

MALVERN WELLS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Malvern Wells Parish Council duly convened and held in The Village Hall, Wells Road, Malvern Wells on **Wednesday 29th January, 2014** commencing at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillors: -

Mrs H Burrage	(Chairman)
Mrs A Bradshaw	S Atwell
P Buchanan	J Black
B J Knibb	M Victory
K Wagstaff	
S Freeman	

In attendance: -

David Taverner - Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

District Cllr C Cheeseman

Apologies recorded: -

County Cllr Lucy Hodgson
Cllrs N Johnson, K Hurst, A Hull and Mrs C O' Donnell

103/13

Declarations of Interest

a) Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests: There were none

b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature: There were none

c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature: There were none

104/13

To Consider Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)

A dispensation had been granted by the monitoring officer at Malvern Hills District Council to allow Members to participate in the debate, *under agenda item 15b*, relating to the setting of the 2014/15 precept and the related Council Tax Rate at Band D. As well as repealing the legislation relating to the former Code of Conduct, the Localism Act 2011 also repealed the general dispensation permitting any Councillor with an interest to take part in meetings relating to setting their Council's precept. Advice given by the Monitoring Officer was that Parish Councillors, living in the parish must, as Council Tax payers, declare a pecuniary interest in the item prior to taking part on any debate on it.

105/13 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27th November, 2013.

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th November, 2013 having been previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting.

106/13 Matters arising from the minutes

Minute 52/13 (26th June) - Possible purchase of land for provision of a Cemetery:-In relation to the sale of land at Chestnut Hill, Members were advised that the land still remains unsold. It was understood that there were some legal difficulties with the sale process and it was clear, at this stage, that the vendors have no intention to sell the land other than as a single plot.

The vendors' agents had already been notified of the Parish Council's interest by Cllr Freeman and it was agreed that further contact would be made with the agents to ascertain what progress was being made with the sale. Attempts were also still being made to identify other parcels of land, within the parish which might be suitable for use as an extension of the Cemetery.

Minute 96/13 (27th November) – Fruitlands Estate pavements

Cllr Knibb reported that repair works to worn pavements on the Fruitlands Estate were due to commence on 3rd February and asked that the Parish Council's thanks for County Cllr Hodgson's help with initiating the repairs scheme should be formally recorded.

107/13 Report of the County Councillor – Cllr L Hodgson

Cllr Hodgson had tendered her apologies for being unable to attend the meeting but presented the following written report

Energy to Waste Plant

Worcestershire County Council has approved the funding proposals for the planned Energy from Waste facility (EfW) giving its green light to progress. EnviRecover, which will be built on Hartlebury Trading Estate, will have capacity to divert 200,000 tonnes of waste from landfill sites each year. Planning consent for the plant was given by the Secretary of State in July 2012. Construction is expected to start this year and it is planned to be fully operational in 2017. In 2023/24 its forecast that 222,518 tonnes of residual waste will be produced in Worcestershire and Herefordshire and incremental Landfill Taxes set by Central Government, which have increased from £6 per tonne in 1996 to £80 per tonne (from April 2014). This means that the current landfill site will be full by 2023/24 and the significant risk of additional costs in securing out of county facility for residual waste if we had carried on our current arrangement which meant that doing nothing was not an option both in environmental and financial sense. In total the site will cost the council £1.6 billion to build and will be up and running from 2016-17.

Bus Consultation

The consultation on the bus subsidy removal closed on Friday 17th January. At the close over 8500 completed surveys had been received along with around 10 petitions from across the county. These will now be analyzed a report will be drawn up before a decision is made as part of the budget process.

Southern Link Road Improvements

Worcestershire County Council is encouraging anyone interested in finding out more about improvement plans on one of the busiest key roads in Worcester – the A4440 Southern Link The £8million project, the first phase of a plan to dual the entire route to the Whittington roundabout, will involve work to upgrade the Ketch roundabout and dual-track the carriageway towards the Norton roundabout cutting congestion and improving journey times. Originally built in the 1980s, the Southern Link Road is one of the most heavily used in Worcestershire and the predicted growth in travel (particularly by car) is expected to result in a 30 to 40 per cent increase in journey times through the Powick to Whittington section of the route by 2026, which currently takes around 13-and-a-half minutes during the morning rush hour periods. You can find out more at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/ketch, which contains a host of details on the project. Modeling predicts that in just 12 years' time doing nothing would result in 200 per cent increase in over-capacity queues, 30 per cent increase in journey times and 12 per cent increase in travel distances for those travelling around Worcester. At the cabinet meeting in December I was able to raise the concerns made about the capacity of this road and get the reassurance from Officers that it will help with the congestion in the area when complete with recognition of its importance for residents who live in the Malvern area and need access to the motorway.

