

# 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 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2012** commencing at 7.30pm

**Present:**

<b>Councillors:</b>	K Wagstaff (Chairman)
B J Knibb	A Hull
P Buchanan	Mrs H Burrage
N Johnson	M Victory
Mrs A Cheeseman	Mrs A Bradshaw
S Freeman	

**In attendance:** D M Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

**158/11 Apologies noted:** Malvern Policing Team, Cllrs Mrs C O'Donnell and J Black

**159/11 Declarations of Interest for the meeting and any changes to be notified for the Registers of Interests and Gifts & Hospitality:**

Declarations of interest were as previously recorded – no changes were necessary to the registers.

**160/11 Closure of the Meeting to allow Parishioners Present to speak on any Matter on the agenda**

There were no questions from parishioners.

**161/11 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 were unanimously **approved** by Members and **signed by the Chairman** as a correct record of that meeting.

**162/11 Matters arising from the Minutes**

The clerk advised that he had been unable to ascertain the reasons for the delay in the delivery of the Wells News in parts of Green Lane and the Holywell Road but the publication deadline for future editions would be brought forward to help to alleviate delivery delays.

**163/11 Action undertaken since the previous Council meeting.**

The Clerk reported on the following actions that had been undertaken since the previous meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February:-

Play area facilities development	Further talks held with play equipment suppliers - undertaken Attempts to find suitable land for new play area near to Peachfield Road Common to be pursued
Wells News winter edition advertisement invoices sent	Invoices sent . Potential new advertisers now being sought
Works undertaken to overgrown paths and removal of fallen trees	Restorative work undertaken in Assarts Road to alleviate hedgerow incursion on to roadway
Gas lamps- Gas supply	Initial meeting held with Malvern Town and West Malvern Councils on new gas consumption contract

This report was **noted and accepted** by the Council.

## **164/11 Reports of Committees / Committee Chairmen**

Cllr Buchanan presented the report of **the Planning Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> February**. The report and the recommendations contained therein were **accepted** by the Council

### **165/11 Chairman's Communications**

A letter had been received from Banner Homes Ltd setting out their proposals for a site at the rear of 14 Grundy's Lane which had been identified by them as a potential residential redevelopment site.

Local residents had been circulated with an invitation to a consultation event on the proposals which was to take place on 27<sup>th</sup> February at Malvern College.

The Council agreed to wait until a formal planning application for the development had been received before making any formal comment on the proposals, although it was noted that the site sits within both the Malvern Hills Conservation Area and the AONB.

### **166/11 Summer events – Queens Jubilee, Olympic Torch Procession and the Village Fete**

- (a) **Summer Fete 15<sup>th</sup> July** –the Clerk advised that he had written formally to Harriet Baldwin MP who had kindly agreed to open the fete at 1pm on 15<sup>th</sup> July. Other preparations for the event were proceeding well and local participating organisations and groups would be called upon to help with the planning of the event as the need arose.
- (b) **Queens Diamond Jubilee**-it was agreed that the Council should mark the occasion of the Queens Diamond Jubilee by the purchase of a new bench and tree for the Jubilee fountain garden. The Clerk was asked to seek the advice of Steven Maund - the outdoor contractor- prior to the purchase of a suitable tree.

The Council also agreed to purchase Jubilee Celebration Mugs which would be presented to children attending the two local primary schools. The Clerk was asked to obtain suitable quotations from local companies for the supply of the mugs, the cost of which would be borne by the Council's Section 137 expenditure budget.

- (c) **Olympic Torch procession** –The convey carrying the Olympic Torch would pass along the Wells Road between 8.45am to 9.30 a.m on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May. The route was due to follow the A449 from Colwall turning down the Hanley Road towards Upton.

### **167/11 Reports of representatives on other bodies**

- (a) **Worcestershire County Council – County Cllr S Brown**

Cllr Brown reported that improvements were to be made by the County Council to the vehicular access at the Spar Shop on the Wells Road

A small proportion of Cllr Brown's devolved budget was still available for use to fund any suitable schemes within the Parish. This fund could potentially be used to provide for the additional purchase of grit bins, not currently on the main gritting route, with locations in the Holywell Road and Woodfarm Road being given priority.

Cllr Brown reported that the medium term budget reductions which needed to be made to the County Council's budget were now some £20 million higher than had been originally anticipated. The total savings required would total approximately £90 million over the next four years.

Vehicle Activated speed signs were available for use within the Parish and Cllr Brown agreed to send the current location schedule for the signs to the Clerk for review.

(b) **Malvern Hills District Council – District Cllr C Cheeseman**

Cllr Cheeseman reported that following extensive public objections the District Council had now resolved not to increase Car parking Charges for 2012/13. This would mean that further savings in the District Council's budget would have to be found to offset the income that would be foregone as a result.

There would be no increase in the District Council element of the Council tax for 2012/13.

Cllr Cheeseman advised the meeting that, due to the numerous consultation replies that had been received in response to the draft South Worcestershire Development Plan, there would be a delay in its publication. The Draft plan would now be considered by the District Council in June and it was expected that the plan would be submitted to the Secretary of State for review in the autumn.

