

Little Malvern & Welland Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20th January 2025

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@wellandparishnoticeboard

Present

Cllrs. Mr P Hancock, Mr D Iles, Mr P Riordan, Ms R Sampson, Mrs M Sumner.

In Attendance

County Cllr. T Wells, District Cllrs. J Gallagher and C Wild, Barbara Stephens (Community Development Coordinator), Mr D Sharp (Clerk) and five members of the public.

01/25 Election of Chair

Cllr. Riordan was unanimously elected and he duly completed his acceptance of office.

02/25 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:

John Martin, the warden of St James Church, presented a request for funding for maintenance and renovation of the church clock. The work would include dismantling and cleaning, installing an automatic winding mechanism and an auto-regulator. The preferred contractor was Cumbria Clock Company for a cost of £11,430 + Vat. He requested grant funding of up to 50%. The matter was to be addressed by the Parish Council when next years budget was finalised.

03/25 Apologies

To consider acceptance of apologies for absence from Councillors: Cllrs. Mr M Davies, Dr A Davis, Mr P Henderson Brown, Mrs V Nelson and Mr M Whaley(Accepted).

04/25 Interests

i. Councillors Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Disclosable Interests and Non Registable Interests 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.

05/25 Planning

i. To consider responses to any late submitted applications:

There were none

ii. Decisions notified:

There were none

06/25 Minutes

To consider for adoption the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th December: These were accepted as an accurate record and they were signed by the Chair.

07/25 Progress reports and matters arising from these minutes

i. Parish Hall Broadband: The new system from Airband had been installed. Log in details and password were to be amended. The BT line was to be discontinued.

ii. Car Park Improvements: Further quotations were to be sought.

08/25 Community Development Coordinator

Barbara Stephens reported that a new series of outdoor gym sessions had started and a new session of art classes would commence next month. The film making course planned for February half term was being funded from the Community Arts Project and Age UK were hosting technology sessions at the church cafe.

An independent group were hosting 'Zest for Life' lunches for the socially isolated every Wednesday from the end of January.

She had met with representatives from St James last week to discuss events commemorating the £150th anniversary of the church's founding.

09/25 Reports by District and County Councillors and other Representatives

District Cllr. John Gallagher reported on the plans to create a unitary authority and the possible postponement of the May elections. A decision from central government was expected later this month.

County Cllr. Tom Wells further added that the creation of a unitary authority appeared non negotiable and it was possible that Worcestershire may have to join with other areas to satisfy population targets. He did not expect any consultation with Town and Parish Councils. Finally he reported that the online petition to improve the Danemoor Crossroads had reached 1500 and he welcomed the Parish Council's initiative to hold a public meeting with representatives of WCC Highways and West Mercia Police.

10/25 Working Party & Other Reports & Recommendations

i. Projects – To consider the following projects:

a) Climate Change – To review draft emergency statement: The main issues to be addressed in the statement included: A recognition that the matter requires urgent consideration; that climate change be a priority when considering decisions, particularly planning applications; evidence from the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire to be included; and that the parish council meeting minutes refer to the statement. The Chair and Cllr. Samson to amend draft in consultation with Sue Haywood and report back.

b) Giffard Drive Play Areas and PUMP Track - To consider date and scope of public consultations: It was agreed to hold both jointly on Wednesday February 24th between 3pm and 7pm in the village hall. To be advertised in the Newsletter and social media.

c) Footpath improvement project –

i. To consider future maintenance of improved paths: The following resolution was agreed and was to be forwarded to MHDC:

“The Parish Council formally acknowledges its obligations to undertake in perpetuity the ongoing maintenance of the four footpaths set out in the project plan 2024 07 26 Welland Footpath Improvements Project.”

ii. To consider progressing with land purchase from Holly Cottage and to approve valuation and legal budget costs: The purchase was approved and costs initially authorised at £2,000 for both valuation and legal fees.

ii. Highways – To agree date of meeting with interested parties re. Danemoor Crossroads: The availability of the village hall mid February was to be booked.

Clerk also to chase up WCC Highways over the request for peripheral white lines on selected carriageways.

iii. Other Reports

Neighbourhood Plan and SWDPR.

The SWDP examination review was to take place during February and March. The Clerk was to submit a request for the Parish Council to attend and speak at the hearing. Cllrs. Riordan and Davies in consultation with Sue Haywood were to finalise details.

