

## MALVERN WELLS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Malvern Wells Parish Council duly convened and held in **The Village Hall, Wells Road** on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2011 commencing at 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors K Wagstaff (Chairman)  
Mrs H Burrage M Victory  
A Bradshaw P Buchanan  
Mrs A Cheeseman C O `Donnell  
A Hull J Black  
B J Knibb  
M Victory

**In attendance:** D Cllr C Cheeseman, WCCllr S Brown  
and Mr D M Taverner (Clerk)

**Apologies noted:** Cllr T Henley

**27/11 Declarations of Interest for:-**  
**a) the Meeting:** None Recorded

**b) any Changes to be notified to the Registers of Interests and Gifts & Hospitality:** No changes were necessary.

### **28/11 Closure of the Meeting to allow Parishioners Present to speak on any Matter on the agenda**

No Parishioners were present at the meeting.

### **29/11 Report from the local policing team**

PC Steve Smith and Community Support Officer Helen Carstairs were in attendance. There had been reports of attempted burglaries from garden sheds and garages in the area and residents were advised to be vigilant in ensuring that outbuildings were properly secured.

Some incidents of criminal damage and attempted thefts from vehicles had been reported recently. PC Smith advised that there had been a total of 80 crime related incidents within the Wells during 2010/11 an increase of 8% over the figures reported for 2009/10. Whilst these figures were relatively low, when compared to the countywide average, they were perhaps indicative of the impact of the economic downturn on criminal activity.

### **30/11 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 having been previously circulated were **approved** and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

*At this point in the meeting the Chairman proposed a change to the scheduled agenda to allow for the consideration of items 10(a) - Gas Lamps Working Group to be taken earlier. This proposition was unanimously supported.*

### **31/11 Report of Gas Lamps Working Group**

Cllrs J Black and H Burrage made a PowerPoint presentation to update Members on progress relating to the Gas lamps refurbishment project.

The following points were highlighted-

The group had been successful in securing 95% grant funding for the costs of the refurbishment project from the District Council and the latest projections showed that the costs of approximately £1,300 per lamp could be met from this grant This would leave a small balance of approximately £2.7K to be funded fund from its own budgets.

It was intended to award Sight Designs Ltd (SDL) the contracts for the maintenance of the lamps prior to, and post, the refurbishment project. SDL cost quotations for undertaking this work were significantly cheaper than those provided by the existing maintenance contactor - Gas Appliance Services Ltd. The District Council would continue to administer the Gas supply contract under the existing 50% funding arrangements until the refurbishment works were completed.

The Revised schedule of refurbishment works would see work commence on the lamps within Malvern Wells at the beginning of June, with MWPC lamps being worked on continuously until the anticipated completion of the project in the Parish at the end of August.

The refurbished lamps were predicted to use only 20% of the current gas consumption, within the updated reflectors giving rise to a much greater standard of illumination.

A new Gas supply contract would need to be negotiated once the refurbishment project had been completed.

Listed Building consent for all works needed to each of the lamps had been applied for and the completion of the application process was expected during mid to late April.

Based on the financial projections submitted it was anticipated that there would be a saving in maintenance costs against the previous year's budget of approximately £4k, as well as an estimated saving of £3.5K against the current gas consumption figures.

At the conclusion of the Presentation Cllr Black submitted the following **proposal** by way of an amendment to the Council's previous resolution dated 26<sup>th</sup> January

- "That MWPC will accept MHDC's offer of grants to fund:-*
- 95% of the projected and any additional costs of the ELGAR renovation of the 48 gas lamps in the Parish in accordance with the payment terms agreed with MHDC*
  - 50% of the gas supply costs for the 48 lamps until all of the Elgar renovations are completed satisfactorily.*

This was **seconded** by Cllr Burrage and unanimously supported by all Members

A further **proposal** was then made by Cllr Black:

*"That MWPC will accept Sight Designs Ltd Quotes for:  
The ELGAR Renovation of MWPC 48 gas lamps- quotations 145a & 146a, Dated:  
28/02/11*

*The post ELGAR Renovation gas lamp maintenance. – quotation No 147a  
Dated: 14/12/10*

*The Wind Up Contract for pre-renovation gas lamp maintenance –quotation No  
56, Dated: 28/02/11*

*These quotations will be subject to the approval, by MWPC's Legal Advisors , of  
Sight Design's Terms & Conditions."*

This proposal was **seconded** by Cllr Burrage and unanimously supported by all Members,

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Black and Burrage for their interesting and informative presentation, and also extended his thanks Members of the Gas Lamps Working group for the efforts they had made in bringing the matter of the gas lamps refurbishment to a satisfactory conclusion.

### **32/11 report of the Planning Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2011**

Cllr Buchanan presented the report of the meeting of the Planning Committee which had been held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2011. This report and the recommendations therein were **accepted** by the Council

### **33/11 Grass Cutting contract 2011/12**

The Clerk presented a schedule showing the tender bids which had been submitted in respect of the 2011/12 grass cutting contract.

