

Minutes of the Annual meeting of Rochford Parish Council held on Monday, 9th May 2022

Attendance: Cllrs C Lord, A Prosser, M Powell, M Gough & T Jones

In Attendance: Clerk – C Powell

1) Election of Chairman:

Cllr C Lord was proposed by M Powell and seconded by A Prosser.

2) Apologies: There were apologies from County Councillor D Chambers, District Councillors Thomas & Bruton.

3) Declarations of Interest: No changes.

4) Appointment of Officers:

Vice Chairman – Cllr M Powell proposed by Cllr C Lord & seconded by Cllr M Gough

5) To receive the Chairman's declaration of office

Received

6) Community Officer's Report

PSCO Deb Abbott attended to give her report – report attached (appendix 1)

7) Annual governance statement

- Annual governance statements 2021/22 – Agreed

8) Adoption of Accounts

- Account statements were adopted on proposal from Cllr T Jones and seconded by Cllr A Prosser
- Confirmation of smaller authorities certificate of exemption for the year ended 31st March 2022 – agreed by all councillors present and signed by the chairman

9) District Councillor's Report

Due to illness & clash of meetings, both County Councillor & District Councillors were unable to attend.

County Council report is attached (appendix 2)

District Council report is attached (appendix 3)

9) Any Other Business

- None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Parish Report Rochford 2022

It has been another busy year for the team.

Martley and Tenbury SNT are still waging war against rural crime, thefts and speeding, and road traffic offences which sadly isn't going away. There are a number of measures that can be taken to deter thefts, and promote safer speeds on our roads, links to useful information can be found on the West Mercia Police website which includes security advice.

The PCSO's in the team are able to give general security advice, but for more specialist advice we can signpost to, Mike Simpson, Business and Crime Prevention Officer, P C Nigel Bolton, We don't Buy Crime Officer and Residential Security and Crime Prevention Officer, Jacqueline Godfrey Hunt.

Rochford highlighted speeding wildlife crime as priorities as part of the Parish Contract Contact Charter.

Speeding: There are two identified sites for a flashing 30mph signage. No further information for this or a community speed watch scheme.

Wildlife crime: Hare coursing on farm land and private property is still being reported in the area from time to time. Whilst we do patrol the area at night this is a particularly difficult issue to police due to resources and the geographical locations. Patrols will continue in the area.

Whilst the numbers for crime in this area remain relatively low, no crime is acceptable and we will continue to work to reduce numbers further.

Rochford has no recorded data for rural or other thefts, but in the wider community there have been a number of farms that have been targets for theft on several occasions, we continue to work with P C Nigel Bolton and John Meek who are tasked with Rural Crime reductions and the SNT continue to collate intelligence regarding rural crimes.

We remain committed to engagement with the community with visits to the local coffee mornings, and Parish Meetings; Martley and Tenbury SNT are always available by email for questions, queries, etc.

We are available to give talks to groups or residents, advising on what scams are currently doing the rounds, and how to keep safe and avoid being taken in by the ever increasing and sophisticated measure criminal gangs are using against the unsuspecting and vulnerable people in our communities.

We have now officially relocated to Tenbury Fire Station located in Burford Tenbury Wells. At the moment the team are:

PC Jack Sykes, PCSO Ness Snape, PCSO Deb Abbott, and PCSO Teresa Howells Brown

We are available via email: mt.snt@qwestmercia.police.uk, or mobile phones

PC Sykes 07890 390717

Ness Snape 07814 040307

Deb Abbott 07890 535960

Teresa Howells Brown 07814 041496

You can also reach us via Tenbury Cops on Face book

We are increasingly using Neighbourhood Matters to send out alerts and messages etc., so if you haven't yet signed up, please head to either West Mercia Website to do so, or Neighbourhood Matters directly online.

Please contact us if you need any help or information with any of the above.

**Worcestershire County Council Report
Rochford Parish Council Meeting 9th May 2022.**

1. Worcestershire County Council is working closely with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and with local partners, to co-ordinate actions regarding our response to the Ukraine refugee crisis. The County Council has agreed with the six Worcestershire District Councils, to co-ordinate our response as "One Worcestershire", to ensure a joint approach is undertaken.

At the moment the best way to provide humanitarian help for the people of Ukraine is through financial donations to organisations with a presence in the region. This is considered a more effective way to support those in need, rather than physical donations, given the complexities and time it can take to physically transport supplies. Together with this Report, I am forwarding a list of agencies supporting Ukraine, should anyone wish to contact them.

