

CASTLEMORTON PARISH COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of Meeting of Castlemorton Parish Council held on
Thursday 9 January 2025 at 7.00 pm in Castlemorton Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs: Mike Wilkinson (Chairman), Dawn Fisher, Nigel Baker, Hilary Flanders, Rebecca Rollinson and Dan Bowker

In Attendance: Mrs C Leake (Clerk), and CCllr Wells at 8.45pm

Members of the Public: 1 for early agenda item re Malvern Hills Bill

Public Comments: None

01/25 Apologies: Cllr: Hubbard

02/25 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.*
3. *To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011. None*

03/25 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the meeting of **7 November 2024** were a true record of the meeting and were signed.

04/25 Matters Arising

Ref Minute 48/24 & 67/24 Improving Mobile Signal Connectivity in the Parish. Birtsmorton Parish Council delivered an informative flyer to residents in addition to a part of Castlemorton parish in the vicinity of the school. To date all responses, indicate a favourable reply in seeking improved signal. Atlas Group to engage in discussion with potential landowner.

05/25 Malvern Hills Bill

Update by MHT CEO Deborah Fox regarding submission of the Parliamentary Bill on 27 November 2024. (A Bill to repeal and re-enact certain enactments relating to the Malvern Hills Conservators and the management of the Malvern Hills, to reconstitute and rename those Conservators as the Malvern Hills Trust and to confer further powers on the Malvern Hills Trust, to make further provision in relation to the Malvern Hills, and for other purposes). The petitioning period ends on 6 February 2025. **Website:** <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3897>

06/25 Parish Council Vacancies.

No interested candidates as yet..

07/25 County/District Councillor Reports

CCllr Tom Wells arrived at 8.50pm.

In his report he gave an up to date understanding of the recent government 2024 autumn budget announcement and proposal for local government reorganisation:

“.....a forthcoming English Devolution Bill would include plans for "working with councils to move to simpler structures that make sense for their local areas....."

- Worcestershire County Council (WCC) has recently requested to the secretary of state a postponement of the forthcoming May 2025 county council elections to permit fast tracking consideration towards a unitary authority. Elections would then take place in 2026 with a shadow council in place taking full control in 2027. What will the potential union be? There are 6 district councils in the Worcestershire area for consideration in this local authority reorganisation (with one already supporting a single county model) in addition to other neighbouring unitary authorities. (Shropshire & Herefordshire) and Gloucestershire councils. The threshold is a minimum electorate of 500,000.
- Finance, Geography, Councillors and practicalities..... much to consider.
- Noted that 80% of present WCC budget is associated with Adult Care, Special Needs and Transport.
- Some grouped unitary authorities will have elected Mayors.

He also advised that he had received resident concerns on the speed limit across the common.

Cllrs asked if he would financially support a planned village survey project. In response he requested a description and costing of the project for his consideration.

08/25 Finance Report

a) Finance Report:

	£	£	
Balance: 7 November 2024		8775.05	
Add Income	831.00 500.00 533.50		War Memorial Donations MHDC Ward Funding War Memorial WCC Lengthsman
Total		1864.50	
Less Expenditure pre meeting			
		0.00	
Less Expenditure at meeting	121.00 822.85		Lengthsman Clerk 3 rd QTR SCP 12 + Exps.
		943.85	
Balance at close of meeting 9 Jan 2025		9695.70	

Restricted Funding: a number of accounts including Environmental Group, War Memorial and CIL. Total at meeting **£3500.00**

War Memorial: Coffee Morning a success with further donations and hoped to repeat next year with a more extensive event for End of War 80th anniversary. Acknowledgment to all the generous donations, including DCllr contribution from ward funds to enable work to proceed immediately with the clean and initial repointing especially in time for Remembrance Sunday. Work to be completed on repointing in warmer weather and inscription recutting.

Bank Charges: Lloyds Bank now introducing bank charges essentially £4.25 per month. Agreed to open an instant access savings account.

Community Infrastructure Levy – Reminder about this fund and ideas for expenditure.

