

## West Malvern Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 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

District Cllr. Prof. J Raine, Mrs A Briggs (Clerk)

#### 57/25

**Election of Chairman.** Cllr Harden proposed and Cllr Sanoon seconded, all in favour that Cllr Turner is elected as Chairman.

#### 58/25 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.**

No matters were discussed.

#### 59/25 Apologies

**To consider acceptance of apologies for absence from Councillors:** County and District Cllr. N McVey,

#### 60/25 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.

#### 61/25 Election of officers, committees, working groups and Parish Council representatives

- Vice Chairman: Cllr Rouse
- Playing Fields Working Group: Cllrs Turner, Baxter, Rouse and Sanoon
- Community Woodland Working Group: Cllrs Turner, Baxter, Rouse and Sanoon
- Tree Warden: Cllr Harnden                      · Allotment Warden: Cllr Turner
- Village Hall Representative: Cllr Burford      · Playground Inspector: Cllr Baxter
- Allotment Warden : Cllr Turner                      · Gas Lamps Wardens: Cllrs Sanoon and Harnden
- Allotment Association representative: Jean Taylor

Briefly discussed at this juncture:

Cllr Baxter to get quotes for tree survey.

Cllr Raine to speak to Brian Harper with regard to gas lamps and their upkeep.

#### 62/25 Reports from other representatives

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

Cllr Raine gave brief update on County Council in the absence of Cllr McVey. No overall control so who will pair with who to have a majority – at a bit of an impasse at the present time. The District Council Annual Meeting will meet tomorrow night where further discussions will take place. And because Districts will be abolished, now is a good time for us to apply for any projects we'd like financial assistance with. Cllr Raine also touched briefly on the devolution of the Councils.

#### 63/25 Minutes

**To consider for adoption the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April were approved and were signed by the Chair.

Cllr Rouse said he was called upon as there was a problem with access to the site for the resurfacing machinery and they had to bring a hedge cutter to cut branches back. A conversation took place as to which councillor was responsible for the overseeing of the resurfacing work.

#### 64/25 Progress Reports

**Telephone Box (Dingle)** – Is still a bit of an eye sore. Cllr Harden will go and take a look.

**Telephone Box (Village Hall).** It needs to be painted. Cllr Rouse thought David still had some glass for the phone box. Clerk to contact David to see if he has glass and paint.

#### 65/25 Planning

##### *i. To consider responses to any late submitted applications:*

Application No	At	Details	Outcome
M/25/00494/HP	Gardeners Cottage Lower Dingle Malvern WR14 4BQ	Removal of glazed sunroom at first floor level and replaced with enlarged garden room, plus entrance porches to front and rear. Demolition of existing detached garage and construction of replacement garage	No Comment
M/25/00535/HP	St Petrocks Lower Dingle Malvern WR14 4BQ	Installation of window apertures, erection of walkway and single storey side extension	No Comment
M/25/00512/HP	3 Runnings Park, Croft Bank, Malvern, WR14 4DU	Proposed external and internal alterations to dwelling, erection of garage and demolition of porch	No Comment

##### *ii. Decisions notified.*

M/25/00377/HP. Westwood Lodge, Park Rd. Rebuild existing single-storey extension, rebuild front porch, removal of existing garage to reveal blocked original window. **Approved.**

#### 66/25 Playing Fields and Open Spaces

The intention will be to get the other two sections done and apply for funding for both. Cllr Baxter raised the point of maybe looking at a bike gate or similar as there have been problems with mopeds and bikes speeding on the new, smooth surfaced track. Cllr Rouse said potentially it could be a problem for insurance purposes if someone hit a bike gate. A conversation around speed bumps, speed signs and channelling water from the track (the water would naturally drain into the play area). A brief conversation around Madresfield woods and excessive coppicing; this isn't within our Parish.

It was confirmed the grant needs to be applied for (for both sections on the path). Clerk to action.

Chains for the swings: Cllr Baxter said the quote she had was for £200 to replace the chains/£150 to replace with ropes (the latter was dismissed). Cllr Rouse to take a look.

Zip wire end stop. It looks perfectly fine – it's the Wickstead platform which is too high. Cllr Baxter to call Wickstead.

