

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 30th September, 2015** commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor S Freeman (Vice-Chairman and Chairman for the meeting) M Victory, B Knibb, Mrs J Smethurst, N Chatten, J Black, S Atwell, P Bennett, N Johnson, K Wagstaff

Apologies for absence: Cllrs Mrs H Burrage, Mrs C O'Donnell, J Wagstaff
County Cllr Mrs L Hodgson

In attendance: David Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

70/16 **Declarations of Interest**

a) Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests: No changes were necessary.

b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature: None were declared.

c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature: None were declared.

71/16 **To Consider Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011):** There were none.

72/16 **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th July 2015**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 29th July, had been previously circulated. The minutes were **unanimously approved** as a correct record of that meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

73/16 **Matters arising from the Parish Council minutes of 29th July.**

There were none

74/16 **Reports from Council Committees**

(a) Cllr Chatten presented the previously circulated reports of the **Planning Committee meetings** which had been held on **18th August and 23rd September, 2015.**

It was noted that the Committee meeting which had been held on 23rd September had been declared as non-quorate as only six members had been in attendance. Cllr Chatten presented the recommendations, which had been made at that meeting, for consideration by the full Parish Council and proposed that they should be accepted. On being put to the vote this proposal was approved by a majority vote of nine to one, with Cllr K Wagstaff

requesting that his name should be recorded as having voted against the proposal.

Members were pleased to note the withdrawal of the Hanley Road/ Rothwell Road Site from the list of preferred options contained within the emerging South Worcestershire Development plan.

This was now due to form part of the main modifications to the submitted South Worcestershire Development Plan which was to be available for comment during the period 9 October to 20 November 2015. It was agreed that the Clerk should submit a response to the consultation underlining the Parish Council's support for the withdrawal of the Rothwell Lane/ Hanley Road Site.

It was also agreed that the Parish Council should consider updating the local Housing Needs Assessment which had last been undertaken during 2010. The Clerk was asked to add this topic as an agenda item for consideration by the Council's Planning Committee at the meeting scheduled for 21st October, 2015

75/16 Reports from Working Groups

- i) Gas lamps working group.** Cllr Freeman advised that he was due to meet David Armitage of the Malvern Hills AONB to discuss the planned project for the installation of new lamps and posts along the Wells Road. Cllr Knibb reported that he had noticed, following a recent visit, that the Dartmouth Steam Railway operators may have a stock of lamp posts available at a reasonable cost and this would be followed up by the working group.
- ii) Events Working Group.** The group were due to meet imminently to review the Summer Fete and to set a date for the 2016 event.
- iii) Open spaces working group.
Land for play project**

There had been an update on alternative play space near to the Fruitlands estate. As the Conservators response to previous parish council proposals has been so negative it was agreed to refocus efforts to research the ownership of certain plots of land near to the Fruitlands estate which the Parish Council could potentially acquire for the construction of a suitable play area.
- iv) Jubilee Fountain garden-** Work on the provision of the Christmas illumination scheme was progressing. Orders had been placed for a 20ft spruce tree and the necessary electrical works for the connection of tree lights had been commissioned.

- v) **Assarts Road play area.** An order had been sent to Wicksteed PLC, in the sum of £25,289.70, for the three pieces of new equipment which had been chosen. A site meeting with the contractor had been arranged for 22nd October at 10am.

The Clerk advised that the release of section 106 funding from MHDC to support the project had been agreed in principle. MHDC had identified some additional funding of approximately £2,600 which could be made available to fund additional pieces of play or other equipment for the play area. Details would be circulated to members of the working group for consideration.

Some maintenance works were being undertaken to the existing play area equipment by the Council's outdoor contractor.

