

## 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 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2016** commencing at 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Councillor N Chatten (Chairman)

**Councillors:** Mrs H Burrage, Mrs C O'Donnell, Mrs J Smethurst, N Johnson, K Wagstaff, Mrs H Burrage, B Knibb, J Black, County Councillor Mrs L Hodgson (from 8.25 pm)

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors S Freeman, J Wagstaff, P Bennett and M Victory

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

- 230/16      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.
- 231/16      To Consider Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011):** There were none.
- 232/16      Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2016,**  
The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 27<sup>th</sup> July, had been previously circulated. The minutes were **unanimously approved** as a correct record of that meeting and were signed by the Chairman.
- 233/16      Matters arising from the Parish Council minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> June.**  
There were none
- 234/16      Neighbourhood Development Planning – presentation from Mr David Clarke- Neighbourhood Development Planning Officer- Malvern Hills District Council**

The Chairman welcomed Mr David Clarke to the meeting who then gave an outline presentation of the manner in which the Council could undertake the process of establishing a Neighbourhood Plan if members were minded to do so.

Mr Clarke explained that Neighbourhood Planning enables communities to shape development in a local area in 3 ways:

- 1. Neighbourhood Plans** can choose where new homes, shops and offices should be built, and have a say on what those new buildings should look like. Once "made", Neighbourhood Plan becomes part of the local development plan
- 2. Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDO)** can give permission for development that complies with the Order this means planning permission is not required
- 3. Community Right to Build Orders (CRBO)** give permission for small-scale, site-specific developments by a community group Where parish or town councils exist, these are the only bodies that can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, NDO or CRBO  
Neighbourhood planning is not a legal requirement – is a right which communities can choose to use

#### **Examples of what a Neighbourhood Plan can do include**

- Identify sites for development, including affordable housing
- Identify sites for community use such as health, recreation, leisure facilities, allotments, play areas etc.
- Set out Design Guidance for the parish
- Designate Local Green Spaces
- Protect buildings of local historic importance
- Protect sites of biodiversity interest
- Establish a Communications infrastructure – broadband and telecommunications

Local people decide what the community's priorities should be

Further information on this subject can be viewed on the parish council website at

<http://www.malvernwells-pc.gov.uk/local-formation/neighbourhood-plans>

Paul Esrich – Manager from the Malvern Hills AONB team was also in attendance at the meeting and spoke to set out how the AONB unit could help to support the process of the development of a Neighbourhood plan.

Members agreed that further consideration to this subject should be given at a future meeting of the Parish Council.

## **235/16      Reports from Council Committees**

- i) Cllr Chatten presented the previously circulated report of the **Planning Committee** which had been held on **13th September 2016**. The report was noted and accepted by the Council.

**Reports from Working Groups**i) **Gas lamps working group.**

A public consultation exercise, to assess support for the proposed scheme for the installation of replacement lamps to fill the current gaps the Wells Road, had recently been undertaken. There had been over seventy individual responses from local residents. Some 68 respondents to the survey were in favour of continuing with the project, with only four votes being recorded as being against the scheme. Cllr Freeman was continuing to work on the development of the project, in liaison with David Armitage, of the Malvern Hills AONB, with the next stage being the submission of applications for grant funding to help support the project

ii) **Communications working group.** There had been no meeting of the group since the previous Council meeting. The Clerk advised that he would deal with the matter of updating Councillors photographs on the parish website.

iii) **Open Spaces working group.** There had been no meeting of the group since the previous Council meeting. Further attempts were due to be made to develop a play facility in the All Saints Ward of the parish once land suitable for such a scheme could be identified. All of the snagging works at the Assarts Road play facility had been completed and the final payment for the works had been released to the contractor.

Inspections of the adequacy of the drainage system at the Assarts Road playing field were being undertaken by the Council's outdoor contractor on a regular basis.

iv) **Events working group.** A meeting was due to be arranged to review the 2016 Summer fete and to begin planning for the 2017 event. The Clerk advised that preparations for the Remembrance Sunday Service, being held at the Wells Road War Memorial on 13th November, were progressing well.

v) **Jubilee Gardeners working group**

Cllr Burrage circulated copies of the portfolio and report which had been prepared for the meeting with the RHS Britain in Bloom assessor and the submission of the Council's entry to the "It's Your Neighbourhood Competition". Cllr Burrage had attended the awards ceremony in Ludlow, accompanied by her husband Ian in his capacity as Chairman of the working group.

The Three Core Pillars of the RHS scheme are Community Participation, Environmental Responsibility and Gardening Achievement. The benefits of the scheme include Developing Cohesion and Civic Pride and having a Positive Impact on the Community.

