, C O' Donnell, N Johnson
J Tretheway – Elected conservator
Malvern Policing Team

70/12 To Record a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests for the Meeting and b) any changes to be notified to the Register of Interests and Gifts & Hospitality

No changes were necessary to the declarations that had previously made.

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.

71/12 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th September, 2012 to be confirmed and signed.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26th September, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record, with an amendment to minute 58/12 (b) to read :-

"That the yellow no waiting lines outside the Village Hall should be restored back to their original location"

72/12 Matters Arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising from the approved minutes.

73/12 Report from the Local Policing Team

The local policing team had sent their apologies for being unable to attend the meeting

74/12 Report from Worcestershire County Councillor - Cllr S Brown

Cllr Brown advised that there would be an extraordinary District Council meeting on 13th November to consider the next stage of the South Worcestershire Development plan.

The amended site proposals put forward by the District Council's cross-party working were also due to be considered at the meeting.

The Chairman mentioned that a letter had been sent to the District Council underlining the Parish concerns regarding the data which has been included in the latest Severn

Trent Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) which supposedly aims to set a long term strategy for ensuring the security of water supplies in the area for the next twenty years.

The planned objective of the WMRP is to provide a continuous supply of water at the lowest possible least cost to the consumer. This is intended to be achieved this by reducing demand and ensuring the sustainable use of water resources , whilst at the same time, having to implement supply restrictions more than three times in every 100 years.

This objective in itself seems unlikely to be achieved considering the fact that such restrictions have in fact been put in place during each of the last five years at the very least. The letter **was noted and unanimously endorsed** by the Parish Council.

Cllr Brown drew attention to the proposed funding regime changes impacting on local schools from April 2013 under which all schools will get the same lump sum and will only be able to apply for extra funding based on criteria such as the number of pupils with special needs and the levels of deprivation in the area. Being in a rural area will no longer be a factor in claiming extra funding.

The forecast impact of the cuts would impact on local primary schools, with the Wells primary school likely to lose 13% of its current level of funding with a similar cut for the Wyche Primary school of 7%

It was **agreed** that the Clerk should be asked to send a letter to Harriet Baldwin MP underlining the Parish Council's concerns about the impact of the proposed cuts.

75/12 Report from Malvern Hills District Councillor– Cllr C Cheeseman

Cllr Cheeseman also drew attention to the forthcoming SWDP special meeting and pointed out that if the SWDP was not approved then there was a severe risk that there would be no plan in place by the deadline for its submission to the Secretary of State.

The District Council could choose to pull out of the SWDP and go with the report proposed by the cross party working group. If the SWDP was not approved within the time limits laid down then there was a risk that this could bring extra housing to most of the sites already earmarked . The Upper Welland site could again become vulnerable to speculative development applications.

76/12 Reports of Committees/Committee Chairmen

- a) Cllr Hull presented the report of the **Planning Committee** held on 6th October which was **noted and accepted** by the Council.
- b) Members **noted and accepted** the report of the **Environment Committee** which had been held on 17th October. The Clerk advised that the County Council's Countryside Access team had congratulated the Parish Council on the manner in which all the footpaths and bridleways in the Parish had been maintained.
- c) Cllr Bradshaw presented the report of the **Finance and General Purposes Committee** report which had been held on 18th October. The report and the recommendations therein **were noted and approved** by the Council.

77/12 Chairman's Correspondence

a) A request had been received from the parents forum of Malvern Wells Primary School concerning the use of the Playing Field on Assarts Road/Lane.

The School was keen to use the field for their joint Sports Day / Summer Fair which is provisionally scheduled for 24th May 2013 and were therefore seeking the Council's permission for its use.

It was agreed that the council has no objections with the school using the playing field for day to day activities as it wishes, and it was suggested that there was also the possibility that the Village Green in St Wulstans could be made available for use.

b) A letter had been received from a local resident concerning difficulties with a boundary dispute at their property following building work arising from a recent planning application.

Following discussion it was felt that the issue of boundary disputes was not in the Council's remit and that a letter should be sent to the parishioner concerned suggesting they pursue the matter with their solicitor or the District Council's planning enforcement officer.

78/12 Gas lamps Refurbishment project

The Clerk advised that all but two of the lamp heads were now back on their poles and the contractor would be submitting invoices for all the completed work that had been undertaken to date.

Invoices would now be sent to the District Council to secure the respective grant funding. A meeting of the Gas lamps working group would be held to review work on the refurbishment project and to consider how best to monitor the gas lamps maintenance contract going forward.

79/12 Extension of Children's play facilities in the Parish

The Clerk advised that he had attended an informal meeting with ROSPA who had informally advised that the site known as "the Pound" on Peachfield Road would be suitable for the development of a play area. It was **agreed** that the Chairman and the Clerk should now approach the Director of the Conservators to arrange a meeting to discuss the potential for the use of this land

80/12 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

The Clerk reported that the Council had now formally submitted its NDP application to the District Council. The District Council had indicated that they wished to see further consultation with residents taking place before they would agree to the Parish Council being supported with the next phase of the plan development.

It was agreed that the relevant District Council officer should be invited to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council to advise on the most appropriate way forward in this regard.

81/12 Community Events

Remembrance Sunday 11th November.

The Clerk advised that all the preparations for Remembrance Sunday were well in hand. The road closure licence in respect of the Wells Road had now been received and the bugler who had played at last year's service had confirmed that he was able to attend. The leader of the local scout pack had confirmed that they would also be leading the parade. Peter Buchanan would be conducting the Service.

Carol service 14th December

Clr Burrage advised the meeting that the annual carol service was scheduled to take place on 14th December in the Village Hall. The Hall would be decorated on Wednesday 12th December and anyone who wished to take part in the event was asked to contact Cllr Burrage. Advertisements for the event would be placed in the Wells News and on the Parish Council website.

82/12 actions undertaken since last meeting

(a) The Clerk advised that he had requested the County and District Councils to sweep all the roads and paths throughout the Parish to clear the autumn leaf fall and the road grit and debris that had accumulated in the road gulleys and drains.

(b) The winter edition of the Wells News had been completed and was now being printed.

(c) Further work had been undertaken on the application to the District Council to secure the release of section 106 funds to support works on the development of the Council's intended play projects.

83/12 Cemetery matters

Works had now been undertaken to restore the Cemetery's water supply and a new leaf vacuum and hedge cutter had now been purchased.

84/12 Financial matters

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

Cheque number	Payee		Amount £
2945	Steve Maund	Cemetery work and grass cutting contract	3,091.93
2946	David Taverner	Clerk -Salary and Expenses -October	1,729.75
2947	Martin Thomas	Cemetery Work- October	258.31
2948	Clement keys	External Audit Fee	660.00
2949	Malvern Wells Village Hall	Room Hire	36.00
2950	Brookside Fire Services	Cemetery Fire extinguishers	45.16
2951	NAMESCO Ltd	Website Renewal subscription	191.99
2952	British Gas Ltd	Gas Lamps consumption	1,227.62
2953	PCC of Malvern Wells & the Wyche	room Hire	22.50

It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate the possibility of obtaining a bank debit purchasing card which could be used when purchasing certain items where it was cost effective to do so, or items that can only be purchased via the internet.

Full written procedures for the use of the card would be presented to the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35 pm

Signed.....
Chairman -28th November, 2012