- vi) **Scout Hut – Assarts Road.** The Council had previously resolved to grant a 15 years lease, backdated 5 years. There were some issues with the existing legal covenants covering Assarts Road which would need to be rectified with the District Council before any new lease was signed

76/16 Chairman's Communications

A local resident had requested that consideration should be given to the possibility of re-locating the bus stop near to 205/207 Wells Road back nearer to the vicinity of the Village Hall. When a bus is at the current stop it causes a significant problem with double parking and can therefore constitute a danger to other road users.

A request had also been received that consideration should also be given to the re-siting of the bus stop at outside 175/177 Wells Road back towards the Hornyold Court flats at 161 Wells Road. This would give passengers the opportunity to catch either of the two services currently operating towards Worcester, one of which currently diverts down along the Hanley Road.

The Clerk advised that he would take these matters up with the County Councillor officers responsible.

77/16 Payment of Accounts: - the following accounts were approved for payment:-

Chq	Payee	For:	NET	VAT	GROSS
			£	£	£
3268	Peter Scott	Community Grant	250.00	-	250.00
3269	Sight Designs	Watery Lane Gas Lamp	665.00	133.00	798.00
3270	Steve Maund	outdoor Work- August	709.23	4.56	713.79
3271	n power	Cemetery electricity - june Qtr	38.24	1.91	40.15
3272	HMRC	PAYE and National Ins	1,007.44	-	1,007.44
3273	Steve Maund	Swings and materials - play area	233.92	46.78	280.70
3274	Steve Maund	outdoor Work - September	1,058.20	-	1,058.20
3275	Cancer research UK	Donation re thnk you to Anne Bradshaw	25.00	-	25.00
3276	Lyttleton Well LTd	Donation re thnk you to Peter Buchanan	25.00	-	25.00
3277	n power	Cemetery electricity - July & August	44.16	2.21	46.37
3278	Branchworks	Tree Surgery - St Wulstans and Cemetery	580.00	-	580.00
3279	John Dawson	Remembrance plaque work - cemetery	40.00	-	40.00
3280	Ukulele Band of Worcester	Charity donation re Fete	200.00	-	200.00
3281	D M Taverner	Admin expenses - August and September	548.62	52.77	601.39
3282	Sight Designs	Annual Sevice - Wells Road lamps	1,953.80	390.76	2,344.56
3283	Steve Maund	Cemetery mower Fuel	16.34	3.27	19.61
3284	Sue Black	Marquee Hire Fete	50.00	-	50.00
			-		
	TOTALS		7,444.95	635.26	8,080.21

78/16 Report from Clerk on actions undertaken since last meeting

a) Summer Fete – 6th September – the event had gone well and was much enjoyed by all those who had attended. A net financial surplus of £230.30 had been achieved and it was **unanimously agreed** that a sum of £200 should be donated to the Worcester Ukulele club as a contribution towards their chosen charities for the year.

b) Assarts Road play equipment. An order for the new equipment which had been chosen had been sent to Wicksteed Ltd. The relevant section 106 funding application had been submitted to the District Council.

c) Jubilee Fountain garden. The Jubilee Garden had been granted an award by the Royal Horticultural Society as part of the annual Britain in Bloom competition. Thanks were given to Steve Maund for the work which he had undertaken on the garden during the summer.

Orders had been raised for the works necessary for the introduction of a Christmas illumination scheme at the Garden.

d) Defibrillator projects

The clerk advised that due to the ongoing difficulties with the placement of a defibrillator unit at the Wells Primary School he had approached the owner of the former SPAR shop on the Wells Road who had agreed that a defibrillator could be sited on the external wall there.

It was unanimously agreed that one unit should be sited at the shop and that a second unit should be installed at the Wyche Institute.

e) Remembrance Sunday – 8th November

Preparations for the Remembrance Sunday were in progress. Peter Buchanan had agreed to lead the service. The Road closure licence had been applied for. The usual bugle player – John Frith- was unavailable this year and a replacement bugler was being sought.