The working group was congratulated on having built on the success achieved in the competition in previous years by being awarded "Level 3 Advancing "Certificate. Further details can be viewed at the following web link [Jubilee Gardeners working group report 2016](#)

**224/16**

**Financial matters**

**Approval of the schedule of accounts payable**

D) The following accounts were approved for payment: -

<b>Chq</b>	<b>Payee</b>		<b>NET £</b>	<b>VAT £</b>	<b>GROSS £</b>
3379	Steve Maund	Outdoor Work August	686.40	-	686.40
3380	Nicholas Johnson	Noticeboards for fete	135.00	27.00	162.00
3381	Print plus	Wells news Printing	1,398.00	-	1,398.00
3382	Steve Maund	Outdoor Work September	1,084.03		1,084.03
3383	Namesco	Website Domain renewal	339.80	67.96	407.76
3384	HMRC	PAYE & Nat insurance sept qtr.	1,131.00	-	1,131.00
3385	Arkell & Hurcombe	Remembrance plaques	270.00	54.00	324.00
3386	n Power	Cemetery Electricity	67.31	3.37	70.68
3387	PCC of Malvern Wells &The Wyche	room hire - July	37.50	-	37.50
3388	D M Taverner	Administration expenses - September	327.44	45.06	372.50
3389	Martin Thomas	Cemetery Work September	262.08		262.08
3390	Worcestershire Medals Service ltd	Civic Medallion	388.45	77.69	466.14
3391	Sight Designs Ltd	Gas lamp foliage cutting& inspection of lamp 47	265.00	33.00	298.00
3392	Sue Black	Marquee hire for fete	50.00		50.00
3393	Howard Allen	Car Show trophies at fete	66.67	13.33	80.00
3394	South Worcestershire Citizens Advice	replacing chq 3345-annual donation	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
s//order	D M Taverner	Clerk Salary - September	1,539.17	-	1,539.17

ii) **Appointment of new internal auditor**

Following the retirement of Yvonne Scriven the Council agreed to appoint Dianne Malley MAAT to the Honorary post of the Parish Council's Internal Auditor for the financial year 2016/17 onwards. An honorarium of £100 **was agreed** to be paid on the completion for each half-yearly audit. The Clerk advised that he would send a letter to Mrs Malley setting out the formal details of the appointment.

**225/16**

**Holywell Park Land**

It was noted that the land which had been for sale at Holywell Park was now under offer.

## 226/16 Chairman's Communications

### i) **Vehicle Activated speed signs**

In view of the ongoing issue of speeding traffic, particularly along the A 449 Wells Road, the County Council had been asked to undertake further vehicle speed surveys near to both the Wells and the Wyche Primary schools and along the Hanley Road.

Cllr Lucy Hodgson had kindly agreed to fund the purchase of a mobile VAS system which could be used at various approved locations throughout the Parish. The purchase was being facilitated by the County Council's Senior Highways Liaison Manager – Gerry Brienza. The system will be able to provide data evidence to support the case for the need of speeding enforcement in certain areas.

### ii) **Letter of thanks for Donation-Malvern Hills AONB**

A letter of thanks had been received from Cllr John Raine in respect of the Parish Council's contribution of £1,600 towards the running costs of the Malvern Hills AONB unit.

### iii) **Letter of thanks for Donation-Malvern Hills Foodbank**

A letter of thanks had been received from the foodbank management team in respect of the Parish Council's contribution of £250 which had been made towards the running costs of the Malvern Hills Foodbank.

## 227/16

### **Report from the Clerk on actions undertaken since the previous meeting**

- i) **Civic regalia.** the manufacture of the medallion had now been completed and was due to be collected by the Clerk.
- ii) **Wells News.** All deliveries of the summer edition had now been completed and invoices for the various advertisements which had had been placed in the magazine were now being issued.
- iii) **Summer fete 11<sup>th</sup> September** -the fete had been very well attended and enjoyed. The event had achieved a net surplus of £83.50. It was **unanimously agreed** that this sum should be rounded to £100 and donated to the West Midlands Air Ambulance which was the chosen charity of the Malvern Ukulele Band in recognition of their appearance at the fete.

## 228/16

### **Malferna Bus service - Community Bus**

The notes of a recent meeting to discuss the 360 Malferna Bus Service had been previously circulated to members

The current Malferna bus service will cease on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October and the new community service will commence on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October. The service will commence at Barnard Green and all trips must be booked in advance. The time table for the service will be displayed throughout the Parish attached along with a poster advertising its availability. There will also be a leaflet as well that will be available to hand out in the next couple of weeks There had been questions regarding the provision of a late afternoon/early evening service and several residents had expressed the importance of a service to enable people to get to and from work.

**229/16**

**Report of County Councillor – Cllr Mrs L Hodgson**

**Highways Issues**

**Vas sign**

I was informed by Gerry that I had an amount of locally determined money that I had not spent for this year. I suggested that some it could be used for a VAS sign for the parish. I did let David know and he was going to speak with Gerry. I assume that the go ahead has been given for this to go ahead.

