

Minutes of **Malvern Wells Parish Meeting 2014** held on **Wednesday, 30th April 2014** in **The Village Hall, Wells Road** commencing at **7.00 pm**

Attendance: Mrs H Burrage (Chairman), Mrs A Bradshaw, Mrs C O `Donnell, M Victory, J Black, B Knibb, A Hull, N Johnson, P Buchanan, K Wagstaff, S Atwell, S Freeman

Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer: David Taverner

Apologies received: Cllr K Hurst, County Cllr Mrs L Hodgson, Elected Conservator J Tretheway, Susan Parr (Priory Policing Team)

- 1 Welcome:** The Chairman, Cllr Mrs H Burrage, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2 Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 24^h April 2013:** The minutes of the Parish Meeting which had been held on 24th April, 2013 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting.
- 3 Matters arising from the minutes:** There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 4 Annual Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council**

Cllr Burrage presented the following review of the Parish Council's activities during the previous year:-

It has been another busy year for the Council, a period which has again seen us involved in the management of a varied range of schemes and issues.

In late May an opportunity arose to purchase extra land for the cemetery at a public auction of local paddock land. This involved us in having to move things forward quite quickly as we had to make arrangements to carry out the public consultation necessary to secure the funding approval which could be drawn on to support our bid at the auction.

This was quite a challenging time as the Council had to cope with the absence of our Clerk, David Taverner, who was recovering from surgery. Fortunately we were able to call on the services of our former Clerk, Susan Hughes, who helped to support the Council in the procedural work that was needed. I would like to formally thank Susan for all the work that she undertook on our behalf.

Unfortunately the land in question was withdrawn from sale but we are continuing to look for any suitable plots of land that might become available for this purpose.

Following the May County Council elections we welcomed our new County Councillor Lucy Hodgson to our monthly Parish Council meetings.

Lucy has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Parish Council raising any issues of concern for us with officers at the County Council. Lucy has carried out her new role very enthusiastically and has also helped to provide funding from her divisional funds budget to support local schemes such as the Wells Play group, the provision of new Parish grit bins, assistance with the refurbishment of the Assarts Lane Scout Hut and the Council's Christmas Carol concert. Lucy was also instrumental in bringing forward a scheme to carryout repairs to some of the pavements on the Fruitlands Estate recently.

Cllr Chris Cheeseman has proved an invaluable link for the Parish with the District Council ensuring that we have been able to effectively liaise with them throughout the year, particularly in the very important planning arena in his role as a member of the District Council's planning committee.

Sadly our elected conservator, John Tretheway, has recently been suffering from an illness and we all wish him a speedy return to good health.

In June the Parish Council marked the occasion of the Queen's Coronation Diamond Jubilee with a "bring and share" Lunch Party at the Village Hall, an event which we helped fund with a Community Grant. Organised jointly by the Village Hall, The Wells Club and All Saints Church, the event was very well attended and enjoyed. The Parish Council also helped to fund a similar event which took place at The Wyche Institute.

The Christmas Carol Concert in December, featuring the Wells Singers, was also very much enjoyed by all those who attended it and the event has now become a popular fixture in the council's annual event calendar. The event raised funds which were donated to The Bridge Training & Development Centre in Malvern.

We kicked off some new projects during the year. In July we appointed a specialist consultancy firm to design a drainage alleviation scheme for the Assarts Road Playing Field. We hope that this project, once completed, will allow the field to be used more widely by local children and community groups such as the local cubs and scouts. The aim will also be to prevent the run of water on to Assarts Lane which has been causing a hazard during the winter months. The contractors for this scheme have now been appointed and the works are scheduled to commence very shortly.

Another play and open spaces initiative is coming nearer to completion. We have recently extended the Assarts Road Play area and having installed new fencing there, the aim will now be to provide some new pieces of play equipment. It is hoped that the scheme will be funded by grants and contributions that have arisen from previous planning developments within Malvern Wells.

We are also hoping to work with the Malvern Hills Conservators to try to identify land on which we may be able to construct a similar facility in the All Saints Ward of the parish.

The past year has seen more interest from developers keen to build on land in the Parish both within and outside the land allocations already being considered as part of the emerging South Worcestershire Development plan. Most recently CALA Homes Ltd have submitted an application for the construction of 43 dwellings on the former Abbey College playing field site. The Parish Council planning meeting which was held to consider the application was attended by over 80 residents many of whom spoke to voice their concerns in respect of the plans which have been submitted.

