

West Malvern Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th January 2016 in The Fisher Hall.

Present

Cllrs. Mr W Shearer (Chairman), Mrs C Bower, Mrs J Burford, Mrs E Harnden, Mr C Rouse, Mr A Turner.

In Attendance

County and District Cllr. Prof J Raine & Mr D Sharp (Clerk).

01/16 Apologies

To consider acceptance of apologies for absence from Councillors: Cllr. Ms S Rouse (accepted). Also District Cllr. Mr J Roskam and Mr C Penn (Malvern Hills Conservators).

02/16 Interests

- i. **Councillors Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and Other Disclosable Interests (ODI) regarding items on the agenda:** There were none.
- ii. **Notification of changes to the register of interests:** There were none.
- iii. **To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation for those with Disclosable Interests to take part in discussions or voting. (Written requests to be with the clerk at least 4 clear days prior to a meeting.):** There were none.

03/16 Reports from other representatives

To receive reports from County and District Councillors, Malvern Hills Conservators, Tree and Footpath Wardens:

County and District Cllr. Prof J Raine reported that District and County Council budgets were being finalised. A new MHDC business plan was being discussed and investigations were in progress looking into the viability to outsource refuse and recycling services.

In the absence of Mr C Penn, Cllr. C Rouse reported on Malvern Hills Conservators matters: The new Land Management Plan had been published and plans were in place to clear Firs Wood, commonly known as 'Little Switzerland'.

04/16 Minutes

To consider for adoption the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th December were approved and signed by the Chairman.

05/16 Progress Reports and other matters arising from the minutes

It was noted that new landlords had taken control of the Brewers Arms. The Clerk was to check on the expiry date of the Asset of Community Value Status.

06/15 Planning

To consider a response to the following application:

Application No	From	Details
15/01378/FUL	Habitas Ltd 54 West Malvern Road	Demolition of existing house and proposed 4 No. three bed dwellings with new vehicular access.

The following response was agreed:

'The Parish Council recommends refusal: The massing and height of the scheme and the impact on the street scene is out of keeping with the area. The off road parking arrangements are not adequate since, although two spaces are shown per dwelling, ingress and egress would be compromised due to the restricted turning space. Furthermore we have concerns over the logistics of keeping construction traffic etc. from causing severe disruption on such a narrow road.'

07/16 Gas Lamps

Update on reinstatement of Lower Dingle lamp damaged by fire: The lamp had been back in service since before Christmas and had won the 'lamp dressing' competition. National Grid had been asked to contribute half of the reinstatement cost.

Following the survey earlier two lamps were not working and were to be reported to Sight Design.

08/16 Playing Fields

The Clerk reported that the new padlock on the bollard leading to the playing fields had been tampered with but was still working.

09/156 Allotments & Community Woodland

To consider procurement of picnic benches for the Glade: The Clerk was to order two wooden picnic benches for £450 each from Stan Wall Sawmill at Kidderminster.

The fence bordering the allotments and the track required some attention.

10/16 Highways & Footpaths

To consider management arrangements for the new Vehicle Activated Sign: It was agreed that the Clerk take control of maintenance for an additional payment of £25 per month. This was to include battery changes at each site on 10th and 20th of each month. Clerk to distribute schedule.

11/16 Finance

i. To consider the budget for 2016/17 and set a precept: The budget was agreed and an unchanged precept of £17,400 was to be requested. Current calculations from MHDC figures indicated that this would entail an increase in Band D Council Tax from £29.76 to £29.96.

ii. To consider remaining in the audit regime governed by the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd.: This was approved.

iii. To consider payment of invoices presented

The following payments were approved:

From/Due to	Date	Amount	Details
J Moore	28/12	£236.00	Lengthman Fees (Dec)
SF Creamer	31/12	£50.00	Bus Shelter Cleaning (Dec)
West Malvern Village Hall	06/01	£36.00	Village Hall Rent
Severn Trent Water	22/12	£252.13	Allotment Water
Sight Design	02/01	£1,044.00	Gas Lamp Repair
Sight Design	10/01	£403.52	Gas Lamp Maintenance
Malvern Town Council	17/12	£156.00	Grass Cutting/Litter Collection
HMRC	-	£242.40	PAYE (Oct-Dec)
DA Sharp	10/11	£323.28	Clerk's Fees (£404.08 gross SP25)
Total		£2,743.33	

After these payments are made bank balances will be as follows:

Savings Account B/F	£14,474.03
Savings Account C/F	£14,474.03

Community Account B/F	£9,698.43
WCC Lengthman	£236.00
HMRC VAT Refund	£1,457.49
January Payments	-£2,743.33
Community Account C/F	£8,648.59

12/16 Correspondence

To consider the following correspondence previously circulated:

FROM	* email	SUBJECT
WCC	*	Budget Consultation Meeting 6.30pm 21st January 2016 - County Hall
	*	MHAONB E-bulletin December 2015
Elim	*(i)	Re-surfacing
NALC	*	External audit from 2017

(i) It was agreed by a majority (chairman's casting vote) to provide funding of £500 towards the scheme to resurface the area outside the shop.

13/16 Councillors' items for Report

Nothing further was discussed.

14/16 Next Meeting

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as Monday 8th February 2016.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.