

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

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	K Wagstaff (Chairman)
	B J Knibb	A Hull
	P Buchanan	Mrs H Burrage
	N Johnson	Mrs C O'Donnell
	Mrs A Bradshaw	J Black
	S Freeman	

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

**173/11 Apologies noted:** Cllrs Mrs A Cheeseman and M Victory  
Mr J Tretheway – Elected Conservator  
District Cllr C Cheeseman  
Malvern Policing Team

### **174/11 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.

### **175/11 Closure of the Meeting to allow Parishioners Present to speak on any Matter on the agenda**

There were no questions from parishioners.

### **176/11 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2012 were unanimously **approved** by Members and **signed by the Chairman** as a correct record of that meeting.

### **177/11 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the approved minutes

*At this point in the meeting the Chairman proposed a change to the order of business to consider the nominations that had been received for the Council member vacancy that had been declared. This change to the order of business was unanimously agreed.*

### **178/11 Parish Council Member Vacancy**

The Clerk reported that two nominations had initially been received for the vacancy which had been declared from Mr. Richard Vakis and Mr Steve Atwell although Mr Vakis had subsequently withdrawn his nomination.

The Chairman invited Mr Atwell to give a brief statement of introduction during which he outlined the reasons for his candidature.

Mr Atwell explained that he had moved to Malvern Wells in September 2010 from Hampshire to be closer to grandparents, and because of the quality of life that Malvern offers.

He had recently become interested in the role in the role of the Parish Council and of the importance of its activities.

Following a proposal by Cllr Buchanan, which was seconded by Cllr Knibb, the Council unanimously resolved that Mr Atwell should be co-opted to serve as a Parish Council Member. The Clerk advised that he would make arrangements for the relevant acceptance of office and declaration of interest forms to be completed.

Mr Atwell was then invited to join the remainder of the meeting

### **179/11 Action undertaken since the previous Council meeting.**

The Clerk reported on the following actions that had been undertaken since the previous meeting-

Grass Cutting contract 2012-15	Tender bids had been received from the three contractors who had been invited to tender. The tender lists were due to be considered at the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
Council Member vacancies	Vacancy advertised and nominations now received
Play facilities	Meeting held with Malvern Hills Conservators to identify potential packet of land on Peachfield Road common
Neighbourhood plan	Ismail Mohammed - Development Framework Manager at MHDC had attended a recent meeting of the group and had outlined the process to be followed in the development of the plan
Jubilee Celebrations	Mugs and coaster sets ordered for presentation to local schools. Jubilee Garden to be tidied and fenced
Gas lamps	Update report presented to recent meeting of gas lamps working group. Contract negotiations for gas supply ongoing

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

### **180/11 Planning applications considered between meetings under the Planning protocol**

Members confirmed the actions of the Chairman of the Planning Committee in conjunction with Cllr Wagstaff and Cllr Hull, under the Council's planning protocol, in respect of the following planning applications:-

**12/00289/FUL - Three Counties Showground** - Extension to form single storey office extension to form new entrance lobby and office accommodation

Members raised no objections to this application

**12/00262/FUL – Abbey House, 49 Hanley Road** - Erection of two storey building to provide assisted living accommodation of one bedroom for a disabled person on the ground floor and four bedrooms on first floor with associated facilities

Members raised no objections to this application

**12/00143/FUL – Rose Lawn, 227 Wells Road** – replacement UPVC windows.

Members raised no objections to this application

**12/00349/S73 – 32 Peachfield Road** – rotation of approved dwelling by 6 degrees to face south.

Members raised no objections to this application

### **181/11 Chairman's Communications**

- (a) Correspondence had been received from residents concerned at the disturbance and disruption caused by a mobile canteen van which had been temporarily sited the lay-by near to the recycling bins, on the Wells Road. The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Malvern Hills Conservators who had removed the temporary advertising signage which had been erected. Enforcement action to prevent the use of the lay-by for trading could not be undertaken by the District Council as they had not put in place the necessary policies and legal regime to enable enforcement action to take place. The Clerk was asked to write to the District Council for their views on the matter and to ask what action could be taken to prevent a reoccurrence
- (b) A letter had been circulated to residents drawing their attention to ground clearance works being carried out at the former Abbey Playing field in Rothwell Road. No formal planning application in respect of this site had yet been received although the site was listed in the draft South Worcestershire Development plan as a "preferred option" site for development.

In view of the level of local interest it was agreed that the matter should be listed for discussion at the Council's next Planning Committee meeting scheduled for 18 April so that residents could have the opportunity to attend to express their views.

### **182/11 Summer Events**

The Clerk advised members that orders had been placed for the Jubilee commemorative mug and coaster sets which were to be presented to the children at the two local primary schools.

The Jubilee would also be commemorated by the siting of a new bench and tree in the Jubilee fountain garden.

An event was being arranged that would mark the rededication of the Village Hall which had originally been dedicated to celebrate Queen Victoria's diamond Jubilee in 1897. A "bring and share" Jubilee celebration lunch was being planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> June which would follow the ecumenical service of re-dedication at 12 45pm. The Village Hall would remain open for socialising during the afternoon. **Council agreed** that funding of up to £250 would be available to help support the event

The Olympic torch was due to be carried in convoy along the wells Road on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May, following a route from Hanley Road to the junction with Upper Welland Road and the Clerk advised that he would be contacting the local primary schools to see if they would be attending to mark the celebration of the event .

