

CASTLEMORTON PARISH COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of Meeting of Castlemorton Parish Council held on
Thursday 6 March 2025 at 7.00 pm in Castlemorton Parish Hall

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

In Attendance: Mrs C Leake (Clerk), DCllr Gallagher (until 8pm) and CCllr Wells at 8.45pm

Members of the Public: 1 (Mrs Yvonne Milne)

Public Comments: None

18/25 Apologies: Cllr: Bowker and D Cllr Wild

19/25 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.* Cllrs Milne & Baker re Finance
3. *To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011.* None

20/25 Minutes of the Previous

It was **RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the meeting of **9 January 2025** were a true record of the meeting and were signed.

21/25 Matters Arising

Ref Minute 04/25 Atlas Tower Group following negotiation with landowner is preparing to submit a planning application for the mast in Birtsmorton Parish. A similar application has recently been submitted for Welland and local response is sought. M/25/00247/TC.

Ref Minute 22/25 Malvern Hills Bill: Chair who is also an MHT board member provided an update on the progression of the Bill. At the close of the petitioning period about 50 petitions had been made. These can be seen on the Government website. Any unresolved petitions may be considered through the Parliamentary process by a Select Committee.

22/25 Parish Council Vacancies.

Mrs Yvonne Milne had completed an application form for co-option consideration. Following introductions and completion of nomination process, all supported this application and the declaration of office was duly signed and Cllr Milne welcomed to participate in the meeting. One further vacancy remains.

23/25 County/District Councillor Reports

D.Cllr Gallagher reported on Devolution and Local Government reorganisation.

The latter is progressing within a tight timetable. Two models for the creation of Worcestershire Unitary Councils were considered - a 2 Councils option with new North Worcestershire and South Worcestershire Councils. or a single Worcestershire County Unitary Council. It was said that a South Worcestershire Council would be likely to be more 'local' and closer to communities (including the Parish Council) but that it may fall foul of the Government's stated desire for larger Councils. Separating out WCC debt and functions currently done at a county level such as social services into two unitary councils adds complexity.

An interim plan is required by 21 March 2025 and final plan by 28 November 2025. There will be a public consultation which the PC may wish to respond to before the Government gives their response. The devolution proposals seek a combination of Unitary authorities to become one strategic authority with an elected mayor and power devolved from the government to execute defined responsibilities. The boundaries of any strategic authority raise complex issues in terms of how they intersect with police and health services. No preferred model had been determined at this stage.

Reference to the forthcoming acknowledgement to the 80th Anniversary of VE Day in May.
Organised street parties to be free of closure fees.

CClIr Tom Wells arrived at 8.45pm.

He advised that he has recently visited the school and was pleased to contribute division funds to outdoor awning equipment in need of repair. He was willing to consider a contribution to the village survey and asked questions on the proposals and advice was shared in subsequent discussion as to how the Parish Council was going to move forward with the information. The result of the application to funds is awaited.

24/25 Finance Report

a) Finance Report:

	£	£	
Balance: 9 January 2025		9695.70	
Add Income	20.00 99.00		War Memorial Donations WCC Lengthsman
Total		119.00	
Less Expenditure pre meeting			
		0.00	
Less Expenditure at meeting	821.00 99.00 104.50 144.00		Clerk 4th QTR SCP 12 + Exps. Lengthsman Lengthsman Parish Hall stone
		1168.50	
Balance at close of meeting 6 March 2025		8646.20	

Note Restricted Funding: as at 6 March £3529.21

CIL Application from Parish Hall Trust for the marking of parking area in front of hall. The benefits are to provide defined accessible parking spaces and also to have organised parking rather than the chaos which often exists at the moment. In consideration councillors agreed to support this proposal up to 50% of the cost and not exceeding £500 with a condition that a further 2 quotes are sought for this project.

Government Act 1972 Section 137 sub section (1) Application. Upon receipt of a completed application, it was RESOLVED after discussion and consideration of the information in the application to award a grant of £150 to Castlemorton Church towards churchyard for the year ended December 2024. It was noted in the deliberations that the PC budget for grants had been reduced from previous years and any higher grants awarded would be from reserves.

