

MALVERN WELLS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Malvern Wells Parish Council duly convened and held in
The Village Hall, Wells Road on Wednesday 2nd November, 2011 commencing at
7.30pm

Present:

Councillors:	K Wagstaff (Chairman)
A Hull	Mrs C O'Donnell
B J Knibb	P Buchanan
Mrs A Bradshaw	M Victory
Mrs A Cheeseman	J Black
S Freeman	

In attendance: County Cllr S Brown & District Cllr C Cheeseman
D M Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

112/11 Apologies noted: Malvern Policing Team,
Cllrs Mrs H Burrage, N Johnson and M Victory

113/11 Declarations of Interest for the meeting and any changes to be notified for the Registers of Interests and Gifts & Hospitality:

None recorded.

114/11 Closure of the Meeting to allow Parishioners Present to speak on any Matter on the agenda

There were no questions from parishioners.

115/11 Policing Report

Due to operational reasons the Policing team had presented their apologies for being unable to attend the meeting. A letter had been received from Inspector Jane Francis explaining that due to the increasing demands on the local policing team it would not be possible for officers to attend monthly meetings on a regular basis. The Clerk was asked to reply to this letter expressing the Council's disappointment with the arrangements. There would still be police representation at the Council's annual parish meeting and local officers would be continuing to work closely with the Parish Council on community policing matters.

116/11 Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th September, 2011 were unanimously **approved** by Members and signed by the Chair as a correct record of that meeting.

117/11 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda for the meeting.

118/11 Action undertaken since the previous Council meeting (Held 28th September). The Clerk circulated a paper summarising the following actions that had

been undertaken since the previous meeting on 28th September:-

Replacement larger capacity rubbish bin for siting opposite Daniel's Garage, Wells Road	Bin ordered Delivery expected 7th November
Additional salt and grit bins	Bins ordered - delivery expected 16th Nov
Reply to MHDC Car parking consultation	Reply sent 2nd November
Reply to Parliamentary Boundary Change Consultation	Reply sent 30th September
Reply to SWDP consultation	Reply to be circulated to Members for comment Consultation period ends 18th November

This report was noted and accepted by the Council.

119/11 Constituency Boundary Change proposals

A draft response to the consultation on the proposed parliamentary constituency boundary changes had been circulated for Members comment. The proposals would see the Wells Ward moved to the Evesham Constituency whilst all of the remaining neighbouring Wards within Malvern would form part of the proposed new Malvern and Ledbury Constituency.

Members were of the view that the proposed constituency changes would effectively split the wider area of the Malverns in two and destroy the existing sense of community identity for local residents.

The new constituency boundaries will also cross local authorities and in Malvern Wells case there would be crossover between Wychavon and Malvern District Councils areas of responsibility. This would undoubtedly cause difficulties for Members of Parliament when dealing with constituency case work.

The Parish Council was unanimous in expressing the view that, in common with the rest of the Malvern Wards, the Wells should be included in the new Malvern and Ledbury constituency, rather than the Evesham constituency, if the boundary review proposals were to go ahead.

The Clerk was asked to return the final consultation response to the Boundary Commissioners on that basis.

120/11 South Worcestershire Development plan

The Clerk had circulated a draft response to the SWDP proposals for Members for their consideration. The SWDP will have an impact in Malvern Wells, the wider District of the Malverns and the County of Worcestershire as a whole.

The document contains proposals for the potential development of two sites within Malvern Wells. There had been identified as:-

SWDP 13/3 Land at Upper Welland Road, Upper Welland – 24 units

SWDP 13/4 Former Playing Fields, Green Lane – 35 units

Members noted that both of these sites lie within the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB) and the Upper Welland Site also rests within the Malvern Hills Conservation Area.

One of the Parish Council's (PC) key objectives is to help to promote and maintain both the characteristics both of the AONB and the conservation area and, in particular, Members

were of the view that it was vitally important to protect the AONB from any further large estate type development, such as the Fruitlands in Malvern, which has already had a devastating impact on the views looking down from and across the Malvern Hills.

Following discussion Members resolved to formulate a Neighbourhood plan working group which would be tasked to develop a vision for the future of the Parish. The working group will make regular reports to full Council which will set out how the PC intends to respond to current and future housing need and will aim to limit any development plans that fail to meet its aspirations vision for the preservation of the unique character of the area.