Over 2,000 families have offered their homes to Ukrainian families in Worcestershire. 700 guests have arrived so far and are being hosted by 289 families. 228 guests in Wychavon, followed by Malvern Hills, Worcester City, Bromsgrove, Wyre Forest and Redditch. Host families offer their home for a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 12 months, though this may be extended if necessary.

2. The Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing strategy consultation 2022 – 2032, has been launched. Good mental health and wellbeing may mean different things to different people. Your thoughts and feelings are welcomed, to help WCC shape the future of health and wellbeing over the next ten years. The consultation survey is open to everyone and will help build up a picture of what Wellbeing means to people of all ages across the county. More details can be found at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/HWBStrategy2022
3. Worcestershire County Council have been unsuccessful in their Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) submission to the government. It is also extremely disappointing to hear that First Bus have announced they intend to significantly cut services in Worcestershire. The details are yet to be finalised but this will have a detrimental impact on residents. The County Council is now considering its future policy with regards to bus services in Worcestershire.
4. Ambulance waiting times remain a major concern in the county. Ambulances often continue to wait for several hours to discharge their patients at the Worcester Royal Hospital, due to patient delays from progressing from the Emergency Department onto wards.

David Chambers
County Councillor, Tenbury Division.

Annex A – List of agencies providing support for Ukraine

Donating Financially

- Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) launched a [Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal](#) to raise funds for food, water, medicine, protection and trauma care for people fleeing the war. Every pound donated by the UK public to the DEC will be matched by the government, up to the value of £20m.
- [The UN Refugee Agency](#) - distributing essential relief items, including blankets, sleeping bags and hygiene items and delivering essential aid
- The [British Red Cross](#) - providing accommodation, food, water and other aid items to refugees.
- [Care International](#) is providing emergency relief through its partner, People in Need - this non-governmental, non-profit organisation has been sending trucks of durable food, hygiene items, nappies, sleeping bags, mats, and other goods into Lviv in western Ukraine to distribute to people locally.
- [Save the Children](#) - Distributing essential supplies and winter kits of clothing and blankets as temperatures plunge below freezing
- The [International Committee of the Red Cross](#) is working closely with the Ukrainian Red Cross Society to provide emergency assistance and support local hospitals and primary healthcare facilities with medical equipment.
- [Unicef](#) - It estimates there are up to 7.5 million children in need of support and says a £46 donation will provide a family with an emergency water and hygiene kit.
- [Médecins Sans Frontières](#) are responding to medical and humanitarian needs as the conflict evolves, providing training in emergency medicine and surgical preparedness to hospitals, as well as mass casualty kits with supplies for treating traumatic injuries.
- [World Jewish Relief](#) - the charity is supporting refugees with food, water, personal protective equipment and accommodation.
- [Cafod](#) - providing beds, food, washing facilities and safe spaces for children.
- The [World Health Organization](#) is raising funds for its frontline response and to deliver life-saving medicines and supplies to people across Ukraine and to refugees.

Donating Supplies

- [Goods For Good UK](#) are providing a rapid response Ukraine crisis and are supplying relief aid to Ukrainian welfare centres which include bedding, clothing, hygiene essential toiletries.

Malvern Hills District Council Report (April 2022)

Cllr Lesley Bruton (Tenbury Ward)

Chief Executive's Roundup

Vic, our CEO, has produced a report from the District Council to Parish Councils - please find attached Vic's report, which gives a more general update about what is going on.

Ward Budget

I was elected last September and would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to residents for their support. I am pleased to have supported the following projects through my ward budget:

Tenbury CofE Primary Academy – Weather Station - £250.00

Chamber of Trade – Santa Parade - £100.00

Ludwig Theatre Arts – Free Christmas Films event - £100.00

Stoke Bliss Parish Council – Jubilee Tree Planting - £50.00

This financial year I would like to provide funding towards Jubilee Celebrations.

Vehicle Charging Points

The installation of the six electric vehicle charging points in Teme Street car park was planned for 11th April. Unfortunately, Western Power are unable to complete their works and have indicated there will be a 6-8 week delay.

Town Centre Support

A new planter has been ordered for Market Square and will be delivered to the Town Council.

To support the Platinum Jubilee celebration union flag bunting has been ordered for Teme Street and Market Street.

Four colourful lamp-post banners will be installed along the A456 in Burford to encourage tourists to visit Tenbury and the surrounding areas.