79/16 Report of District Councillor - Mrs C O'Donnell

Cllr O' Donnell had submitted the following written report:-

Rothwell Rd plan taken out of SWDP

Whilst I wholly support the SWDP I am very pleased to see the removal of planning application for the playing fields at Rothwell Road. Many of you who attended the Southern Area Committee earlier this year will remember that I proposed refusal of this application, against officers' recommendation, when it came to committee previously and I am very pleased that the inspector has agreed with my decision. However it would be remiss of me not to also thank Peter and Tia Walter and the residents association who have campaigned tirelessly for the removal of this site and I thank them for their tenacity and support. Carla still have time to appeal this decision and I will inform you if this happens.

Chairman of MHDC raises over £3000 for air ambulance

Cllr Barbara Williams, chairman of Malvern Hills District Council, drove her tractor across much of the Malvern Hills district on Sunday September 13th, to raise at least £3,500 for the Midlands Air Ambulance. Driving her 1962 Massey Ferguson 35 tractor, Barbara set off from Buckbury on the Gloucestershire border at about 10.30am. The 44-mile route to Tenbury Wells involved driving through Upton upon Severn, Malvern, Bransford, Lower Broadheath, Martley, Clifton, upon Teme and Hanley Broadheath, before reaching the finish, at Tenbury's Fountain Inn, at about 4pm. Barbara said "A big thank you to everyone who has helped to make this event such a success. This money will make a real difference to someone in need."

Final round of proposed changes to South Worcestershire Development Plan published

A final set of proposed changes to the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) have been published by the three councils preparing the blueprint to guide economic and housing development in the area to 2030. Later this month each of the three councils – Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wychavon – will vote to agree to hold a six-week public consultation on the proposed Main

Modifications. This will give local people a chance to have their say on the proposed changes to the Plan. The number of dwellings required to be built under the SWDP was increased to 28,370 last year in the first phase of the Examination. These latest proposed Main Modifications leave that number unchanged. However, it is now proposed that some housing sites are removed from the Plan. These are the former playing fields site in Green Lane, Malvern, and, a number of small sites in Worcester, including Claines Recreation Ground in Worcester. Malvern Hills councillors will be asked to agree to launch a consultation on these latest proposed Main Modifications on September 22nd 2015. Similar meetings will be held by Worcester and Wychavon councillors on September 30th 2015. If approved, the new consultation will run from 9 October to 20 November and will only concern the changes now being proposed. Details of how to take part in the consultation are available at www.swdevelopmentplan.org. The results of the consultation will feed into the Inspector's final report, which is expected to be published early next year. It is hoped that the three councils will formally adopt the Plan shortly after that. These modifications were accepted by MHDC on 22nd September 2015 - 26 for & 1 against.

Statement regarding Syrian refugees

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister regarding the UK government's decision to accept more Syrian refugees, Malvern Hills District Council has issued the following statement:

Cllr Melanie Baker, portfolio holder for housing on Malvern Hills District Council, said: "We have always been clear the reason Malvern Hills District Council and our partners are currently unable to support the Syrian refugee programme is the lack of government funding which means the significant financial shortfall would be picked up by South Worcestershire tax payers. However I contacted the minister asking for a meeting to stress the importance of the Government changing its stance on funding so we could review our position – clearly this is now the case.

"We are now awaiting more detail following the Prime Minister's announcement; in particular which areas the Government feels would be most suitable to relocate refugees to and the funding arrangements. We expect the details will be forthcoming over the next few days and we will then discuss our response with all our partners at a meeting of Worcestershire council leaders later this month. "However I must stress, the reality remains we would only be able to offer support with the involvement of our partners as part of a wider South Worcestershire plan and if proper funding is made available by the Government."

Free event in Malvern will showcase services for older people

A free event has been organised by Malvern Hills District Council and Worcestershire County Council to showcase vital services available to older people, family, friends and carers.