Cllr Johnson advised that he would be leading a team of volunteers to help with the organisation of the Village Fete scheduled for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July. It was agreed that a small councillor led working group should be established to help with the event organisation and Councillors Buchanan, Atwell, Black and Wagstaff volunteered to lend their help as and when required.

## **183/111 Reports of representatives on other bodies**

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

Cllr Brown advised that a proportion of his devolved budget would be available to fund suitable schemes within the parish and applications for the release of funds to sponsor community events or activities could be made from the start of the 2012/13 financial year.

### **(b) Malvern Hills CALC**

Cllr Knibb reported that he and the Clerk had attended the Malvern Hills area CALC meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March at which there had been presentations from Transitions Malvern on a local vehicle sharing scheme.

CALC officers had advised that updates were being made to Code of conduct scheme for Members and a new model scheme was due to be published later in the year.

### **(c) Abbey House liaison group**

Cllr Buchanan reported that there were now 17 residents in Abbey House and that there was a waiting list of 13 applications for residency.

Abbey House offers treatment and rehabilitation in a locked facility for men with enduring mental health difficulties. This service provides a therapeutic focus on learning new skills and the maintenance of skills necessary for community living, as well as promoting independence and improving their quality of life.

## **184/11 Gas lamps Refurbishment project**

Cllr Burrage presented the notes of the meeting of the Gas Lamps working group which had been held on 1<sup>st</sup> March. It was noted that there had been difficulties with the renovation of the older lamps, especially those of the Parkinson & Cowan type which are predominantly sited on the Holywell Road

It was clear that Sight Designs Ltd (SDL) had done a great deal of unpaid work and spent a greater amount of time than they had originally expected to on works to these older type lamps.

The Council had agreed that SDL should be given the opportunity to quantify the costs of the additional work which had and was being undertaken with a view to securing the agreement of the District Council to provide additional grant funding.

Whilst it the involvement in the project of the Transitions Malvern group was understood, members of the group felt that it was important to underline the fact that it is SDL who are the Council's contractors and thus it is they who carry the contractual liability to complete the project on the terms that had previously been agreed by the Parish Council

It was agreed that the Clerk should contract SDL to obtain an up to date Copy of the current planned refurbishment schedule, with a view to it being monitored on a weekly basis, with the aim being to ensure that the timetable is such that it will secure completion of the entire refurbishment project by 30<sup>th</sup> June

Although Members of the group again expressed their satisfaction with the quality of work that had been undertaken to date, there were concerns about the lights which were running on full burn during the day – particularly those along the Wells Road. The Clerk was asked to contact SDL to ask them to resolve the situation

It was noted that SDL had needed to make modifications to some of the internal burners due to the particular design intricacies of some of the lamps and because of the delays which had been encountered by SDL in the receipt of parts from their suppliers. Some concern was expressed that this could cause some difficulties for anyone carrying out the

future maintenance of the lamps, although it was not thought that any such difficulties would be insurmountable.

Members had been very impressed with the functionality of the LED lamp which had been demonstrated by SDL at the February Council meeting. The longer term objectives of SDL included plans for them to seek interest from other organisations in the purchase of these particular types of lamps. Patents were being applied for by SDL and Duncan Hine who had undertaken much of the initial development works. Dependant on the level of interest shown by other bodies SDL had indicated that a proportion of any royalties received would be shared with the Parish Council

Cllr Black and the Clerk had attended an initial meeting with West Malvern and Malvern Town Council on 8<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the future gas supply contract that will become operable once the refurbishment project has been completed. Charlie Porter was leading on the initial discussions with Centrica PLC and the new gas consumption measurements and data in respect of each of the refurbished lamps were in the process of being agreed.

Cllr Black advised that the current Gas contract is with British Gas who were keen to continue with that contract, especially in view of the fact that they could potentially be able to secure some favourable advertising and promotional material from their involvement in the project. It was therefore hoped that a favourable quotation could be secured. BIOGAS had also been approached but at this stage had signalled that they would not be able to supply a quotation for an unmetered gas supply.

**185/11 Payment of Accounts:** The under mentioned accounts were approved for payment:

Cheque			£
2896	Steven Maund	Outdoor Works - Feb/ March	865.60
2897	HMRC	PAYE and Nat insurance	1,327.44
2898	County Building Supplies	Cemetery Materials	58.81
2899	Arkell & Hurcombe	Cemetery plaque	96.00
2900	D M Taverner	Clerks Salary & Expenses - March	1,450.22
2901	Martin Thomas	Cemetery Work - March	443.20
2902	Trevor Brooke	Digger Hire - Cemetery	168.00
2903	Malvern CAB	Donation 2011/12	1,000.00
2904	Malvern Hills District Council	Gas lamps Running costs - Final qtr	1,923.60

**186/11 Date of next Council meeting**

The date of the next Parish Council meeting was set as Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2012

There being no other business the meeting the Chairman closed the meeting at 9 45pm

Signed.....

**Chairman**  
**24<sup>th</sup> May, 2012**