

**West Malvern Parish Council**
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 West Malvern Village Hall at 7:30pm.**
**Present**

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

**In Attendance**

District Cllrs. Prof. J Raine, N McVey      Clerk: A Briggs      Public: None.

**101/25 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.**

There were none.

**102/25 Apologies**

**To consider acceptance of apologies for absence from Councillors:** Cllr Sanoon

**103/25 Interests**

**i. Councillors Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and Other Disclosable Interests (ODI) regarding items on the agenda:** Cllr Harnden declared an interest concerning the tree works quotes.

**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.

**104/25 Reports from other representatives**

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

Cllr McVey gave an update on her activities during August. She recapped on the Bus Task and Finish Meeting set up by Marilyn Birks, Mayor of Malvern, which Cllr Turner also attended. She said it was interesting and met with the Lead of First Bus where ideas were discussed. Closer to home she confirmed a two unitary authority (north/south) was proposed for Worcestershire. Cllr McVey asked if we could help to advertise that House Martin boxes will hopefully be built at Malvern Vale (there's been a 44% decline in house martins). Clerk to put on Parish FB page.

County Council -Cllr McVey seems hopeful that North Leigh Primary School maybe piloted for the 'school street' initiative (where certain roads around a school are closed to traffic and school opening/closing times). She will keep us updated. WCC have also potentially agreed to introduce enforceable restrictions being placed by St James' and Cowleigh Bank – it needs to go through a consultation process first but Cllr McVey doesn't think there'll be any resistance. Bike Bus back up and running which is brilliant! Speeding – yet again a long conversation took place around this particular issue as it's a real problem – not just in WM but surrounding areas too – Cllr McVey muted on the idea of cross boundary collaboration (eg, with Storridge). Cllr McVey's part of a working party to look at children, their carers and care leavers and why there's a disproportionate number not in education, employment and training. Will report back with findings.

Lastly, she gave a huge shout out to the Malvern Ring and to everyone who made it happen – she said it was incredibly funny and brilliantly done so a big Well Done to all concerned!

A general question from Cllr Rouse concerning the monthly Malvern Hills Business e-bulletin. He asked whether there's any actual data as to how these portals are used, what it's costing, who benefits and what the success rate is. Cllr McVey to report back at next meeting.

The question was asked about the Community Legacy Grant Scheme and whether we've heard anything back yet. Cllr McVey said it should be sometime in September.

A conversation took place around the road by Boundless Outdoors (by the allotments) and who owns it (it is Highways)? There's a lot of traffic around that small area – especially on the corner - and the coaches for Boundless Outdoors now park up on West Malvern Road to let the children off. Boundless Outdoors are expanding their footprint (dining hall) so surely the road usage should be looked at with the potential of the corner being taken away. Cllr McVey to report back.

#### 105/25 Minutes

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

**106/25 Progress Reports: Update on matters not included on the agenda.** Last month Cllr Rouse asked whether a simple contract could be issued by the PC when any external party use the playing fields (eg, for gatherings of people). Clerk to ask CALC if they have such a template in place. Footpath warden: Cllr Harnden to be nominated (through WCC). Can the Parish Council Nominate? Clerk to confirm.

#### 107/25 Planning

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

Application No	From	Details	Outcome
M/25/01145/HP	Westwood Lodge, Park Road, Malvern, WR14 4DS	Rebuild existing single-storey extension in North East corner of dwelling on same footprint, rebuild front porch on same footprint, removal of existing garage to reveal blocked original window (Variation of Condition 2 Ref M/25/00377/HP)	No comment/no objection.
M/25/01248/HP	137 West Malvern Road, Malvern, WR14 4NG	Reconstruction of collapsed parking platform.	No comment/no objection.

ii. **Decisions notified. M25/00531/HP.** Rose Court, 227 West Malvern Road. Single storey side extension. **Approved.** Noted.

**108/25. Playing Fields and Open Spaces. Trampoline:** An update was given by those involved with the trampoline (potential trip hazard) and mole damage. Wicksteed were called out and explained to Cllr Harnden what needed to be done as a matter of urgency. This culminated in Cllr Harnden making the decision for them to carry out the work there and then. They have now made the area directly around the trampoline mole proof and with no trip hazards. He said in hindsight more money should have been spent when the playground was put in to make it mole proof. A mole trapper is now involved and Cllr Baxter will keep a keen eye on the playground for new mole hills. Clerk to find out if the mole catcher has a 'no mole, no fee' policy. **Zip line:** Wicksteed to visit and to look at solutions for the ongoing issues with the zipline. Good news! The **swing chains** have now been replaced so it's completely safe to use and doesn't squeak. Also, the goal nets arrived and have been put up.

They're still quite vulnerable to vandalism/theft. All we can really do is keep an eye on them and remove them at the end of the football season.

**109/25 Allotments & Community Woodland.** The Chair and Clerk to organise the autumn allotment inspection with allotment Chair – proposed date Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October. To report back at October's meeting.