To encourage footfall to Tenbury, a new Easter trail was created for families to enjoy from 12-16 April 2022. Families had to find 19 Easter chicks and letters around the shop windows in the town. After completing the trail, a prize could be collected from the Tourist Information Centre. The trail was extremely successful and thoroughly enjoyed by families.

A Platinum Jubilee trail is planned for the half-term holiday.

Ukraine

Several residents have asked how they can help support people affected by the devastating war in Ukraine. The District Council together with Worcestershire County Council will be leading on the delivery of support for refugees. For further information, please visit the District Council's website:

<https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/community/support-for-ukraine>

Dog Control Powers

Following a six-week public consultation, the Dog Control Public Space Protection Order was approved by the Executive Committee. More than 480 residents took part in the consultation, with overwhelming support, the majority of which were dog owners.

The order was brought into force with effect from 1 May 2022 and will continue to allow the District Council to deal with dog control offences by issuing fixed penalty notices.

Dog fouling offences can be reported on the District Council's website via the link below:

<https://swict.malvern hills.gov.uk/cepoformsmhdc/forms/dogfouling/main.jsp>

Community Builders

Funded by the Public Health's Containment Outbreak Management Fund for Asset Based Community Development, the Council has appointed two Community Builders Officers. The Community Builders will be working with residents and partners to strengthen community connections with the aim of reducing isolation and improving health and well-being.

The Community Builders visited Tenbury in March and met with Cllr Thomas, the Mayor Cllr Hudson and I to discuss the current services working to engage young people, as well as support for the elderly or vulnerable through travel services and through 1:1 booking, to support with household tasks through organisations such as KITE (St Michaels Keep in Touch group).

It was also a pleasure to introduce the Community Builders to Tenbury CofE Primary Academy Headteacher. The Community Builders enjoyed witnessing the school's proud Forest School at work.

A visit was also made to St Michaels to consider possible support for the Millennium Pond.

If you have any projects that may need support, please let me know.



29 April 2022 (MHDC)

Coronavirus update

The infection rate in our district is currently at 185 cases per 100,000. This has decreased by 53% in the last 7 days (information correct as of 29 April 2022).

View the latest infection rate on the [Coronavirus dashboard](#)

Vaccine rollout data - booster

[View the Worcestershire Vaccine dashboard](#) for the latest information.

To book your vaccine or booster online go to [book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination on the NHS website](#).

New Head of Development Management

Ciaran Power has been appointed as the new Head of Development Management across both councils and will take up this role from 1 June. He has been acting up on an interim basis as the Head of Planning Services for Malvern and was one of 12 staff members who recently completed our first Aspiring Talent programme.

Delay to SWDP publication

The updated South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) will not be published for consultation in July as scheduled, because work on the key documents relating to development sites and the infrastructure needed to support them is yet to be completed.

More time is required to finalise the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which is a crucial evidence document setting out how strategic infrastructure, such as roads and new schools, will be delivered to support proposals in the SWDP for the additional 14,000 new dwellings that we are required to deliver across Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon District by 2041.

The Regulation 19 publication draft of the SWDP was scheduled for public consultation in July, with the Submission version timetabled for independent examination later this year.

The impact of the latest delay to the SWDP is still being assessed and a new timetable will be drawn up for elected councillors to consider. [Read more about the SWDP delay on our website.](#)

Ukraine Support

Staff continue to work hard to deliver the Homes for Ukraine scheme in Malvern Hills. As of 28 April, we have been made aware of 75 hosts in the district, with an anticipated 198 guests, although we are learning that some guests are choosing not to travel after their visa has been issued for a variety of reasons, so we are treating this figure with caution. As of 26 April, the Home Office had issued 136 visas to guests intending to travel to Malvern Hills.

To date, staff have carried out a total of 36 property checks – all satisfactory – with a further 9 booked. Additional capacity has been committed by the Communities team to assist with these checks. Working with the CAB, we have also welcomed 10 guests to the district so far to collect their £200 payment and inform us of any welfare or support needs. We know that more have arrived, and they are being booked in for their welcome.

The main priorities we are picking up from initial welcome conversations are access to healthcare and particularly mental health / trauma support, school placements and support with financial matters, including bank accounts, benefits and right to work. Our local partners, and particularly local community groups, have been instrumental in helping us to provide the necessary support, including with basic needs such as clothing.