Circular Green bench around the tree. It's very wonky because the soil underneath it is being washed away, which is causing metal distress. Remedial work. Cllr Baxter will take some pictures and get a quote. Cllr Rouse suggested we put it on the grant application.

Burnt BBQ Table – Cllr Baxter to get a quote from Paul.

Have we received any CIL money through from Adelaide House. The answer is no, not yet. It will probably come through later this year. Clerk to check. Cllr Rouse asked if any grant money could be available for

the outdoor centre. Cllr Raine thought there would be. (To be noted. Cllr Turner passed the key for 'Laurie's Bench' to the Clerk).

**67/25 Allotments & Community Woodland** Cllr Turner confirmed that he and the Clerk have got a walk around with the Allotment Association this coming Monday. The clerk updated everyone concerning a micro digger and plot 32a. The plot tenant will make good the main path and the area above her allotment.

BBQ – Cllr Harnden to give Paul another nudge for the quote.

Cllr Sanoon asked the question whether the allotments are charged water rates – it's the Parish Council who pay. Water rates along with skip hire – the prices are rising. When were/are the rates increased? The question to be asked next Monday. What is the skip actually used for? Again to be raised next Monday. Could the Parish buy bulk compost bins.

### 68/25 Highways & Footpaths

The gully by the post box is still causing problems for cars – so any spare tar from the pathway resurfacing would be helpful.

Gas lamps – to confirm that Cllr Raine will speak to Brian Harper.

### 69/25 Finance

The following payments were made between meetings and were ratified:

From/Due to	Date	Amount		Details
Aspect Design	25/04	£335.00	BT	May's issue of The Hills Echo
Go Greener	29/04	£294.00	BT	Skip for allotment
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£629.00</b>		

The following payments were approved:

**All payment approved apart from Zurich Insurance: \***

From/Due to	Date	Amount		Details
JR Burford	12/05	£112.00	CH	Village Handyman (Apr)
Malvern Resurfacing	24/04	£12,600.00	BT	1 <sup>ST</sup> phase playing fields track
<b>Zurich Town &amp; Parish</b>		<b>£1,234.63</b>	<b>BT</b>	<b>Annual Insurance Premium</b>
A Briggs	12/05	£436.30	BT	Clerk's Fees(Gross £545.30 SP17)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£14,382.93</b>		

BT – Bank Transfer

CH - Cheque

- **Cllr Baxter suggested Damien Hayes is an insurance broker (who works below the village hall) – it makes sense to check with him whether this is a good price. Cllr Rouse pointed out that the premium is very low of £146.88 and the fact that the Clerk as an employee doesn't seem to be covered. Clerk to liaise with D Hayes and check policy and report back to PC.**

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

<b>Savings Account B/F</b>	<b>£16,127.71</b>	<b>Community Account B/F</b>	<b>£417.25</b>
		Hills Echo Advertisers	£70.00
		Allotments	£152.35
		VAT Rebate	£17,975.39
		Water Plus (DD)	-£72.12

		Service Charge	-£6.00
		Pre Payments	-£629.00
		May Payments	-£14,382.93
<b>Savings Account C/F</b>	<b>£16,127.71</b>	<b>Community Account C/F</b>	<b>£3,524.94</b>

#### 54/25 Correspondence

To consider correspondence previously circulated.

FROM	SUBJECT
MHDC	April Malvern Hills Business e-Bulletin - Noted
Zurich	Renewal quote – discussed above item 69/25
WCC	Recruitment for Lay Member of WM Police – Noted

One item from Cllr Turner concerning Malvern Hills Trust and Manchester University it seems to be an academic's interest in petitions. Cllr Turner to circulate to PC for information.

#### 70/25 Councillors' items for Report.

1. The clerk's contract – Cllr Turner said that joining CALC had been budgeted for last year and to join would be a positive step as they can, apart from anything else, advise on the contract. All in Agreement. Clerk to action with CALC.
2. Cllr Turner contacted West Fete committee to see if they'd be happy for the playground opening to take place on the same day. They confirmed this to be a great idea – could we do it just before West Fete opens. All in agreement.
3. It was confirmed that we would go with the quote Malvern Resurfacing have given.

#### 71/25 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.