County Council Budget Proposals

Worcestershire County Council is consulting on the draft budget for next financial year 2014/15. The draft budget brings together a number of financial related matters, including the results of the Council's strategic financial planning, the detailed budget preparation work taking account of the latest inflation and demographic pressures, the overall funding position from Central Government and finally the overall impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The draft budget also proposes to raise the Council Tax Precept by 1.94% in order to raise approximately £4 million of funding that will be available year on year to support emerging pressures of approximately £4 million within Children's Services, particularly with reference to the rising number of Looked After Children. This is of course dependent on the debate in parliament on the day before our council meeting when a cap may be introduced below this.

The medium term savings and efficiencies requirement for the Council is now approximately £103 million through to the end of the 2017/18 financial year. Over the medium term to the end of 2016/17 the Council has identified savings and efficiencies of approximately £61 million. The Council intends to develop plans to address the shortfall of £17 million to the end of 2016/17 in 2014 and will consider the savings and efficiencies required in 2017/18 following the approval of the budget by Full Council in February 2014.

Consultation commenced in October 2013 on the Council's current plans for savings and efficiencies over the medium term. This included public road shows and consultation events included a meeting on this Wednesday 22nd January where the council put forward its budget proposals and listened to concerns from parishes .The draft budget forms part of that consultation and the results of all

the Council's consultation and engagement will then be presented to Cabinet and Full Council in February 2014 where the final decisions will be made.

Superfast Broadband

Superfast Broadband was launched today by the County Council and their partners BT and the Department of Culture Media and Sport. With an investment of £8.5 million by the County and £3.5 million by BDUK as well as the commercial investment of BT the aim is to provide Superfast Broadband to 99% of the county by 2017. The roll out announced today will be in two stages with Phase 1 including parts of Malvern and Worcester St Peters which will be ready to go live between August and September 2014 and Phase 2 including parts of Malvern Hills and Wychavon going live between October and December 2014. The aim is that all properties and businesses will have at least 2 mega bytes available as a minimum. A new website has also been launch where you register your interest to be part of this as well as seeing whether or not you are able to connect up to superfast broadband. The web site is www.superfastworcestershireshire.com.

Worcester Technology Park

It was agreed by Council to provide £10 million to help fund the Worcester Technology Park. The development will be targeted at technology rich manufacturing businesses and it is expected that the completed development will create 5,500 jobs and an £1,719 million GVA over a 10 year period. The 70 hectares site is located adjacent to Junction 6 of the M5 and will provide 180-200,000 square meters of office and manufacturing space. It answers the need for strong local, national and international demand for relevant business development land and premises.

The Worcester Technology Park is a key project within the County's wider 'Game Changer' programme that seeks to prioritise investment in four areas of the County to drive economic growth. Creating the supply of employment land is vital to support business conditions for growth, and is one of the primary activities of the 'Game Changer' programme. The additional £10 million will be used to complete the off-site highway works and the on-site services will be funded primarily by the County Council with contributions sought from Wychavon District Council and Worcester City Council.

Localism

You may be interested in what I have been doing, as part of my Cabinet role with responsibility for Localism a film has been made about "Act Local" and what it means for Worcestershire. In the film I am seen visiting places that have put Act Local into practice by taking over running services that the County Council cannot afford any more or else supporting the Council by volunteering. It includes Pershore Library and the Cube in Malvern and how effective the Parish Lengthsman scheme is. You can find out more by watching the video at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/act-local.

108/13 Report of District Councillor – Cllr C Cheeseman

Cllr Cheeseman advised the District Council would be likely to increase their Council Tax demand by 1.90% for 2014/15.

Planning officers were still continuing to work on the outline planning application [13/00283/OUT](#) - outline application for 184 dwellings on a site at the rear of the Moorlands. The application would be dealt with at a future meeting of District Council's Development Management Committee. The Parish Council and

members of the public would be given the opportunity to speak on the application once the date for that meeting had been set

Details of the latest public hearings in the ongoing public Examination of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) had been confirmed.

The hearings will take place at County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, on March 13 and 14, starting at 10am on both days.

The hearings come after the three partner councils in the SWDP - Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester City Council and Wychavon District Council – submitted additional information to the Inspector at his request.