War Memorial: Project leader seeks support from the Parish Council for the use of funds available from recent fund raising. Dr Smith suggests following renovation the addition to the memorial of the

4 parishioners who were World War 2 casualties. All agreed to this proposal and an expression of thanks to Dr Smith.

Section 137 Application from **SW Malvern Hills CAB**. After deliberation and discussion of the request, a donation of £150 was agreed.

25/25 Update of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and Model Publication Scheme.

Councillors **agreed** to adopt the updated and reviewed as necessary Parish Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment 2025

26/25 Highways/Lengthsman

Thanks to Cllr Rollinson for her work with lengthsman & WCC and she offered an update with an outstanding matter of clearance of Bannut Tree gullies.

Notification of forthcoming road closures. A438 Hollybush (Footway), A449 British Camp (Gas Pipe move) and C2098 Cherry Orchard (Drainage). Further information on website <https://one.network/>

27/25 Footpaths

No further updates on this occasion.

28/25 Planning

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

M/25/00065/HP	Rose Gables Eight Oaks Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6BU	Proposed roof extension to create attic room and timber wall cladding (Variation of Conditions 2 & 3 Ref 20/00301/HP)	Pending Decision
M/25/00207/GPDQ	Churchill Farm Church Road Castlemorton	Notification for Prior Approval for the proposed change of use of Agricultural Buildings to 2 Dwellinghouses (Class C3), and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion.	Pending Decision
M/25/00016/HP	1 Bannutt Tree Cottage Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6JG	Formation of a vehicular access including installation of culvert pipe	Approved
M/24/01722/HP	2 Mill Farm Cottage Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6JG	Formation of a vehicular access	Approved
<u>M/24/01340/FUL</u>	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
<u>M/24/00613/FUL & M/24/01141/LB</u>	Barn At (Os 7908 3752) Church Road Castlemorton	Conversion of a barn to a Class C3 dwelling house.	Pending Decision
M/23/01787/CLE	Caravan At Upper Orchard Cottage Hollybed Street Castlemorton		Appeal
M/23/00957/FUL	Land at (OS 7853 3776) Castlemorton	Proposed holiday cabin and orchard tree planting.	Approved

- MHDC advised of a new TPO 733 (2025) on a large Oak Tree in a field at Micklefied.

29/05 Environmental Group

- Report on increasing attendance at recent talks and interest shown in follow-up activity.(Beavers, Black Poplars, Plastic Free...)
- Meeting to be arranged for ongoing plans for churchyard maintenance in the ensuing season with a working group on wildflower area.

30/25 Parish Hall Trust

Recent decoration of the Armitage room.

31/25 Parish Survey

- As previously discussed with CCllr Wells ref minute 23/25.
- Thanks to Cllr Rollinson and in collaboration with Cllr Fisher draft questions have been considered for the survey and will be shared with members for consideration. Looking to launch at The Annual Meeting.

32/25 CALC

- Cllrs encouraged to arrange registration to CALC website to access resources available.
- 2 Members reported back on the recent Health and Wellbeing Webinar. Questions raised on how to identify those in need and what to do in offering support. Maybe link up with nearby Welland in their activities offered or at least advertise in What's On. In Welland, leaders aim to set up groups where there is interest and in time encourage future independent group activity.
- Cllr Hubbard attended recent Councillor update CALC course.

33/25 Correspondence

Particular mention of:

- CALC/NALC Updates including courses & training for councillors. (£35.00)
- ST - Your Severn Trent Councillor Newsletter
- RBL - Raise the flag for VE day

34/25 What's On

Consideration of items for inclusion in the next publication, April/May. Items due in by 21 March, publication week of 24 March.

35/25 Next Parish Council Meeting(s)

RESOLVED that the next meeting will be Thursday 22 May 2025 Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Subsequent Meeting(s): TBA

Signed

Date.....

Meeting closed: 9.20pm