Following consideration and evaluation by Members of each of the bids submitted it was **proposed** by Cllr Johnson that the 2011/12 Grass Cutting contract should be awarded to Steven Maund. This was **seconded** by Cllr Buchanan and **unanimously supported** by all Members.

Council also **unanimously resolved** to review the grass cutting contract on a three year cycle from the financial year 2012/13 onwards to give contractors more scope and certainty of continuation during the submission of future tender bids.

### **34/11 Report of County Councillor**

Cllr Steve Brown informed Members that the County consultation of the review of local bus services was still out to consultation and that the consultation period has been extended to allow for a wider public response.

Funding for Road maintenance works continued to be limited and in common with other Council services budgets would be lower than had been allocated in previous years Cllr Brown reported that he was aware of issues regarding the winter maintenance of the roads and the lack of provision of gritting in some key areas. He was continuing to press the County Council Officers responsible to ensure that all of the priority gritting areas identified by the Council would be properly considered and maintained before the advent of winter later in the year.

An increased share of the County Council's Highways budget had been allocated for the repair of road pot holes and associated remedial works were due to be undertaken.

Cllr Brown also advised that County Members were due to receive additional funds to target directly in their local areas and he would give more information on this initiative when it was to hand.

**35/11 Report of District Councillor** Following complaints of several blocked drains and gulleys Cllr Cheeseman had been in touch with the District Council Officers to ensure that road sweeping and drain cleaning was undertaken throughout the Parish. The concentration of grit on the roads from as a result of the winter gritting had caused some problems with drains getting blocked.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council's Lengthsman regularly inspected the drains throughout the Parish and regular reports of particular problems encountered were made to the appropriate Authority.

### **36/11 Report of representatives on other bodies.**

- (a) Malvern Wells Village Hall Management Committee** – Cllr Burrage advised that the AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee was being held at the same time as the evening’s Council meeting.
- (b) AONB: Joint Advisory Committee** – Cllr Black reported that no meeting had taken place since the previously reported meeting.
- (c) Malvern Hills CAB** - Cllr Johnson Cllr Black reported that no meeting had taken place since the previously reported meeting
- (d) The Wyche Institute** – Cllr Bradshaw reported that no meeting had taken place since the previous Parish Council Meeting
- (e) Malvern Hills CALC** – Cllr Knibb reported that at the recent CALC meeting had been quite poorly attended. CALC officers had advised that they were expecting a greater emphasis on partnership working across all local authorities and agencies throughout the County. The development of the Worcestershire Council’s Charter would reflect the increasing importance attached by Central Government to Partnership working arrangements
- (f) CPRE-** Cllr Mrs Cheeseman reported that there had been no meeting since the previous Parish Council Meeting
- (g) Three Counties Showground Liaison group-** Cllr Mrs Cheeseman reported that there had been no meeting since the previous Parish Council meeting. Nick Vincent – the Chief Executive of the Three Counties Showground (TCS) had accepted the Council’s invitation to attend the Council’s Annual Parish Meeting.
- (h) Summer Fete working group** - Cllr Mrs Cheeseman reported that preparations were ongoing for the Summer Fete which was due to be held on St Wulstans field on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Various stalls and events were being organised. Volunteers would be needed to help on the day. The Malvern Wells Club was being approached to supply beer and drinks at the fête and any necessary temporary events licence would need to be applied for. Other local organisations were being approached with a view to their participation in the event.
- (i) Abbey House Liaison Group** – Cllr Buchanan advised that as Cllr Burrage was Unable to continue to serve on the liaison group a second volunteer Councillor would be welcome to join the group. Cllr Wagstaff indicated that in the event of no other Member coming forward he would be prepared to join Cllr Buchanan as the Parish Council’s representative on the group.
- (j) Wells News** – The Clerk advised that he had recently met with Lynne Hackles the wells News Editor . Articles for inclusion in the Summer edition should be submitted by 13<sup>th</sup> May and delivery of the completed publication booklet was scheduled for mid June.

### **37/11 Cemetery Matters**

A meeting of the Cemetery Working group had been held on 23rd March.

At the meeting various Cemetery Management issues had been debated including a discussion regarding cover arrangements for periods during the Clerk’s leave.

The working group had reviewed the schedule of Cemetery fees and had recommended increases to fees averaging 3% above the level charged during 2010/11.

Cllr Johnson presented the revised schedule of fees that had been circulated to Members for consideration. The increased fee levels **proposed** by Cllr Johnson were seconded by Cllr Burrage and unanimously **agreed** by the Council.

38/11 Payment of Accounts: as shown on the schedule submitted were approved for payment:

**£**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9 15 pm

.....*K Wagstaff*.....

Chairman

19<sup>th</sup> May, 2011