This was based on updated estimates on likely economic growth and job creation across south Worcestershire up to 2030 and included a suggestion that between 26,700 and 27,300 dwellings will be needed by 2030. This is an increase on the 23,200 figure in the Plan submitted to the Government last year.

109/13 Report of Elected Conservator – Mr J Tretheway

It was noted that Mr Tretheway was unfortunately unwell and unable to attend the meeting. Members passed on their best wishes to Mr Tretheway for a speedy recovery.

110/13 Presentation from Morgan Sindall Ltd on behalf of STWA re Booster Pumping Station plans for Holywell Road

Officers from Severn Trent Water Authority outlined the need for a booster pump to increase the pressure in the water supply pipeline serving Holywell Road. The pump would need to be located in a convenient position somewhere along the Holywell Road. Works would need to be undertaken to site the pump housing in a location where there would no impact on surrounding occupancies. There would however be a need for a partial road closure of the Holywell Road whilst the works were being undertaken.

Further information would be provided by the STWA officers once a suitable location had been identified and any necessary planning consent had been applied for.

111 /13 Reports from Committees / Committee Chairmen

(a) Cllr Mrs Bradshaw presented the report of the **Finance and General Purposes Committee** which had been held on 23rd January. The report contained details of the following recommendations which now needed the approval of Council:-

1. The setting of the 2014/15 precept, in the sum of £76,640 which represented an increase of 1.98% over the 2013/14 figure.
2. An increase of 5% in general Cemetery fees for 2014/15 and an increase of 10% for cemetery memorial plaques

3. The planned schedule of maintenance works for the Cemetery for 2014/15
4. The Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2014/15

The report and the recommendations contained therein were **unanimously approved** by the Council.

(b) Cllr P Buchanan presented the report of the **Planning Committee** which had been held on 15th January. The report was **accepted and noted** by the Council.

112/13 Community events

(a) Christmas Carol celebration - Friday 13th December

Cllr Burrage reported that the Christmas Carol celebration had been very well attended and enjoyed. A collection for The Bridge Training & Development Centre at the event had raised some £180.51

(b) **Summer Fête - 2014** – It was agreed that the date for the Summer Fête would be set as Sunday 7th September. A meeting of the events working group would be called to discuss organisational arrangements and help with the planning of the event.

113/13 Chairman's communications

(a) Malvern Wells C of E Primary School – School Crossing Patrol

The Clerk advised that he had requested traffic speed surveys to be undertaken along the A449 between the two local primary schools. The information received would be sent to the County Council department responsible for assessment of the school crossing patrol service.

There was a patrol now in place at the Wyche Primary School and County Council officers had undertaken an assessment of the need for a crossing patrol at the Church of England Primary School. As a result of the assessment that had been undertaken the officers had decided that that particular location did not satisfy the criteria for a crossing patrol to be appointed.

The Clerk would be sending the information received from the speed surveys to the patrol assessment team to assist them with a review of that decision.

(b) Yellow No Parking markings outside Village Hall

Following the repainting of double yellow lines outside the Village Hall, in compliance with the local traffic regulation order, representations had been received from local residents to the effect that they were concerned car parking spaces outside the Hall had been unnecessarily restricted.

Following discussion the **Council resolved** that the County Council should consider the potential for the existing markings to be scaled back to allow two extra parking spaces, so long as road safety considerations were not compromised as a result.

(b) Purchase of defibrillator Wells C of E Primary School

The Parish Council **resolved in principle**, to provide financial assistance from its community support budget, up to the sum of £250, to assist with the purchase of a defibrillator, which would be located at the Wells C of E Primary School

The Clerk was asked to obtain further details of quotations for the cost of the equipment and details of who would be trained in its use and who would be responsible for its maintenance.

A further report would be made to a future meeting of the Parish Council once the additional information requested had been received

114/13 Report of the Clerk on actions undertaken since the previous meeting

(i) Drainage alleviation scheme for Assarts Road Playing field

The Clerk reported that he and Cllr Wagstaff had met with the Director of BWB Consulting Ltd - Stuart Nelmes – to discuss the problems that had arisen with the quotations, which had been obtained by BWB, for the proposed drainage scheme for the Assarts Road playing field.

Mr Nelmes had agreed to undertake further work on the evaluation of the tenders which had so far been received; following which he would make a recommendation to the Council regarding the selection of a suitable contractor for the scheme. Further updates would be presented to the Council as appropriate.