....'A sum of money to be used in line with the regulations, to support development by funding:

- The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure or Anything else concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.'....

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

Budget and Precept Financial Year 2025/2026

A draft budget previously circulated was discussed and discussion included;

- Initial requirement to ensure budget covered anticipated expenditure for the year. Some items not easy to budget with unknown % increases.
- Review of Clerk salary.
- Include a sum into the budget for Section 137 grants
- Consideration for computer equipment replacement.
- Areas where reserves could be used.
- Website fees although WCC have agreed to maintain *My Parish* for another year.

Proposed and agreed to accept proposed budget and seek an increase in **precept of 5%** to a total for **2025/26 of £5522.**

09/25 Highways/Lengthsman

Thanks to Cllr Rollinson for her work with lengthsman & WCC and she offered an update:

1. Parish Boundary with Birtsmorton. Still trying to organise removal of the arisings and debris. with immediate landowner for support.
2. Recent flooding lower end of Bannut Tree pitch followed up by WCC jetting drains.
3. Report to WCC the jetting of Cutlers Lane drains.

Project: Investigate the possibility of repairing the traditional livestock warning sign in New Road. Discuss with the lengthsman or another parishioner. Still to be actioned.

10/25 Footpaths

Looking to carry out some remedial small stone infill work to the initial entry off New Road of footpath 532(C).

11/25 Planning

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

M/24/01722/HP	2 Mill Farm Cottage Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6JG	Formation of a vehicular access	Pending Decision
M/24/01594/GPDQ	Ellwood House Church Road Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6BQ	Notification for Prior Approval for the proposed change of use of an agricultural building to 1 dwellinghouse with associated external works	Approved
M/24/01531/HP	Willow Tree House Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6DA	Replacement single storey rear extension	Approved
M/24/01473/HP	Ebenezer Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6BY	Single storey rear extension, alterations to finishing materials and roof design.	Approved
M/24/01340/FUL	Land At (Os 8172 3904) Lockeridge Lane Upton Upon Severn	Use of land as a caravan site for the stationing of 10 log cabins for holiday let use and associated works	Pending Decision
M/24/00613/FUL & M/24/01141/LB	Barn At (Os 7908 3752) Church Road Castlemorton	Conversion of a barn to a Class C3 dwelling house.	Pending Decision

M/24/00599/CLE	Caravan At Upper Orchard Cottage Hollybed Street Castlemorton		Pending Decision
M/23/00437/FUL	Land At (Os 7865 3821) Castlemorton	Change of use of land to 3 No. Traveller pitches and associated works including, 3 No. day rooms, 3 No. mobile homes, 3 No. touring caravans, and hardstanding. Additional information	Appeal dismissed APP/J1860/W/24/33 39751
M/23/00957/FUL	Land at (OS 7853 3776) Castlemorton	Proposed holiday cabin and orchard tree planting.	Pending

- Noted that on the MHDC website occasionally applications are updated with additional information or revised documentation but not necessarily requiring further consultation to that already submitted. This can delay the process for the applicant(s) in seeking permission.

12/25 Environmental Group

Report on recent activity and the next talks planned. Good variety of interest in the various subjects explored.

13/25 Parish Hall Trust

Planned decoration of the Armitage room towards end of January.

14/25 Parish Survey

- Discussion and potential costs have been discussed with an artwork designer to assist in the leaflet production which could be distributed as supporting item for annual meeting.
- Consideration to questions.
- Possible financial support from CCllr district funds.

15/25 Correspondence

Particular mention of:

- CALC/NALC Updates including courses & training for councillors.
- Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams – Neighbourhood Matters Notifications
- MHT - Malvern Hills Bill
- MHDC- Consultation - Mandatory Safeguarding Training for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers

16/25 What's On

Consideration of items for inclusion in the next publication, Feb/March. Items due in by 20 January for publication 27 January.

17/25 Next Parish Council Meeting(s)

RESOLVED that the next meeting will be Thursday 6 March 2025

Subsequent Meeting(s): 22 May (Annuals)

Signed

Date.....

Meeting closed 9.15 pm