**Community Bus**

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**Parking Issues**

A site meeting was held last week with Gerry Brienza, Gaynor from the Wyche School, the lollypop lady, Dave Jew (Traffic Management team) and Police Traffic Advisor Bob Haynes to look at the traffic and parking issues causing difficulties for children and parents crossing the Wells Rd. We agreed that some form of parking restriction would be advisable. A TRO proposal drawing has been drawn up and I confirmed I am supportive of the proposals.

**Road Closure Notices**

As part of the work being carried out by Seven Trent part of the Lower Wyche Road, Malvern, from a point 50 metres of its junction with Old Wyche Road for a distance of 50 metres in a northerly direction will be closed in order to facilitate the work. The anticipated duration of the work is 25 days and will be commencing 31 October 2016.

**Other News**

**New Schools proposals approved**

Proposals for two new schools in Worcestershire have been approved by WCC Planning and Regulatory Committee. The first proposal concerns a new two-form entry first school (nursery, reception classes, plus years 1 to 4), for Holyokes Field First School. This proposal would replace and provide a

new home for the existing school, as well as an additional capacity of 300 pupils (excluding nursery) for the surrounding area, including the developing Brockhill East housing estate.

As the proposal is located within the Green Belt, the County Council must consult the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The Council may not grant planning permission until the Secretary of State has notified the Council that he does not intend to call in the application for his own determination.

The second proposal is for a new single storey, one-form entry primary school (accommodating Reception to Year 6) at Malvern Vale Primary School, providing places for approximately 210 pupils and employing approximately 25 members of staff.

The Head of Strategic Infrastructure and Economy, considers both proposals to be sustainable developments, including PV panels, a Sedum roof, and orientation for optimising passive solar gain. Worcestershire County Council's Sustainability Team welcomes the design features of the proposals.

Both proposals include Sustainable Drainage Schemes to control surface water, helping to prevent local flooding and supporting biodiversity. Measures include Sedum roofs designed to absorb up to 80% of rainfall for slow release, decreasing runoff and the accompanying flood risk.

### **Hoobrook Link Road opens to the public**

Motorists and businesses in Worcestershire can now benefit from the new £16m Hoobrook Link Road.

The link road opened this afternoon (Monday 19 September) just after 2pm, along with both Worcester Road and Stourport Road junctions. Members of the public are advised that some traffic management will be in place over the next couple of weeks as construction workers remain on site to carry out final minor works to the scheme.

The new road provides a vital link to the strategic highway network from the A451 Stourport Road through to the A442 Worcester Road. The scheme includes the construction of a bridge across the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal and River Stour. The bridge has been designed to be sympathetic to the visual setting of the canal corridor, which is a designated conservation area.

Hoobrook Link Road is situated within the South Kidderminster Enterprise Park, which is one of the County's four key employment sites also known as 'game changer sites'. The new road will improve accessibility to this park and the surrounding areas. It will also facilitate the regeneration of the existing Hoobrook Industrial Estate and unlock the development potential of Phase Two of the former British Sugar site.

### **Museums Service gets funding boost for Dementia project**

Museums Worcestershire have been given a £32k funding boost to take their Suitcase Stories project countywide, with major contributions from Arts Council England and The Elmley Foundation.

Building on the success of the September to December 2015 arts and museums project in Wychavon care homes, Suitcase Stories will enable adults living with dementia and their carers in six Worcestershire locations to relive memories from the 40s, 50s and 60s using the art of Storytelling.

The participants each week will hold, touch, smell and feel the handling objects from Museums Worcestershire collections to inspire stories for Storyteller Gavin Young to perform. By bringing together museum objects for reminiscence, and the arts for creative expression, Museums Worcestershire is aiming to improve the health and wellbeing of Worcestershire residents living with dementia.

The memories of the adults living with dementia, and the museum handling objects, will inspire the artistic process and content to create a live performance of storytelling and music from the minds of Worcestershire residents. From these memories new stories about Worcestershire's past will be sourced and written.

These will then be performed at workshops in six local dementia cafes (Broadway dementia café, Malvern Cube, The Commandery, Museum of Carpet, Forge Mill Needle Museum and Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings), connecting residents of Worcestershire to their memories using arts and heritage.

### **WCC cuts CO2 emissions by almost a quarter**

Worcestershire County Council has cut its CO2 emissions by almost a quarter in just over five years.

The County Council has been actively trying to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from operations and activities for a number of years. In 2010 the Council partnered with the [Carbon Trust](#) and produced its second Carbon Management Plan which set a stretching and aspirational target to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 30% from 2009/10 to 2015/16.

The mission then, as it still is now, was to embed CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, energy efficiency and cost savings through activities and service delivery.