It was **agreed** that Cllrs P Buchanan would Chair the group and Cllr A Hull would undertake the role of Vice Chairman. Cllrs Mrs Bradshaw and S Freeman also agreed to serve on the working group. Council would receive update reports from the working group during the development of the Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The final response to the SWDP would be returned to the District Council before the end of the consultation period on 18th November. A copy of the response would also be posted on the Council's website.

121/11 Reports of Committees and Committee Chairmen

(a) Cllr Buchanan presented the previously circulated report of the **Planning Committee** which had been held on 4th October.

(b) The Clerk presented the previously circulated report of the **Environment Committee** held on 11th October

(c) Cllr Bradshaw presented the previously circulated report of the **Finance & General Purposes Committee** held on 20th October. This report had incorporated draft budget projections which would form the basis for the setting of the 2012/13 Parish Council tax precept

The Report and the recommendations contained therein were accepted by the Council.

122/11 Remembrance Sunday 13th November

The Clerk reported that preparations for the Remembrance service were well in hand. The Licence to permit closure of the Wells Road had been obtained and the parade led by the local scout group would be leaving the Village Hall for the War Memorial at 11.45 am. The Service would be led by the Rev Steve Martin.

123/11 Gas Lamps Refurbishment project

Cllr Black advised that refurbishments were continuing. Most of the Winsor type lamps should be back on their posts by the end of November. There had been some delay in the process caused by the protracted repair work needed on the older Foster & Pullen lamps which were proving difficult to repair.

It was now anticipated that all of the refurbishment works should be completed by early December.

The standard of the work being carried out continues to be of an excellent standard and the refurbished lamps are giving a much improved level of illumination.

The Clerk advised that he would be asking the contractors to submit their first invoices for the works so that the agreed grant claims can be made to the District Council. The Clerk had also requested the District Council to send invoices for gas consumed by the lamps since 1st April.

124/11 Provision of new Parish Amenities

The Clerk reported that he had again been in contact with officers at the District Council regarding the potential release of Section 106 funding which had been earmarked for the development of recreational facilities within the Parish.

A meeting had now been arranged with suppliers of new playground equipment and it was intended to extend the facilities at the Assarts Road play area. An update report would be made to the next meeting of the Council.

125/11 To Receive the Reports of Representatives on other bodies:

a) Malvern Hills District Council – Cllr C Cheeseman reported that the District Council was now reviewing its strategy for its Car parking service.

The consideration of the plans for the development of six apartments at 18c Peachfield Road had been deferred to the next area planning meeting scheduled for 16th November

The District Council had been considering its draft budget and it was expected that there would not be an increase in the District Council Tax for 2012/13.

b) Worcestershire County Council – Cllr Brown drew attention to funding which had been made available to County Council Members which could be used for community projects throughout their Wards. Cllr Brown had earmarked a proportion of his funds for projects within the Parish

c) Malvern Wells Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Burrage gave an update on plans for the Christmas Carol Service which was due to be held in the Village Hall on 16th December. Adverts for the event would be placed in the Wells News, on noticeboards and on the parish website

126/11 Cemetery Matters

The Clerk reported that some remedial works to trees in the Cemetery had now been undertaken.

A further letter had been received from the Ministry of Justice giving formal notice that the St Peters Cemetery was now closed. The Church Commissioners would now be progressing the next stage in the process of the handover of the maintenance of the Cemetery to the Parish Council, although this was likely to take some time to resolve.

127/11 Payment of Accounts: The under mentioned accounts were approved for payment:

Cheque			£
2861	David Taverner	Clerks Salary & Expenses-October	1,466.04
2862	Steve Maund	Outdoor Works - October/ Nov	2,347.56

128/11 Co option of new Council Member

The Clerk reported that there had originally been three applications for the two vacancies which had been declared in the All Saints Ward, although one of these candidates had subsequently withdrawn their application. Statements of introduction for each person had previously been circulated to Members

One of the candidates - Mr Reg Mills – was in attendance at the meeting and, after being invited to do so, made a further short verbal statement of introduction for the benefit of Members.

Following due consideration of Mr Mills application it was **unanimously resolved** that he should be co- opted to serve as a Member of the Parish Council. Mr Mills then signed the relevant declaration of acceptance of office.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9 25pm.

Signed

Chairman

1st December, 2011