The event takes place on Thursday 1 October, from 11am to 2pm at Malvern Theatres, where guests will be offered free tea, coffee and cake. There will also be the opportunity for anyone aged between 40 to 74-years-old to have a free health check. A wealth of knowledge, support and information will be available to residents to help them 'age well' and live independently in their own home for longer.

- Other activities during the event will include:
- A creative therapy workshop with painting, drawing and crafts.
- Taster exercise classes at Malvern Splash, including free swimming for the over 75s.

Dementia Friends Session from 2 to 3pm, to raise awareness of how people living with dementia can be supported.

For more information please contact Melanie Whistance - melanie.whistance@malvern hills.gov.uk or telephone 01684 862 283.

New faces to help tackle business and rural crime

The fight against crime has been boosted with the addition of three new faces to help tackle issues in rural areas and amongst businesses. South Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership has appointed two new business and rural crime liaison officers to offer support and crime prevention advice to those in rural communities and businesses. Clive Parsons will be responsible for the Wychavon area while Ian White has been allocated to Malvern Hills District. The pair will also share the workload in Worcester City. For more information about the business and rural crime scheme, or to get involved in any of the new schemes, contact Simon Thompson by emailing simon.thompson@wychavon.gov.uk or call 07721 919784 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Malvern Hills District Council appeals over Business Rates ruling

A change to the way Business Rates are calculated for GP surgeries is set to cost Malvern Hills District Council millions of pounds.

Earlier this year a valuation tribunal ruling resulted in a change to the way Business Rates for purpose built GP surgeries are calculated meaning in future they will pay significantly less. As a result a number of GP surgeries have made successful appeals to the Valuation Office against the value given to their property in 2005 and 2010. It is estimated surgeries in Malvern Hills will receive a £3million refund and £400,000 a year on an ongoing basis from this financial year. Malvern Hills District Council, Worcestershire County Council and Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority will be responsible for half of the total losses. Malvern Hills will have to pay the majority share which will total £1.2million and £160,000 a year ongoing. It is understood the money related to the historic payments will be retained by NHS England and the future money by local Clinical Commissioning Groups. Malvern Hills, and other Worcestershire councils, are appealing to the Government for support as prior to 2013 Business Rates were collected centrally by the Government and redistributed according to a set formula as a grant. It is only since 2013 Worcestershire councils have been able to retain half of the Business Rates they collect locally. Cllr Paul Cumming, portfolio holder for finance on Malvern Hills District Council, said: "We know a number of other authorities have been similarly affected and expect the issue to eventually have an impact across the country. We are raising the issue and the unfairness of the situation with MPs, the LGA and district council representative bodies. "This decision will place even more strain on our finances and whilst front line services have been protected from the cuts we've had to make so far, this new situation may put them at risk. "We're hopeful the Government will listen carefully to our concerns on this matter. I also sincerely hope that any money retained by the NHS will be spent for the benefit of local patients."

80/16 Report of County Councillor - Mrs Lucy Hodgson

Cllr Hodgson had submitted the following report:

"Firstly an apology, I am afraid I unable to be at your meeting tonight as Worcester City Council of which I am a member are having a council meeting tonight to decide amongst other thing our position on the next stage of the SWDP.

County Council Budget

Over the last few weeks the cabinet and senior officers have been discussing how to make savings within the county council budget whilst still spending more on services such as looked after children. These are uncertain times and it is not clear where all the saving will have to be made or the amount of government grant the council will receive in its formula grant.

Highways

Though I know this is some way from this area you may use this route as a short cut instead of going along the A4440 to junction 6. Worcester Six, one of the key employment sites identified in Worcestershire, is due to open in autumn next year. When fully occupied, the site will provide over 5,000 jobs and will become one of the regions' flagship developments. Highway improvements to access the site have been funded by Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership through the Growth Deal. The £4m project to upgrade Pershore Lane will provide access to Worcester Six as well as improve traffic flow to Junction 6 of the M5 motorway.