The Plan included projects to reduce emissions from Council buildings (e.g. from heating and electricity consumption), street lighting electricity use, fleet fuel use and staff mileage; as well as supporting Highways and Waste contractors to reduce their emissions from their buildings and transport. Worcestershire County Council is proud to announce that it has reduced its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 23% over the lifetime of the Plan.

The CO<sub>2</sub> savings were realised through a number of projects over the last 5 years, including:

- Investing in energy efficiency improvements in Council buildings using internal Spend to Save Fund for solar panels,

lighting improvements and lighting controls, and valve insulation amongst others

- Installing smarter metering in buildings in order to closely monitor energy usage
- Replacing old street lighting with LEDs, dimming and part-night switch-off
- Reducing staff business mileage
- Making better use of property and sharing sites with partners where appropriate
- Fuel management and driver training system in WCC fleet buses
- Engagement with Ringway and Severn Waste Services to encourage CO<sub>2</sub> reduction through their fleet vehicles and buildings.

### **Opening of Bromsgrove Railway Station**

Bromsgrove's new £24m railway station was officially opened on Friday 2 September.

Rail users are benefitting from a range of improved facilities. These include a staffed ticket office, passenger waiting room, toilets and 350 onsite car parking spaces. An external concourse links passengers to the car parking areas along with new bus stops, a taxi rank, pedestrian footpaths and a cycle store.

In addition, the new station facilities and better integration with local bus services make it easier for passengers to use the train to travel between Bromsgrove and Birmingham and Worcester. It will also reduce congestion and carbon emissions and make it easier to access the town. In turn, this will make the local area more attractive for businesses and encourage job creation in the Bromsgrove area.

## **230/16 Report of District Councillor – Cllr Mrs C O'Donnell**

### **1. Paperwork for Council Meetings**

The council will no longer be providing hard copy agendas for meetings', instead they are rolling out a program of iPad for all councillors. The decrease in the printing costs will make a significant saving and is better for the environment.

### **2. New route points the way to innovative future**

Malvern is to get its own version of the London Underground map as part of this year's Festival of Innovation. A specially designed Get Around Route has been created on the streets of Malvern by Spring Lane based Fleet Line Markers. The route has been created using more than 130 foil stickers and will help guide visitors to the festival around the various venues and discover more of what the town has to offer. Just like the 'Tube' map each route is in a different colour but the lines have been named after famous people with a link to Malvern including scientist Charles Darwin and authors CS Lewis and JRR Tolkien. This year's Malvern Festival of Innovation takes place from Monday to Saturday, 3 to 8

October. The programme launches at Malvern College on the Monday evening with a talk by Oxford professor Marcus du Sautoy OBE, who will be discussing his new book 'What We Cannot Know', which explores the limits of the human brain to innovate.

### **3. Councillors set to take a stand against hate crime**

Councillors are set to take a stand against hate crime in Malvern Hills District. At the Full Council meeting last night, on Tuesday, 27 September, councillors backed a motion which states Malvern Hills District Council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes of all types and expresses support for all residents within the district. It also commits the council to continuing to work with police and community organisations to ensure victims of hate crime are supported to report crimes and that action is taken against offenders.

### **4. Chairman's hike raises over £2,000**

Almost £2,000 has been raised by the Chairman of Malvern Hills District Council following the completion of his 160-mile Hike for Health and Happiness. Cllr John Raine finished his fundraising challenge on Saturday (10 September), having spent ten days walking through every ward in Malvern Hills District. The aim was to raise money for three local mental health organisations - Positive Thoughts, Jigsaw and Link Nurseries - as well as encouraging people to talk more about mental health issues.

### **5. Planning for changes to Council Houses**

At the meeting of the Full Council on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016 it was unanimously agreed the changed to the Council House so that all staff can be houses in it. The Grange and Brunel house are under discussion as to their future and the building at the front with talks with Heritage England is to be demolished and a 2 story build to be built to house the TIC and a place with front of desk where members of the public can go to arrange meetings with staff, planners and Councillors.

### **6. Free trees scheme for schools**

The woodland trust is to give away 3,205 community tree packs and 400,000 school packs. Each pack contains saplings that have been carefully monitored from their beginnings as seed. Please pass this information on to any schools or communities that you feel may be of interest. [Visit www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/in-your-community/](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/in-your-community/) for more information/

### **231/16 Report of elected Conservator – Cllr S Freeman**

It has been wrongly reported that the Conservators have banned drones over the Hills and Commons. That is not correct as the policy simply reflects the bye laws which have

been in place for many years and provide that drones cannot be flown over Conservators' land without permission. Permission is normally granted subject to conditions where it is requested for commercial reasons.

Following careful consideration by Parish Council members decided not to support the MHDC Chairman's recent Charity Hike as there had been no direct involvement by the Parish Council in the event.

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

Minutes approved Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October

Signed .....

Cllr Neil Chatten- Chairman of the Council