

West Malvern Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th January 2025 in West Malvern Village Hall at 7:30pm.

Present

Cllrs. Mr A Turner (Chair), Ms C Baxter, Mrs J Burford, Mr G Harnden, Mr C Rouse, Mr S Sanoon.

In Attendance

County and District Cllr. N McVey, District Cllr. Prof. J Raine, Deborah Fox (CEO Malvern Hills Trust) Mr D Sharp (Clerk) and two members of the public.

01/25 Public participation

i. Deborah Fox, the CEO of Malvern Hills Trust, will address the council updating on progress with constitution changes: Deborah Fox reported that she had been in post for almost a year which had seen several dog attacks on sheep which had led to a program encouraging good dog ownership. Recently the northern section of the West of England car park had been closed due to ice. She confirmed that the Malvern Hills Bill had been submitted on 27th November and it was due to proceed through the House of Lords prior to the House of Commons. Several changes had been made to the bill following the public consultation. The main proposed constitution changes were a confirmation of name change; a reduction in trustees to 12 (6 elected and 6 nominated); and the ability to charge subscriptions for supporters amongst others. There would be a petitioning period up to 6th February for the public and businesses to make representation. It was expected the Bill may take several years to pass through both houses.

ii. 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.

A resident, Nina Coulson, made a proposal to the Parish Council to use the telephone box at the 'Terminus' by The Dingle for art displays. The principle was universally welcomed by councillors and she was to progress with the scheme.

02/25 Apologies

To consider acceptance of apologies for absence from Councillors: There were none.

03/25 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.

04/25 Reports from other representatives

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

County and District Cllr. Natalie McVey reported that both MHDC and WCC had held their first meetings this year last week. Much time has been taken up with discussions concerning central governments proposals for the creation of unitary authorities. And as such the WCC elections planned for May may be postponed. Locally she had requested speed data for Nabs Pitch following an RTC and a false notification of a West Malvern Road closure had led to the cancellation of the school bus.

05/245 Minutes

To consider for adoption the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 9th December were approved and were signed by the Chair.

06/25 Progress Reports

Updates on matters not included on the agenda: No matters were discussed.

07/25 Planning

To consider responses to any late submitted applications:

Application No	At	Details
M/25/00025/HP	St Petrocks, Lower Dingle	Installation of window apertures, erection of walkway single storey side extension.

It was agreed to submit the following comment:

'The Parish Council has no objection to the principle of the development however it has concerns over the height of the roof and its proximity to the boundary wall and also whether the materials used are in keeping with the local area and conform to AONB (MHNL) design guidance'.

ii. Decisions Notified
M/24/01444/HP – 155 Old Hollow – Approved

08/25 Playing Fields and Open Spaces

Update on playground installation and to agree improvements to access track: Some snags were still to be addressed and a quotation to upgrade the bobbin swing had been requested. The middle section of the access track, adjacent to the top field, was in the poorest state and quotations were to be sought.

09/25 Allotments & Community Woodland

No matters were discussed.

10/25 Highways & Footpaths

The top section of the telephone box at the terminus required repair.

11/25 Finance

i. To consider the budget for 2025/26 and set a precept: The budget was approved and a precept of £20,072 was to be requested

ii. To consider payment of invoices presented:

The following payments were approved:

From/Due to	Date	Amount		Details
JR Burford	30/12	£112.00	CH	Village Handyman (Dec)
South Worcestershire CAB	-	£500.00	CH	Donation
MHNL (AONB)	-	£350.00	BT	Donation
St James Church	-	£250.00	BT	Donation
Malvern Town Council	01/12	£252.00	BT	Grass Cutting/Waste Bins
HM Revenue & Customs	-	£314.00	BT	PAYE (Oct-Dec)
D Sharp	-	£100.00	BT	(1 st ½ Exp 24/25)
D Sharp	12/01	£436.30	BT	Clerk's Fees(Gross £545.30 SP17)
	Total	£2,314.30		

BT – Bank Transfer

CH - Cheque

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

Savings Account B/F	£95,342.05	Community Account B/F	£28,093.34
		Nash (Allotment)	£13.50
		Water Plus	-£4.20
Interest	£560.17	Water Plus	-£11.67
		Service Charge	-£6.00
		January Payments	-£2,314.30
Savings Account C/F	£95,902.22	Community Account C/F	£25,770.67

12/25 Correspondence

To consider correspondence previously circulated.

FROM	SUBJECT
Malvern Hills Trust	Malvern Hills Bill
WCC	Park Road Closure 2 days 29/30 January 2025
MHDC	December Malvern Hills Business e-Bulletin
Nina Coulson	Dingle Phone Box
Misc	Malvern Hills Bill (i)
Wicksteed	Playground Inspection
St James School	Thank you
HWFRS	Community Risk Management Plan 2025-30
MHDC	South Worcestershire Development Plan Review

(i) – It was agreed to submit a response to the Parliamentary Bill and was delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with councillors.

13/25 Councillors' items for Report

The Clerk's job description was finalised and advertisements put in the Hills Echo and Facebook.

14/25 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 10th February 2025 in West Malvern Village Hall commencing at 7:30pm.

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