(ii) Update report regarding the potential development of a new play facility on Peachfield Road Common

The Clerk advised that the Council's presentation on the potential development of a play facility on Peachfield Road Common had been narrowly defeated by considered by the Conservators Land Management Committee at its meeting on the 5th December.

It was clear that members of the Conservators still have some concerns regarding the legality of the construction of a play area and it was possible that further legal work would have to be undertaken by both parties in this regard before the commencement of any such project.

Further meetings would be arranged with the Director of the Conservators to decide on the way forward with the Council's proposals.

(iii) Assarts Road Play area fencing

Work on the Assarts Road Play area fencing had been completed very satisfactorily by the contractor on 13th December.

(iv) **Fruitlands Green – to consider the reintroduction of Christmas Illuminations**

An electrical contractor from the County Council's street lighting team had completed an inspection of the illuminations connection point on Fruitlands Green. The existing connection would need to be updated and rationalised to comply with current safety standards.

Contact had now also been made with suppliers of a suitable living tree to be sited on the Green and work on the planting of that tree was due to be completed by the early spring.

Work was also being undertaken on a scheme to provide Christmas illuminations in the Jubilee Fountain garden.

(v) **Fruitlands Green – pavements condition survey**

Following the survey which had been undertaken of the poor condition of the pavements in many parts of the Fruitlands area repair works were now due to commence on 3rd February

(vii) **Section 106 Funding application**

An application for funding had been submitted to the District Council to release funding to support the Assarts Road Drainage Scheme and the purchase of new play equipment.

Quotations for both schemes would be considered by the Play and Open spaces group at their next meeting and the selected quotes would then be sent to MHDC to support the section 106 application

(viii) **Parish Council's response to the Examination in Public of Stage 1 of the South Worcestershire Development Plan**

The Clerk had circulated copies of Harriet Baldwin's response to the Parish Council's letter setting out its strong concerns following the Planning Inspectors pronouncement at the conclusion of the recent examination in public of stage one of the South Worcestershire Development Plan.

Members expressed their disappointment with the tone of the response received which had been unsympathetic to the Council's main points of contention.

The Inspector's view that more homes should be constructed than had originally been proposed was in direct conflict with the views of the Parish Council and the vast majority of residents both within Malvern and the wider area of South Worcestershire.

It was resolved that the Clerk should compose a letter for circulation to the local press underlining the Parish Council's disappointment with the response which had been received.

115/13 Financial matters

Payment of Accounts The following accounts were approved for payment:-

				£	£	£
3076	Yvonne Scriven	Audit fee		100.00		100.00
	BWB					
3077	Consultancy	Assarts Road Drainage		923.00	184.60	1,107.60
	Paul Stanley					
3078	Fencing	Assarts Road Play Area Fencing		9,115.38	1,823.08	10,938.46
3079	HMRC	PAYE & national Ins - December Qtr		1,372.09	102.31	1,474.40
s/ord	D M Taverner	Clerk Salary - December		1,396.57		1,396.57
3080	Exell Print	Wells News printing		996.00		996.00
3081	John Dawson	Cemetery plaques fitting		80.00		80.00
	Severn Trent					
3082	Water	Water - Cemetery		56.51		56.51
3083	British Gas	Gas Lamps-December Qtr		1,283.88	256.78	1,540.66
	County Building					
3084	supplies	Cemetery materials		34.11	6.82	40.93
3085	Sight Designs	Gas Lamps Mtce invoice 285		139.75	27.95	167.70
	Malvern Wells					
3086	Village Hall	Room Hire		68.00		68.00
	Worcestershire					
3087	CALC	Clerks gathering - November		10.00		10.00
3088	n power	Cemetery Electricity		32.16	1.61	33.77
s/ord	D M Taverner	Clerk Salary - January		1,396.57		1,396.57
3089	D M Taverner	Admin expenses - December		120.21	0.67	120.88
3090	D M Taverner	Admin expenses -January		199.32	26.99	226.31
3091	Steve Maund	Cemetery materials		30.79	6.17	36.96
3092	Steve Maund	outdoor & cemetery contract works - Nov		663.84		663.84
3093	Steve Maund	outdoor & cemetery contract works - Dec/ Jar		1,182.46		1,182.46
	Malvern Hills					
3094	AONB	Contribution to Running costs		800.00		800.00
3095	Martin Thomas	Cemetery contract works - Dec/ Jan		362.54		362.54
						-

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

Approved..... Chairman

Cllr Mrs H Burrage

Dated 26th February, 2014