

## MAMBLE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Mamble Parish Council meeting held in Mamble Village Hall on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 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) and District Cllr. Mr D Godwin

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1. **Apologies:** These were received and accepted from County Cllr. Mr D Chambers.
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 07/09/2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Councillors', District and County Council reports:** County Cllr. Mr D Chambers kindly submitted a report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. District Cllr. Godwin reported on several matters, including the changes and lack of staff in the planning department at the District Council. This in part, has resulted in the planning Appeal for Application M/22/01623/FUL Land at OS 6896 7149 in Mamble. This matter was also raised in correspondence received from parishioner, Mr G Malcolm. The Clerk and Councillors received notification of this appeal today and raised concerns that the District Council has not had the opportunity for a final decision, either way, on this application. Details of the appeal can be found on the District Council website at [Planning application: M/22/01623/FUL - Malvern Hills District Council](#) and this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

### 6. Progress reports:

6.1 Lay by and damaged sign. The Chairman was happy to report the stolen bin has now been replaced and although there is no news on the damaged sign, Highways have agreed to a replacement sign for Church Lane.

6.2 Fallen trees and brash from land in Mamble village. The Chairman has spoken to Highways regarding this matter and he and the Clerk will follow this up.

### 7. Correspondence received and Items for Discussion.

7.1 Malvern Hills District Council – Information on Polling Station review.

7.2 South Worcestershire Development Plan Review update.

7.3 Worcestershire County Council – Advert for Independent Remuneration Panel Members

7.4 Local Police updates and Parish Contracts will be completed by the Clerk.

7.5 Correspondence from parishioner Mr G Malcolm regarding planning, which was raised with Cllr. Godwin.

7.6 Worcestershire CALC AGM 17/10/23

### 8. Finance:

#### 8.1 Bank Statements

8.1.1 26.09.23 Business Account £5133.31

8.1.2 30.09.23 Current Account £4830.75

#### 8.2 Receipts:

8.2.1 06.06.23 WCC Lengthsman Payment £210.00

8.2.2 15.08.23 WCC Lengthsman Payment £425.24

8.2.3 19.09.23 WCC Lengthsman Payment £212.62

8.2.4 27.09.23 MHDC Precept Second Half 2023/2024 £3000.00

#### **8.3 Payments - The following payments were ratified and cheques signed;**

8.3.1 Mr C Bunn (Lengthsman September) £212.62

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

8.3.3 Society of Local Council Clerks (renewal) £101.00

8.3.4 Information Commissioners Office (Data protection fee renewal) £40.00

8.3.5 Mr C Bunn (P3 Scheme work) £226.80

9. The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.50pm

**The Date of next meeting is Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023.**

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman

Councillors

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

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### APPENDICIES

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#### Item 5

#### County Councillor's Report to Town & Parish Councils October 2023

1. Worcestershire County Council are in the process of producing a revised Environment Improvement Plan which will bring together several separate policies including the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Biodiversity Action Plan. The new plan will be driven by the Cabinet Member for the Environment and considered by the Member Advisory Group which is a cross Party group of Councillors.

Within the Corporate Plan the council pledged to plant 150,000 trees. 50,000 of these have now been planted.

The County Council is working with Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency to address the outflow of polluted water into our rivers and streams.

The County Council continues to work with the Environment Agency to progress their flood defence schemes in Tenbury, Bewdley, Severn Stoke and Worcester.

Worcestershire County Council has been shortlisted in the "National Council/Local Authority of the Year" category, for a National Energy Efficiency Award, in recognition of its commitment to sustainability.

2. Following recent reports of identifying RAAF concrete in buildings, the County Council has conducted and continues to conduct further investigations and studies. As Chairman of the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee I called for a report on RAAF in Worcestershire schools. I can report that no RAAF has been identified in any of the schools operated by the local authority including Community, Voluntary Controlled and Foundation schools. Academies, Voluntary Aided and Independent schools are reporting directly to the Department for Education (DfE) and the DfE is not sharing this information with the Council.

3. I have recently expressed concern regarding vaping by children aged 11 to 18 years and will be bringing these concerns as a future agenda item on the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Vaping is a good thing if used by adults who are trying to give up smoking, it is not however, something we should be encouraging for general use by adults let alone children.

Sadly, many people do not realise that vapes contain nicotine and in some cases more nicotine than in cigarettes. They are also available in a variety of coloured tanks and fun flavourings, which are particularly attractive to young children. Despite efforts by Worcestershire Trading Standards and Worcestershire Public Health, vapes are being both sold to children and acquired by children under 18 years.

4. Consultation regarding changes to Division boundaries within Worcestershire are well under way. The County Council (with cross Party agreement) has submitted its recommendation. There are no changes recommended for the Tenbury Division, the electorate however is expected to increase by 900 by 2029. All Town and Parish Councils, community groups and individuals can submit recommendations to the Boundary Commission. The new boundaries will come into effect in the May 2025 elections.

#### Councillors

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

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5. At a recent meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee of Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority it was agreed that all employees would be required to undergo DBS checks.
6. I was recently informed that a Public Footpath crosses the grounds of one school in my Division and that the school tried unsuccessfully in 2018 to have the footpath diverted. I have visited the school and have myself tried unsuccessfully to have the matter reassessed. This is a further issue that I shall bring forward to the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee as I am concerned that public footpaths take priority over the safeguarding of school children.
7. I have made a formal request to Worcestershire County Council to procure the building of a new pedestrian bridge over the river Teme at Tenbury. The current bridge is no longer fit for purpose due the continued risk to pedestrians' safety from vehicles mounting the footpath on both sides, whilst being used by pedestrians.

I am suggesting that the new pedestrian bridge be build alongside or near to the existing bridge. The existing bridge would then be prohibited to pedestrians. I am further suggesting that each of the two footpaths be reduced in size by 50% thereby increasing the width of the carriageway. Bollards could then be placed along the length of both reduced footpaths to prevent vehicles from driving too close to the bridge railings.

The boundary between Worcestershire and Shropshire is along the center of the river Teme and as such I am suggesting that funding is provided by both Worcestershire County Council and Shropshire Council, with additional funds if necessary, coming from central government.

David Chambers  
County Councillor, Tenbury Division

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