

CASTLEMORTON PARISH COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of Meeting of Castlemorton Parish Council held on
Thursday 11 January 2024 at 7.00 pm in Castlemorton Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs: Mike Wilkinson (Chairman), David Smallwood, Dawn Fisher, Hilary Flanders, Jeremy Hubbard, Rosemary Powell, Rebecca Rollinson, Nigel Baker and Dan Bowker

In Attendance: Mrs C Leake (Clerk) DCllr Christine Wild

Members of the Public: 0

Public Comments: . None

01/24 Apologies: None

02/24 Declarations of interests

1. *Register of Interests.*
2. *To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and/or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI) in items on the agenda and their nature.* Cllrs Powell & Baker planning
3. *To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011).* None

03/24 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the meeting of **2 November 2023** were a true record of the meeting and were signed.

04/24 Reports from County & District Councillors

DCllr Christine Wild. Her report included:

- Reference to Healthwatch. Seeking experiences of healthcare in the community including primary care and local surgery. MHDC will be focusing on health and wellbeing.
- MHDC Food waste strategy, seeking reduction, more composting
- Carbon Reduction- Wild flower projects maybe using Castlemorton as a role model for ideas reference Environmental Group activities.
- Ward Budget for 2024/25 will be £1000. Any ideas? Note availability of grants.

05/24. Finance Report

	£	£	
Balance: 2 November		7655.03	
Add Income	150.00		From Environmental Group
Total		150.00	
Less Expenditure pre meeting	600.00		Castlemorton PCC
		600.00	
Less Expenditure at meeting	660.00 159.84		Clerk 3rd QTR Bulbs. Ref Planting in churchyard
Balance at close of meeting 11 Jan 2024		6385.19	

a) **Appointment of internal auditor:** Agreed to appoint Mrs Anne Cotterell.

b) **Budget and Precept Financial Year 2024/2025**

A draft budget previously circulated was discussed and discussion included;

- Consideration of the need for a policy covering reserves - to be brought to the next meeting.
- Review of Clerk salary, now set at a more realistic level which takes account of possible changes in the future.
- Open a discussion with PH Trust re a potential 70%:30% split on insurance premium as the former now have reserves and income is healthy. Mindful the situation may be different in years to come, so an annual review will be necessary.
- This will offer a sum into the budget for Section 137 grants and to increase the contingency for training.
- Mindful of the need to budget a sum for computer equipment replacement - potentially this year or next.
- Further review of the budget may be required following discussions with PHT.

Proposed and agreed to accept proposed budget and seek an increase in **precept of 6%** to a total for **2024/25 of £5259.**

06/24 Highways

In his written report Cllr Smallwood particularly noted the following & some further additions:

- **Minute 81/23** Site meeting sought with WCC to resolve the situation at Cherry Orchard. A question arises over actual ownership/responsibility of what may be an ancient boundary ditch.
- **Road Closure** 4 days as of 22 January, Church Road Work on gateway at The Glen. (*Post meeting note, date amended to 12 February.*)
- **Installation of No Through Road sign** at entrance to Golden Valley.
- **Update on Livestock warning signs** increasing the advised distance of potential animals on the road between Welland and Rye Cross
- Seek support from MHT through 4C's to clear vegetation from opposite Hartspool to avoid vehicles dropping into the ditch.
- Request submitted to WCC to fill salt bin at top of Hollybush.

07/24 Footpaths

- The previous trial use of lengthsman scheme for some clearance work on footpaths has been extended into the new year.
- **Ref Minute 82/23** Cllr. Flanders has requested the possibility of open stile gates to be fitted on footpath 532(C) between New Road and Bannut Tree Lane. WCC support the idea and suggest first contact with landowners to discuss with them and see what needs to be done including remedial work.