The majority of the highway work to date has been undertaken without any road closures however, the next stage of construction will see roads around the site temporarily closed. Phase one of the road closures, starting 8th October and lasting approximately 10 weeks, will take place on the B4636 between A4440 Nunnery Way and the A4538 Pershore Lane. Phase two will see the road from the A4538 Pershore Lane through to the Crowle Road closed from mid-October for approximately 8 weeks. For the most up to date information on these road closures, including dates the works will start, please visit the following website [The works will continue to be managed in order to keep disturbances to a minimum. One such measure will see traffic diverted onto a temporary carriageway through part of the site to keep the Pershore Lane open but to ensure that construction works can still go ahead.](#)

Public Consultation set for Worcestershire's Health and Well-being Strategy

Worcestershire's Health and Well-Being Board is launching a new Health and Well-being Strategy for public consultation. This will be considered at Worcestershire County Council's Health and Well-Being Board

The Strategy has been developed with input from 140 people from across local government, the NHS, Police and voluntary sectors.

The vision is that Worcestershire residents are healthier, live longer and have a better quality of life, especially those communities and groups with the poorest health outcomes.

The proposed priorities for 2016-19 are mental health and well-being throughout life; being active at every age, and reducing harm from alcohol at all ages.

The numbers of people with dementia are expected to rise by almost one third between 2012 and 2020. There are things that can be done to reduce the risk of getting dementia. There are also things that can be done to help people live with dementia - so early diagnosis is important and only 40% of cases are diagnosed currently.

Being inactive is a major cause of ill health throughout life - including heart disease, diabetes and some cancers. The negative health impact of being inactive is both avoidable and in some cases reversible. In Worcestershire at least a third of people do not meet the recommended guidelines for being physically active.

As well as reducing consumption of alcohol we will focus on reducing risky behavior associated with drinking too much. Alcohol can influence people's decisions such that they do things that they would not have done without a drink

– such as being careless, not practicing safe sex, or becoming aggressive. Alcohol is the biggest single cause of accidents in the home.” Following approval at the Board, the draft Strategy will be launched for public consultation. A revised Strategy will be brought back to the Board in January 2016

Decisions made by Cabinet

Bishops Wood Outdoor Education Centre

It was agreed at last week’s cabinet to transfer the Bishops Wood Outdoor Centre to the Field Studies Council. The Centre which is owned by the National grid and leased to the county council has for many years provided environmental studies to many school groups and well as environmental training for many teachers as well as leisure course. The Field Studies Council were successful following a rigorous process and other interested parties included an initial enquiry made by the Eden Trust. The aim is for the Centre along with the staff to be handed over next year.

Worcestershire Youth Music

Over recent years the Worcestershire Youth Music trust has become cost neutral to the council and is now prosing to become a company limited by guarantee with a charitable base. This will mean that the service will be managed by a group of trustees. The service is also aiming to increase the number of pupils it engages with from around 10,000 pupils each year to 18,000 as well as encourage other groups of young people to take an interest in music across the county. The aim is for the new service to start in September 2016 with all the staff transferring across to the new service.

Kidderminster Station Improvements

As part of council’s infrastructure investments, agreement has been reached to invest £4.3 million into improvements to Kidderminster station. The funding has been found from both the Worcestershire LEP and the Greater Birmingham LEP as part of the growth Deal for Worcestershire. At present around 1.5 million passengers use this station each year and the money will be spent improving the access to the station as well as platform improvements.”

81/16 Report of Elected Conservator – Cllr S Freeman

Cllr Freeman reported that as a result of the Conservators governance review there was a propos\al to reduce the number of elected conservators from the current 29 to 12.

Elections to the Board were scheduled to take place on 22nd October. There had been one nomination fort the Wells ward and hence Cllr Freeman would be Returned to the Board unopposed.

There being no other business the meeting the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

Minutes approved Wednesday 28th October, 2015

Signed ...*Mrs Helen Burrage*.....

Cllr Mrs Helen Burrage Chairman of the Council