Our [Support for Ukraine webpage](#) has lots of information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme in Malvern, as well as how to sponsor a Ukrainian person to come to the UK how to volunteer your support to help them arriving in Malvern.

The [Welcome to Malvern Hills guide](#) has also been published which includes important information to help Ukrainian guests settle in the district. It covers everything from opening a bank account and looking for a job to school places and bin collections.

Priory Park Play Area

The newly revamped play area in Priory Park opened to the public on Good Friday (15 April) and has received a widely positive response.

We want to ensure it continues to be as safe possible, so our designers Flights of Fantasy are on site this week to undertake a few snagging works. This will take a few days. The play area will still be open but the areas they will be working in will be cordoned off.



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There will be a short, formal opening ceremony held on 5 May 2022 to celebrate the new addition to the popular park.

Easter Trails



The Easter Trails hosted in Tenbury Wells and Upton upon Severn from 12-16 April have been deemed a success with plenty of families taking part and with positive feedback from the shops involved.

Tenbury Wells - 119 trail forms completed.

Upton upon Severn – 567 visitors with 160 trail forms completed.

Connected Communities Network Session

The Connected Communities Network Session took place on Wednesday 27 April at Lindridge Parish Hall. 26 partners attended along with 7 online participants. We discussed Rural Connectivity, highlighting the challenges our rural communities face and all the positive opportunities that are available. The slides, promotional information and actions of the meeting will be circulated.

Spacehive

The spring /summer round of Spacehive projects will be launched very soon and we are delighted to have at least six community projects in this campaign. We will update you of these once they are live.

This year, there will also be lots of Jubilee community events which have been funded through the Spacehive platform. We will announce these projects soon.

Malvern Well Dressing & Water Festival 29 April – 8 May 2022

The Malvern Spa Association, Malvern Hills District Council and Malvern Town Council work in partnership to deliver a programme of events for the annual Malvern Well Dressing & Water Festival.

Festival Highlights:



- Tour over 50 wells, springs and spouts dressed in this year's theme 'Literature'. Purchase a Well Dressing Map from Malvern Tourist Information Centre and go on a Self-guided Walk
- Well Blessings
- Mini-Bus Tours
- 30 April – Health & Wellbeing Fair in Rose Bank Gardens (organised by Malvern Town Council)
- 30 April – Malvern Arts Market in the Priory Grounds (organised by Boffy Markets)
- 30 April – Florence Nightingale Walk with local expert Cora Weaver at 11am and 7pm. £6.00 each for 1.5 hours. Call Malvern Tourist Information Centre to book tickets 01684 892289.
- 30 April - Peace Concert for Ukraine at Malvern Cube. Find out more here.
- 1 May – NEW For Sunday – Head to outside the Priory Gatehouse on Abbey Road at 10am for dance performances by the AKAcademy.
- 1 May – Ceilidh at Malvern Cube also celebrating the venues 10th Birthday.
- 5 May – 8 May – The RHS Malvern Spring Festival takes place at the Three Counties Showground.

Bank Holiday Monday – Family Fun Day in Priory Park

The Family Fun Day in Priory Park is a mixture of children's activities and entertainment, including the NEW Priory Play Park being open, Freedom Leisure Xplorer Trail, children's water-inspired rides, circus skills, clay pottery workshops, the Well Dressing Prize Giving Ceremony and the Victorian Water Cure re-enactment (organised by Malvern Hills District Council and the Malvern Spa Association).

Find out more here: www.visitthemaalverns.org/welldressing

Sustainable Tourism Grant Programme

The Sustainable Tourism Grant programme has approved a number of grants so far including for Treherne House and The Malvern Retreat, The Fold in Bransford, Ashbury House B&B and Rowley Farm Holidays.

Green Mark Programme

The first two businesses to be awarded a new Green Mark are The Cottage in the Wood Hotel and The Fold in Bransford with a few more to be awarded over the next week which include Black Dog Adventures, Hazelhurst Farm and Rowley Farm Holidays.



2022 Visit The Malverns Guide

The refreshed Visit The Malverns Guide is out now with 25,000 copies being distributed across the region. The guide features text, images, a new illustrative map and explore business listings. Download the Visit The Malverns Guide [here](#).

Visit The Malverns Website Statistics

Website traffic to the VTM website www.visitthemalverns.org has continued to perform well.

January – 36,010 (+80.19% compared to 2019)

February – 33,107 (+58.19% compared to 2019)

March – 39,846 (+ 76.60% compared to 2019)