

Minutes of **Malvern Wells Parish Meeting 2016** held on **Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016** in **The Village Hall, Wells Road** commencing at **7.00 pm**

**Attendance:** Mrs H Burrage (Chairman), Mrs C O 'Donnell, M Victory, J Black, B Knibb, K Wagstaff, J Wagstaff, S Atwell, P Bennett, Mrs J Smethurst

**Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer:** David Taverner

**Apologies received:** County Cllr Mrs L Hodgson, CSO Karen Watson (Priory Policing Team), Cllrs S Freeman, S Atwell, N Johnson

- 1 Welcome:** The Chairman, Cllr Mrs H Burrage, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2 Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 22nd April 2015:** The minutes of the Parish Meeting which had been held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015 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**

This has been another busy period for the Parish Council and I would like to extend my very grateful thanks to my fellow Parish Councillors in particular, Cllr Simon Freeman, who has given me great support in his role as Vice Chairman of the Council.

Simon has had a busy year as he became our new Elected Conservator following the enforced retirement of John Tretheway through ill health.

We were very sad to learn during the year that John had passed away. John was a very active Parish Councillor and was a former Chairman of the Parish Council. He represented Malvern Wells on the Malvern Hills Conservators Management Board for many years.

The Council has continued to work hard to protect and enhance the Parish environment and we have recently been involved in attempting to purchase a about five acres of hillside amenity land at Holywell Park, Wells Road - formerly the site of the old Wells School's sports facilities. An Extraordinary Council meeting which was called to consider the matter was extremely well attended and residents were supportive of the Council buying the land. Accordingly, we sent an offer to the vendors' agents which sadly has not been accepted-yet. We've asked them to keep our offer 'on the table' if no other bids for the land come to fruition.

One of the Parish Council's key objectives is to help to promote and maintain both the characteristics both of the Malvern hills AONB and the Conservation Area, not only on behalf of the local community, but also to preserve the natural beauty of the area for all those who visit it. We continue to attract interest from developers who wish to build housing developments on local green fields. We made strong objections to the planning application for 46 houses by CALA Homes at the former Abbey Playing fields in Hanley Road and it was pleasing to see that this application was subsequently refused by Malvern Hills District Council

There has recently also been a large Outline Application for 95 houses on land in the Parish of Welland & Little Malvern. As this particular site adjoins our own Parish we worked closely with Welland & Little Malvern Parish Council in a successful fight to also have this application refused. We shall need to remain vigilant as further such

speculative applications unfortunately seem certain to continue to be made.

The highlight of last summer was undoubtedly the Parish Summer fête which took place on the first Sunday in September. We are now well advanced in making preparations for a similar event this year which will take place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September on St Wulstans Green. In addition to the usual stalls, music and children's entertainments we are also hoping to have a display of classic motor cars for everyone to enjoy. If you would like to help out with the planning of the event or to run a stall on the day then please let us know.

The ever popular Christmas Carol concert, featuring the Wells Singers, took place a couple of weeks before Christmas in the beautifully decorated Village Hall. This event was once again very well attended and is always a lovely start to the Christmas celebrations period. A retiring collection taken in support of "Positive Thoughts", a local mental health support group, raised a generous sum.

A fine new Christmas tree was planted on Fruitlands Green, during the summer, and this was illuminated with Christmas Lights during the festive period. Grateful thanks go to all those people, residents and contractors for the Council who kept the tree watered during weeks that followed its planting.

In the centre of the parish this year we will have similar Christmas lights and a Christmas tree installed in the Jubilee Fountain Garden.

Following the end of the term of office of the Council, at the 7th May elections, we were sadly faced with saying a fond farewell to four long serving Parish Councillors who all decided not to seek re-election.

Peter Buchanan has been a Councillor for more than 10 years and has played a key role in the chairmanship of our Planning Committee. We shall very much miss the skills and knowledge he has brought to that role.

The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Committee, Arthur Hull, also stood down as he has moved away from the Parish after living here for many years. Arthur has been a willing and able deputy to Peter Buchanan, served tirelessly on the Gas Lamps Working Group and also helped to undertake a lot of unseen work on behalf of the community.

Anne Bradshaw also retired from the Parish Council, after nineteen years of sterling service, including the years she served as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of our Finance & General Purposes Committee and her able service to the Gas Lamps Working Group helping to keep the lamps alight in Malvern Wells.

Kevin Hurst decided not to seek re-election after serving as a Councillor for the last two years. Kevin served on the Planning Committee Play & Open Spaces Group and brought his professional experience to the Finance & General Purposes Committee. We will miss all these four councillors and are very thankful for the time they have dedicated to serving the Parish.

Fortunately we have received applications to join the Parish Council from four more people -James Wagstaff of Wells Road, Jackie Smethurst of Lime Tree Avenue, Fruitlands, Neil Chatten also from Fruitlands, and Paul Bennett of Holly View Drive, who will all bring a wide range of skills and expertise which will be invaluable for the Council to call on.

No review of the PC's activities would be complete without again recording my thanks for the help and support given by County Councillor Lucy Hodgson and our District Councillors Chris O'Donnell and Jill Campbell who have all carried out a great deal of work on behalf of the Parish at their respective local authorities. Lucy & Chris, in addition, have generously supported our initiatives from their Councillor-funds. The Parish has also maintained its close working relationship with the local policing team, particularly PC Susan Parr and CSO Karen Watson, whose help has been invaluable when dealing with any issues of concern that has been raised with them.

*Helen Burrage*

Cllr Mrs Helen Burrage -Chairman, Malvern Wells Parish Council  
April,2016

In response to a question Cllr Burrage advised that Cllr S Freeman had indicated that he did not wish to be considered for the position of Parish Council Chairman, but he would be prepared to act as Vice Chairman for an interim period of six months if there was a need for him to do so.

- 4 Report from the Local Policing Team.** The Priory Policing team had submitted 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 2015/16 there had been 473 recorded police response incidents in the PPT area of which 60 were crime related.

The crime figures had included: -  
26 vehicle crimes  
15 thefts  
8 dwelling burglaries  
5 drug related crimes  
6 cases of criminal damage/anti-social behaviour

The comparable figures in 2014/15 were that there had been 441 police response incidents in the area of which some 63 were crime related.

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. There were still issues however with speeding traffic through the Parish and the impact of parked vehicles obstructing the pavements.

## 5 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 9 grants during 2015/16 totalling some £720.

**b) To Receive a Report from the Parish Council Representatives on Hanley Castle Almshouse & Relief in Need Charities (Cllrs Bradshaw & Wagstaff).** The 2015/16 Statement of Accounts was noted. Cllr Wagstaff advised that the all the Almshouses were currently fully occupied and in a good state of repair.

## 6 Annual Report from the Worcestershire County Councillor

Cllr Lucy Hodgson had tendered her apologies for being unable to attend the meeting but had delivered a written resume of the situation regarding the temporary six-month extension period covering the local bus service.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7-45 pm.

Approved .....  
Cllr N Chatten  
Chairman 26th April, 2017