The Parish Council has strongly re-affirmed its intention to defend the character of the Malvern Hills AONB and the Conservation area and those will be the overriding considerations that will be continue to be given to any formal planning applications that come before us.

Amongst other achievements it was pleasing to see a successful outcome to the project to renovate the gas lamps in the parish. There seems to be a consensus that the refurbished lamps look wonderful and give out a lot of light to the footways which they serve. The refurbished lamps are now working very effectively, even surviving the extremely stormy winter weather that blighted us all at the beginning of the year! We are currently in negotiations with our Gas lamps contractor to ensure that the maintenance of the lamps continues to be undertaken effectively.

Our Events Working group has started to undertake initial planning work aimed at producing the return of the Summer Fête which we have scheduled to take place on Sunday 7th September. As ever we are keen to involve the community as widely as possible in events such as this and we are continuing to seek out volunteers to help with the organisational arrangements.

This year we have decided to enter the Jubilee Fountain Garden into the annual Britain in Bloom competition. Depending on the success of this exercise it could be that we might extend the range of entries into the competition in future years.

We have recently agreed to replace the small specimen golden cedar tree at Fruitlands with a larger tree and to re-fix the Christmas Lights to fit it in time for the Christmas season this year, so that Fruitlands will once again have the joy of the Christmas Lights. The tree formerly located on the Fruitlands Green has now been relocated into the parish cemetery. We also intend to carry out a similar scheme to have Christmas illuminations installed in the centrally located Jubilee Fountain garden too.

The Council has remained acutely aware of the need to provide value for the money it receives from residents as local Council Tax payers.

We took action to limit the impact of any increase in our 2014/15 budgets and as a result we were able to set our precept for 2014/15 at a level which was only 0.58% more than the 2013/14 figure.

Our two part-time outdoor contractors, Steve Maund and Martin Thomas, have again worked hard to maintain the Parish Cemetery, the Assarts Road playing field and St Wulstans Village Green to their usual excellent standard.

The volunteer team of assistant parish paths wardens, led by Peter Clement, has again done much to ensure that all of the various footpaths and bridleways within the Parish have continued to be well maintained and easy to access.

The Parish has also maintained its close working relationship with the local policing team, particularly Sergeant Susan Parr and CSO Karen Watson, whose help has been invaluable when dealing with any issues of concern that has been raised with them.

No review of the PC's activities would be complete without recording my thanks for the help and support given by my fellow parish councillors.

The achievements of the last 12 months have been very much a team effort with all Councillors playing a full part in helping to undertake the Council's various activities.

I would like to close in thanking the individual Committee and working group Chairmen and the particularly the Vice Chair of the Council – Keith Wagstaff– for all of their invaluable support throughout the year.

5 Report from the Local Policing Team (PC Susan Parr)

Sergeant Susan Parr had presented a written report which set out statistical details of incidents and recorded crimes which the Priory Policing Team (PPT) had been involved with during the year.

During 2013/14 there had been 429 recorded police response incidents in the PPT area of which 69 were crime related.

The crime figures had included:-

24 vehicle crimes

12 thefts

6 dwelling burglaries

4 drug related crimes

8 cases of criminal damage

12 social order incidents

3 other crimes

The comparable figures in 2012/13 were that there had been 476 police response incidents in the area of which some 75 were crime related

Sergeant Parr reported that crime levels in the area were showing a decline over the medium to long term thanks to the results of the various crime prevention and other policing initiatives which had been undertaken. The Policing team were pleased with the results both within the Ward itself and Malvern generally, which had encountered a lot less problems when compared to many other areas in the County area and beyond.

6 Charity Accounts

a) To Receive the accounts of Great Malvern Relief in Need Charities

The previously distributed financial statements were noted and accepted. The Charity had made 18 grants during 2013/14 totalling some £1,229.

b) To Receive a Report from the Parish Council Representatives on Hanley Castle Almshouse & Relief in Need Charities (Cllrs Bradshaw & Wagstaff). The 2013/14 Statement of Accounts was noted. Cllr Wagstaff advised that the all of the Almshouses were currently fully occupied and in a good state of repair.