The planning application in respect of the erection of 5 new dwellings at 30 A Peachfield Road had been approved with several conditions attached. Following discussion on this item Cllr Wagstaff suggested that the Council should give consideration to the siting of removable bollards on the bridleway near to 30 Peachfield Road to restrict through access to traffic. This proposition was supported by all Members and the Clerk advised that he would liaise with the County Council and the residents at 30 Peachfield Road in this regard

(c) **Malvern Hills Conservators – Mr Jon Tretheway**

Mr Tretheway reported that following a request from the Parish Council he had been involved in discussions with Ian Rowat – Director of the Conservators Board – regarding the potential for a the development of a new play area on the Peachfield Road Common.

Mr Tretheway had discovered that the Parish Council had made an earlier similar application to the Conservators back in 1986 but follow up action had been deferred at that time.

It was now suggested that the Council should make a new application to the Board so that it could be considered a future Board Land Management Committee meeting.

Mr Tretheway drew attention to the legal covenants, incorporated in the Malvern Hills Acts, which appear to make it clear that the Conservators do not have the power to erect play facilities on their land. Even if the Board was to give its approval the matter would still need to be referred to DEFRA for their agreement.

Following a **proposal** by Cllr Victory, which **was seconded** by Cllr Knibb, the Council **unanimously resolved** to progress an application to the Conservators Board to identify a likely site on Peachfield Road Common for the development of a Children's play area. The Clerk advised that he would be calling a meeting of the play and open spaces group, to which Ian Rowat would be invited so further discussions on the way forward could take place.

**168/11 Council Member Vacancy**

Permission had now been received from the District Council to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Mr R Mills. This would be undertaken by the co-option process. The vacancy had been widely advertised throughout the Parish and on the Parish website. The closing date for applications to be received had been set as Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**169/11 Payment of Accounts:** The under mentioned accounts were approved for payment:

Cheque			£
2889	Steven Maund	Outdoor Works - February	1,489.59
2890	Cheque Cancelled		-
2891	Malvern Hills District Council	Gas consumption for lamps April-Sept	1,923.60
2892	Collette Accountancy Ltd	Payroll July 2011 to March 2012	76.50
2893	D M Taverner	Clerks Salary & Expenses - February	1,527.10
2894	AON Insurance	Additional gas lamps Premium	137.86
2895	Worcestershire CALC	Clerks gathering - Dec & Feb	15.00

*At this stage of the meeting the Council **unanimously resolved** that, pursuant to the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press should be excluded from the remainder of the meeting. The reason being the consideration of Council contracts.*

### **170/11 Gas lamps Refurbishment Project**

Following the Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January a letter had been sent to the Council's contractors setting out a schedule of objectives for the completion of the refurbishment contract in view of the Council's concerns that the contract had now over run by some 6 months against the originally promised completion date

The contractor -Mr Brian Harper- had been invited to the meeting to discuss the difficulties that had arisen which had led to the contract delays.

Mr Harper gave a detailed presentation to Members which included examples of the intricacies of the refurbishment works necessary to some of the older Parkinson and Cowan lamps. Mr Harper explained that problems had also been caused by delays in the receipt of component parts from his suppliers which had meant that it had proved necessary to spend some considerable time manufacturing replacement inner burner parts for the lamps.

Cllr Mrs H Burrage – Chair of the Council's Gas Lamps working group - thanked Mr Harper for the information he had given but reminded Mr Harper that, whilst the Council was sympathetic to the problems that had been encountered during the renovation project, it was essential that the works were now completed as soon as practically possible so that release of final grant funding for the project from the District Council could be secured.

In response Mr Harper advised that all of the remaining lamp heads would be removed and taken to his workshop by no later than 30<sup>th</sup> April and that priority would now be given to all of the refurbishment works to the gas lamps within Malvern Wells being completed by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2012. Progress on this would continue to be closely monitored by the Gas lamps working group and further progress reports would be made by that group to each succeeding parish Council meeting.

Cllr Black and the Clerk had attended a meeting with Malvern Town Council and West Malvern Parish Council which had centred on discussions regarding the new gas supply contract which would be operable once the refurbishment contract had been completed

Initial discussions were now being held with British Gas which include a review of the new lower gas consumption figures that are now being achieved by those lamps which have been refurbished. Further update reports on this subject would be presented to future meeting of the Gas lamps working group.

**171/11 2012-2015 Grass Cutting Contract**

It was unanimously resolved that the following contractors should be invited to submit tender bids for the 2012-2015 Grass Cutting Contracts

Steven Maund (current contractor)

New Farm Grounds Maintenance

Smart Cut Ltd

Tenders were too due be returned by 2nd March so that they can be considered by Members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee at their April meeting.

**172/11 Date of next Council meeting**

The date of the next Parish Council meeting was set as Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2012

There being no other business the meeting the Chairman closed the meeting at 9 40pm

Signed .....

**Chairman  
22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2012**