

West Malvern Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 12th February 2024 in West Malvern Village Hall at 7:30pm.

Present

Cllrs. Ms C Baxter, Mrs J Burford, Mr G Harnden, Mr C Rouse, Mr S Sanoon.

In Attendance

District & County Cllr. N McVey District, Cllr. Prof. J Raine, four members of the public and Mr D Sharp (Clerk).

In the absence of Cllr. Turner the meeting was chaired by Cllr. Rouse.

15/24 Public participation

The Council invites local residents attending the meeting to make comments and suggestions, and question the Parish Council on issues on the agenda, or raise issues for future consideration: Concerns were raised over an 'encampment' that had been created on the bluebell field, utilising tables, chairs, tarpaulins etc. Investigations were to be made to try to stop any further littering and to remove what was already there.

A discussion took place about future maintenance of the bluebell field and it was agreed to look at flailing the area in August.

The West Malvern Club had raised a sizeable sum of money to finance another defibrillator and a discussion took place over its siting. The Clerk was to send details of the recently advertised 'match funded' scheme to the organisers.

Mr Brian Harper gave a presentation on a scheme to reduce domestic energy consumption. He was utilising thermal cameras to look at heat loss and advising home owners on insulation and also methods to improve air tightness. A feasibility study grant of up to £40,000 was available from Midlands Net Zero Hub and about 20 homes could be covered in the study. Each survey would include an initial assessment, a retrofit pack to improve air tightness and insulation followed by a revisit to check for improvements. This would be followed by advice on alternative heating systems such as heat pumps. If the Parish Council approved the application for a feasibility study they would receive and administer the grant. The Clerk was to discuss the financial situation with Alex Pearson, the chief project engineer at Midlands Net Zero Hub and then the Parish Council would consider the matter for approval.

16/24 Apologies

To consider acceptance of apologies for absence from Councillors: Cllr. Mr A Turner (accepted).

17/24 Interests

i. Councillors Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and Other Disclosable Interests (ODI) regarding items on the agenda: There were none.

ii. Notification of changes to the register of interests: There were none.

iii. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation for those with Disclosable Interests to take part in discussions or voting: There were none.

18/24 Co-Option

To consider applications for co-option onto the Parish Council: No applications had been received.

19/24 Reports from other representatives

To receive reports from County and District Councillors, and other representatives:

District & County Cllr. N McVey reported for MHDC that a property hedge bordering West Malvern Road had been removed despite the planning application to install a fence in its place having been refused. The storage container sited on Lower Road was subject to an enforcement removal order. There was currently a survey being carried out on private rental properties. Also there was a series of crime prevention road shows throughout the District. For WCC she reported that the 'West Malvern' sign at the Redan bend was to be replaced and also that after further review the recommendation was that Malvern Fire Station would retain a second appliance, albeit a smaller unit.

District Cllr. J Raine reported for the Malvern Hills Trust that there were several new board members following the recent elections. A new Chief Executive was to start on 1st March as well as a new secretary.

20/24 Minutes

To consider for adoption the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 8th January were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

21/24 Planning

i. To consider response to the following and any late submitted applications:

Application No	At	Details
M/24/00091/FUL	Arden Brockhill Road	Demolition of existing house, garage and outbuilding. Construction of new replacement Dwelling and Garage with associated landscaping works.

It was agreed to return the following comment: "The Parish Council has no objection to the application."

ii. Decisions Notified

None had been received.

22/24 Village Magazine

To consider production and financing of new village newsletter: It was estimated that printing costs would total £2100 for ten issues (August and January excepted) with advertising revenue of between £1200 and £1500. It was agreed to fund the production of the magazine and to review the financial position after the first few editions.

23/24 Playing Fields and Open Spaces

i. Update on S106 application for playground funding: The final quotation was yet to be received.

ii. To review maintenance of Bluebell Field: It was agreed to flail as much of the area as possible after this year's display and after the bracken had died back.

iii. To consider arrangements for West Fete on 6th July: The date was approved and the organisers were to be asked to provide regular updates as to preparations.

24/24 Allotments & Community Woodland

The Clerk confirmed the annual rental requests had been sent out.

25/24 Highways & Footpaths

No matters were discussed.

26/24 Finance

To consider payment of invoices presented: The following payments were approved:

From/Due to	Date	Amount		Details
JR Burford	31/01	£112.00	CH	Village Handyman (Jan)
DA Sharp	12/02	£418.65	BT	Clerk's Fees (Gross £523.25 SP17)
	Total	£530.65		

BT – Bank Transfer

CH - Cheque

After these payments are made bank balances will be as follows:

Savings Account B/F	£14,925.69	Community Account B/F	£11,815.36
Interest	£103.49	VAT Rebate	£1,461.34
		Allotment Rents	£391.48
		Water Plus (DD)	-£4.11
		Water Plus (DD)	-£26.21
		February Payments	-£530.65
Savings Account C/F	£15,029.18	Community Account C/F	£13,107.21

27/24 Correspondence***To consider correspondence previously circulated:***

FROM	SUBJECT
Severn Wells Festival	Music on playing Fields
Natural Networks	Funding - wildlife-rich habitats
WCC	Local Aggregate Assessment
WCC	Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy
London Hearts	£1M Community Defibrillator Scheme
Boundary Commission	Review
Kyle Gordon	Chief Constable for West Mercia Police
WCC	Budget Consultation
	Hedgehog Highway Project
CPRE	Local Nature Recovery Strategy
John Brook	West Fete 6/7/24
MHDC	January Malvern Hills Business e-Bulletin
	Bluebell Field
National Landscapes	Grants for Improving Local Access for the Less Able
WCC	Free Energy Home Improvements
	Wedding Croft Bank
WCC	Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy
Malvern Hills National Landscape	Management Plan

28/24 Councillors' items for Report

Cllr. Baxter offered to help anyone who had difficulty accessing and using their designated emails. She also asked for short autobiographies from councillors to put on the website.

29/24 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 11th March 2024 in West Malvern Village Hall commencing at 7:30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:30 pm.