11/25 Correspondence

To consider the responses to the following correspondence previously circulated:

FROM	SUBJECT
CALC	Updates/Training/Pay Scales
NALC	Events and Bulletins
MHDC	December Business e-Bulletin
Ian Kemp	SWDPR Hearing
Clerk	Danemore Cross Meeting
HWFRS	Community Risk Management Plan 2025-30
Clerk	Parish Hall WiFi
John Martin	Church Clock
WCC	Gloucester Road Tree Planting
WCC	Roundell Markings
County Cllr. Tom Wells	Report
County Cllr. Malcolm Victory	Report

12/25

- i. To consider donation to upgrade clock mechanism on St James church:* The Clerk was requested to add a donation to the budget figures and a decision would be made at the next meeting.
- ii. To consider the budget for 2025/26 and set a precept:* This was deferred to the next meeting so that more accurate figures concerning ongoing project costs could be included.
- iii. To consider payment of invoices presented:*

The following payments were made from the **Main Account** between meetings and were ratified:

From/Due To	Date	Amount	Details
Barbara Stephens	06/01	£768.40	Community Development Co-Ordinator
Spring Forward	22/12	£700.00	Hedge Planting
Welland Charities	-	£250.00	Donation
Welland Church Larder		£250.00	Donation
Total		£1,968.40	

The following payment was made from the **Fete(Events) Account** between meetings and was ratified:

From/Due To	Date	Amount	Details
Budapest Cafe Orchestra	11/12	£1,000.00	Performance Fee
Total		£1,000.00	

The following payments were made from the **Funding Account** between meetings and were ratified:

From/Due To	Date	Amount	Details
Neul Poulter	11/12	£100.00	Performance Fee
Early Birds Music	10/01	£440.00	Performance Fee
Total		£540.00	

The following payments require approval from the **Event Account** (Formally Fete):

From/Due To	Date	Amount	Details
Sandra Croft	-	£85.49	Wassail Expenses
Roy Sumner	-	£320.76	Wassail Expenses
Hillside Audio	17/01	£240.00	Wassail Expenses
Alex Lake	11/01	£100.00	Green Man Wassail Expenses
Viv Nelson	-	£462.66	Wassail Expenses
Solopress (MD)	02/01	£33.83	Printing Wassail Expenses
Amazon	29/12	183.68	PA System Wassail Expenses
TOTAL		£1,426.42	

The following payments were approved from the **Main Account**:

From/Due To	Date	Amount	Details
J Moore	18/12	£288.00	Lengthman Duties (December)
Tom Harnden Tree Surgery	14/01	£2,760.00	Cemetery Tree Works (Biodiversity Project)
JRB Enterprise	16/12	£285.12	Dog Bags
Welland Parish Hall	19/12	£430.00	Library Hire
Worcestershire CALC	-	£84.00	Councillor Training
Elixir Garden Supplies	16/12	£53.64	Bamboo Canes (Biodiversity Project)
Nigel Walter	17/12	£86.80	Tree Guards (Biodiversity Project)
HM Revenue & Customs	-	£824.03	PAYE (Oct-Dec)
E Hardman	20/01	£200.00	Handyman (£200 Gross)
D Sharp	20/01	£629.20	Clerk's Fee (40 hrs @ SCP 28. £786.40 Gross)
TOTAL		£5,640.79	

Accounts Summary

Reserves Lloyds B/F	£3,040.32	
Interest	2.58	£3,042.90
Saver Account	£51,465.48	
Interest	£113.61	£51,579.09
Fête Account	£3,195.93	
Pre Payment	-£1,000.00	
Wassail Exp	-£96.71	
Event Income	£2,089.94	
January Payments	-£1,426.42	£2,762.74
Buildings Account	£6.47	£6.47
Transfer to Main Acc.	-£6.47	£0.00
Neighbourhood Plan Ac.	£0.00	£0.00
Funding Account	£431.10	
Pre Payments	-£540.00	
Ticket Source	£255.00	
Ticket Sales	£60.00	£206.10
Total C/F		£57,391.20

Main Account B/F	£31,072.95
MHDC Warm Space Grant	£500.00
WCC Lengthsman	£288.00
Transfer from Buildings Acc.	£6.47
WCC Lengthsman	£288.00
BT Group	-£370.85
MHDC Rubbish Collection	-£68.51
Pre Payments	-£1,968.40
January Payments	-£5,640.79
Main Account C/F	£24,106.87

13/25 Any other matters for report or for future consideration

How to best use the time available at Parish Council meetings was to be prioritised.

14/25 Date of the next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 17th February 2025 in Welland Parish Hall at 7.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:15 pm