08/24 Planning

Report of planning applications **received/decided** since last meeting was noted

M/23/00887/NMA	Rickyard Cottage Eight Oaks Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6BU		Approved
M/23/00957/FUL	Land at (OS 7853 3776) Castlemorton	Proposed holiday cabin and orchard tree planting.	Pending
M/23/01210/FUL	Willow Farm Druggers End Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6JD	Erection of stables	Approved
M/23/01333/GPDQ	The Turbles Druggers End Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6JD		Refused

M/23/01393/GPDQ	Building At (Os 7948 3915) Castlemorton		Approved
M/23/00940/FUL	Stoneleigh Castlemorton Common Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6LH		Refused
M/22/00797/LB M/22/00798/HP	Cider Mill Barn Hollybush Ledbury HR8 1ET	Erection of single storey extension and alterations	Pending Decision
M/23/01341/FUL	Thistledome Church Road Castlemorton Worcestershire WR13 6BH	Proposed Holiday Cabin	Pending Decision
M/23/01787/CLE	Caravan At Upper Orchard Cottage Hollybed Street Castlemorton	Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use of land for stationing a caravan for residential purposes	Pending Decision
M/23/01761/FUL	Willow Tree House Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6DA	Replacement dwelling and exterior cladding/re-roofing to existing garage	Pending Decision

Cllrs Powell and Baker declared interests in M/23/01341/FUL and M/23/01761/FUL respectively.

M/23/01761/FUL . AGREED that Cllr Baker be permitted to both contribute to discussion and subsequently vote on response to MHDC. Various thoughts were shared on this application and it was agreed the chairman would offer a summary via email of these comments in preparation of a response to MHDC

M/23/00940/FUL Following MHDC refusal of this retrospective application MHDC enforcement have provided a proposed update but no conclusion. If no further information offered this will be followed up end of January asking what action is being taken and by what date.

Planning Policy update to include a reference to permit Cllr with planning responsibility the opportunity to contact planning officer directly in the event of a query on an application.

MHDC Enforcement investigated early work on the installation of a manege. A full planning application is now expected.

09/24 Environmental Group

As reported by Cllr Fisher:

- Recent enjoyed talk on 9 November on 'Wild Britain'.
- Future talks planned are: 'Treescapes', 25 January and 'Creating a garden for drought' February 29
- CEG are co-supporting Transition Malvern Hills and the Green Party to host a talk by Sir Jonathon Porritt at The Malvern Cube, March 8 th – 'Why what we eat matters'
- The bulb planting at Castlemorton Church was successful and it is looking likely that the group will be successful in securing some funding
- A further batch of free trees now available for planting courtesy of the Hanleys Environmental Group

10/24 Parish Hall Trust

- New Hall Manager in post as of today. Thank you to Alex Day for all her enthusiastic work and welcome to Alice Hird.
- Still seek 2 further members for co-option to the Trust. Publicise using the next *What's On*

11/23 Correspondence

Particular mention of:

- CALC/NALC Updates including courses & training for councillors.
- Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams – Neighbourhood Matters Notifications. Update to contract.
- Reference to the name change for Malvern Hills AONB to Malvern Hills National Landscapes. A consultation process underway of Renewable Energy on the Malvern Hills National Landscape and its setting Position Statement.

- Through Worcestershire CALC Cllr Rollinson has been pleased to have the opportunity to attend a course on communication. Offered information on the ways and means of a village survey and she will investigate this further. Such enthusiasm appreciated and the chairman asked councillors to advise the clerk if they wished to pursue any further training so a budget could be considered.
- Cllr Hubbard asked and agreed he be able to attend a forthcoming NALC Event - *How local councils can benefit from the levelling up agenda*.

12/24 Meetings

- Malvern Hills AONB webinar in November. A meeting with much information.
- 4Cs 29 November . The Trust is mindful of extensive scrub narrowing paths so restricting accessibility and clearance is taking place in some areas.
- Chairman offered an update on MHT matters in his capacity as a new board member in addition to responsibilities on Joint Advisory Committee of MH National Landscape.
 - Comprehensive induction recently for new MHT board members.
 - A number of recent staff changes, including an interim director at present.
 - The Board is tasked with promoting new Act of Parliament for submission by November.

13/24 Next Parish Council Meetings

RESOLVED that the next meeting will be Thursday 7 March 2024

**Subsequent Meetings:
Thursdays: 23 May (Annuals)**

Meeting concluded at 9.05pm

Signed

Date.....