7 Annual Report from the Malvern Hills District Councillors

Cllr Cheeseman illustrated some of the problems that were being encountered by the District Council as they attempted to defend appeals against some of the larger planning applications which had come before them for consideration in recent months.

In some cases it had been necessary for the District Council to obtain legal opinion, to assist with the defence of their position, at considerable cost.

Cllr Cheeseman that the CALA Homes application for 43 dwellings on the former Abbey College Playing field was now live and amended plans had been submitted.

8 Annual Report from the Worcestershire County Councillor

Cllr Hodgson had tendered her apologies for being unable to attend the Meeting but had submitted the following written report:

Highways Repair Potholes

Worcestershire Highways teams have been busy in 2014 but there's no let up with these efforts as the weather improves. Extra pothole-busting gangs have been working hard to fix problems on the county's roads caused by the flooding and severe weather – with 6,400 potholes repaired so far this year.

Around £700,000 was channelled into tackling the challenge last month when the floodwaters receded and recovery work began.

Residents are being reminded that they can play an important part by logging online through their computers, laptops and smart devices

through <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/my-self-service.aspx#Report>

The County Council manages 2,257 miles of road in Worcestershire – the equivalent distance of Worcester to Cairo, Egypt.

Last year Worcestershire Highways repaired around 27,000 defects on our roads.

Pavement Repairs

I understand that the pavements have been repaired at the top end of Fruitland and on the corner of King Edwards Road. I was contacted by a resident last week who lives at the bottom of Fruitlands and did try to explain that funds are very limited for repairs. I have requested that the stretch of pavement is assessed again and to see if anything can be done in a way of an emergency repair.

Future Lives Consultation

Worcestershire County Council has listened to responses to its proposals for prevention, early help and other support services for adults and young people and made changes to its final decision as a result.

Cabinet has now agreed to recommendations which include an extended transition and re-commissioning process and in recognition of concerns raised about the pace of change. Additional funding totalling £3.1million has been identified for extensions to the contracts for some services.

These proposals are part of the Future Lives programme, which will reform and improve adult services over the next 2 years. The programme also includes better information and advice for people and promotion of volunteering. The Council will also redesign recovery services for older people, redesign the care assessment process give service user's greater choice and control over services by giving them the money to buy services from a range of different providers. Through all of this the Council will be looking to offer more services online and work towards greater integration with health services.

Southern Link Road Improvements at the Ketch Roundabout

As I am sure you will have noticed the remedial work has started on the improvements to the Ketch Roundabout. The work is due to start properly in April and the work will take around a year. It should be noted there will be times when the road will need to be closed as well as narrow lanes introduced. Commuters need to be aware of this and allow some extra time for their journeys whilst the work is being carried out.

Divisional Fund My Councillor divisional fund for 2013-14 is now closed. It has transpired that I had in fact £11,000 to spend this year and I have been able to carry forward a small surplus of just over £500 to next year's fund. I thought you may be interested in seeing the list of how the money has been spent. 2014/15 fund is now available. I have already been approached for some money to help with a breakfast club at a local school as well of course helping to fund the defibrillator.

Barnards Green Traders carnival	£200.00
Guys footprints	£500.00
Wells Play group	£500.00
AA Signage for Sunshine centre	£288.00
Wells telephone book swop	£250.00
Upton Scouts	£500.00
Cube Malvern funding for disabled access	£1,000.00
Perfect Circle Theatre Company	£500.00
Grit bin for Wells	£330.00
Xmas for Barnards green	£200.00
Grit bin for Wells	£300.00
Xmas celebrations for Wells Pc	£100.00
sunshine Centre for home safety equipment	£1,000.00
scout hut want £1500 suggest £750 Assets Lane	£750.00
Octagon Centre for projector	£1,000.00
Cube Malvern for arts funding	£450.00
defibrillator no application made	
Barnards Green Traders carnival 2014	£500.00
Hastings Nursing home	£50.00
Versatile Theatre	£500.00
Vamos Theatre for local nursing home	£1,000.00
Volunteering Malvern	£500.00
Total applications 2013/14	£10,418.00
Total applications	£10,418
Total Fund available	£11,000
Surplus to be carried forward to 2014/15	£582

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7-40 pm.

Approved
 Cllr Mrs H Burrage
 Chairman 22nd April, 2015