Quotes for tree works. Cllr Harden removed himself from meeting whilst the quotes were discussed. Two quotes in (a third was sought, but nothing came to fruition). After a discussion the Parish decided on the cheaper quote of £1330. All in favour. Clerk to inform MS that he has the contract. (Cllr Harnden returns to the table). Clerk to confirm the max amount a financial decision can be made without seeking quotes.

A conversation took place around the allotments and the government's stance on the selling of community space to raise money. Are our allotments protected and on the asset list? Are they an asset of community value (ACV). Clerk to confirm.

(Cllr McVey leaves meeting).

**110/25 Highways & Footpaths. Gas Lamps:** A long conversation took place around WM gas lamps and the way forward. Various outstanding gas lamp issues are now being addressed and Cllr Harnden offered to liaise with BH. **First Bus:** The Chair gave an update on the meeting he and Cllr McVey attended. Limited options due to funding but a conversation took place around busses connecting WM and The Wells – potentially extending the 675 to the Wells as it goes down there anyway to turn around – so why can't it stop off on the way. (The 44 only goes as far as Fruitlands). Could there be a bus route to the 3 Counties especially when shows on/ a circular route for tourists? ('On demand' busses probably wouldn't work). Cllr Turner to report back as and when meetings take place.

#### **111/25 Finance**

##### ***i. To consider payment of invoices presented:***

The following payments had been made between meetings and were ratified: Noted.

From/Due to	Date	Amount		Details
Glen Harnden	14/7/25	26.99	BT	Batteries/Sensor for WMVH Clock
CALC fee	17/7/25	732.10	BT	CALC annual subscription (pro rata)
Huck Nets	18/7/25	188.52	BT	Stanchion & nets for football field
PJ O'Boyle	4/8/25	300.00	BT	Tractor and flail bluebell path
Clerk pay – August	10/8/25	436.30	BT	Anna Briggs
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,683.91</b>		

The following payments were approved: Noted.

From/Due to	Date	Amount		Details
Aspect Design	28/8/25	335	BT	September Issue
Malvern Town Council	1/9/25	378	BT	Grass/litter July, August, Sept 2025
JR Burford	07/9/25	252	CH	Inv x 2 WM70 £112/Jul WM71 £140/Aug
Clerk pay – Sept	9/9/25	436.10	BT	Anna Briggs
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1401.10</b>		

BT – Bank Transfer / CH – Cheque

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

<b>Savings Account B/F</b>	<b>£16,127.71</b>	<b>Community Account B/F</b>	<b>£11,847.80</b>
<b>No transactions</b>	<b>0.00</b>		
		<b>JR Burford – cheques x 3 paid in</b>	<b>-£336.00</b>
		<b>Water Plus (DD) x 2</b>	<b>-£43.55</b>
		<b>Water Plus (DD) x 2</b>	<b>-£38.09</b>
		<b>Service Charge x 2</b>	<b>-£12.00</b>
		<b>Pre Payments</b>	<b>-£1683.91</b>
		<b>Aug/Sept Payments</b>	<b>-£1401.10</b>
<b>Savings Account C/F</b>	<b>£16,222.05</b>	<b>Community Account C/F</b>	<b>£6,723.86</b>

(It was confirmed that the S106 money for Adelaide House is on hold until the Community Grant money's been allocated).

## 112/25. Correspondence

FROM	SUBJECT
MHDC	July/August Malvern Hills Business e-Bulletin. <b>FYI</b>
CALC	17 £30,060 £15.58 £31,022 £16.08 LC1 - <b>Noted.</b>
CALC	Welcome to Your New Health & Wellbeing Newsletter! <b>Noted.</b>
MHDC	July Malvern Hills Business e-Bulletin <b>FYI.</b>
West Mercia Police (22/07)	Town and Parish Council Survey *1
WCC (14/08)	Withdrawal of WCC MyParish Portal *2
Malvern Hills Trust (02/09)	Malvern Hills Bill latest update *3

\*1 – after a brief discussion each Parish Councillor will complete the survey.

- Cllr Baxter will write a reminder for the Hills Echo with regard to dogs in the playground as there have been a number of complaints.

\*2 – Clerk gave update as to migration of documents from MyParish to our present website (probably via Dropbox). She also mentioned 'Aubergine' a website built specifically for parishes and one that many Parish Councils use. To look at when present contract finishes? Clerk to ensure 2025-26 Annual Return detail is put on website.

\*3 - We as a Parish Council need to call a meeting (with which the public may attend) to take into consideration and determine upon the expediency of opposing in Parliament the Malvern Hills Bill. This meeting will take place at 7pm directly before the next Parish Meeting (7.30pm) on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

**113/25 Councillors' items for Report.** Cllr Rouse talked about a Lengthsman's work in general –

West Malven don't have one as we're not a rural community. **Phone Box:** Nina the Artist has fixed the phone box and has asked if we could get some red paint to tidy things up. Cllr Baxter to buy red paint. Two residents have made contact with regard to taking on the book library in the phone box. Clerk to put them in touch with each other.

## 114/25 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:10PM