

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 22 March 2017 commencing** at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor N Chatten (Chairman), K Wagstaff, J Wagstaff, M Victory, T O' Donnell, N Johnson, J Black, B Knibb

Apologies for absence: Mrs C O'Donnell, Mrs H Burrage, Mrs J Smethurst, S Freeman, P Ditchburn

In attendance: David Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)
County Councillor Mrs L Hodgson

- 281/16** **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: There were none.
c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature: None were declared.
- 282/16** **To Consider Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011):** There were none.
- 283/16** **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th February, 2017**
The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 28th February 2017 had been previously circulated. The minutes were **unanimously approved** as a correct record of that meeting and were signed by the Chairman.
- 284/16** **Matters arising from the Parish Council minutes of 28th February 2017**
There were none
- 285/16** **Disturbance to residents arising from party held at the Village Hall**

There had been considerable problems emanating from a sixteenth birthday party held in the Village Hall. The adult supervision at the party had unfortunately been somewhat lacking and late in the evening some of the attendees had unfortunately caused disturbances to nearby residents because of drunken and rowdy behaviour outside the Hall.

As a result, Complaints had been made to the Police and the Community safety team at the District Council.

Cllr Black advised that the Village Hall Management Board (VHMB) had discussed this matter and had taken account of similar previous problems which had occurred.

At the forthcoming VHMB meeting a resolution was to be proposed that, in future, no Hall hiring would be allowed to groups of people under the age of twenty-five. In addition, a booking security deposit would be payable by any groups wishing to hire the hall, which would only be released on the completion of an event where there had been no reported issues.

286/16 Reports from Committees

(a) Planning Committee held on 15th March

The Chairman presented the report of the Planning Committee which had been held on 15th March. The report was noted and accepted by the Council.

287/16 Reports from Working Groups

(a) Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) working group Landscape Assessment

The Council's consultant, Carly Tinkler, had advised that she would soon be completing her work on the initial parish landscape assessment study which would then be forwarded to all Members of the Council for further comment.

The Clerk reported that he would now be completing an application to the Malvern Hills AONB Management Board who had promised grant funding of £4k to cover the initial costs of this work.

The objectives of the landscape assessment were:

- To evaluate the sensitivity of the landscape in the parish.
- To establish the capacity of parcels of land to accommodate future (residential) development from a landscape and environmental perspective.
- To identify potential constraints to development.
- To identify opportunities to enhance the existing landscape qualities and characteristics of the study area.
- To identify areas of particularly high value that may warrant local protection/designation.

The Council would now need to consider the appointment of a team of consultants to lead and tie together the production of the Parish NDP. This would be considered by the working group at its a forthcoming meeting and an appropriate recommendation on the choice of the consultants to be appointed would be made to the full Council

Public Consultation- there would need to be strong evidence that PC had undertaken full ranging public consultation throughout each phase of the NDP process. It was suggested that this could be undertaken by the use of an online facility where stakeholders could follow the key stages in the plan construction and make comment as appropriate.

The Council had previously agreed that the working group should be allowed a delegated budget of up to £500 to facilitate initial expenditure on the creation of a web based information and consultation portal.

(b) Gas lamps working group

Cllr Freeman had advised that David Armitage of the AONB was still trying to get British Gas (who accept the principle) to persuade National Grid of the principle of unmetered additional lamps. It is essential that this principle be settled before we can put forward even some outline figures to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

In order for the application for lottery grant funding to be successful the PC will need to show that it has engendered a wide level of community support for the project. It was suggested that this might be undertaken by launching initiatives such as inviting local schools to become involved with the project, and by an exhibition at the summer fete.

(c) Communications working group.

There had been no meeting of the group since the previous Council meeting.

(d) Events working group. A further meeting had recently taken place to discuss arrangements for the summer fête and classic car show. The next meeting of the group had been scheduled for Monday 8th May at 7pm in the Village Hall Committee room

Cllr Johnson advised that the group were investigating the possibility of a local brewery company supplying a licensed bar facility at the event. This initiative was unanimously supported by the Council.

(e) Jubilee Gardeners working group

Cllr Burrage had submitted a written report detailing the work undertaken in the garden during recent weeks

Steve Maund had spent time re-setting the lawn edging stones on the Grundy's Lane side. The stones had been lost underneath the grass and earth. Further such work was due to be undertaken to finish re-setting the stones on the Wells Road side. The re-laid edging was looking very smart and the RHS surveyor should be

pleased. The Jubilee Gardeners, have been working in the garden cutting back the dead stems ready for the new spring growth plans

(f) Cemetery Working group

Memorial stones from the Former St Peters Churchyard had been collected from the storage vaults at Worcester Cathedral and stored in the Cemetery Chapel pending relocation in the Parish Cemetery.

288/16 Chairman's Correspondence

- (a)** The Chairman had given a statement to the local press regarding the collapse of the wall blocking Eaton Road. This was an issue that the County Council were pursuing and it was hoped that the matter would be resolved soon
- (b)** The Village Hall Management Committee had sent in a request for financial assistance with the promotion of an event, to celebrate St George's Day which was aimed at raising funds for essential repairs needed in the Village Hall. It was agreed that a Community Grant of up to £250 should be allocated to support the event.

Cllr Johnson gave a short presentation of the data collected from the Council's mobile Vehicle Activated Speed system. This showed that a significant number of vehicles were exceeding local speed limits in the Parish. The data harvested from the system would be sent to the County Council and the Worcestershire Safety Camera to request further formal vehicle speed monitoring as evidence for the need of speeding enforcement action at certain locations.

289/16 Financial matters

(a) Approval of the schedule of accounts payable

The following accounts were unanimously approved for payment

REF	Payee	FOR	NET £	VAT £	GROSS £
L56	Worcestershire County Council	Donation to AONB Unit Running Costs	1,600.00	-	1,600.00
L57	South Worcestershire Citizens Advice	Annual Donation	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
L58	County Building Supplies	Cemetery Materials	75.08	15.02	90.10
L59	N Power	Cemetery Electricity	86.88	4.34	91.22
L60	David Taverner	Admin expenses March	42.55	3.50	46.05
L61	David Taverner	Clerk/RFO salary - March	1,539.06		1,539.06

L62	Steve Maund	Outdoor work Feb/March	945.93		945.93
L63	Martin Thomas	Outdoor work Feb/March	262.08		262.08
L64	HMRC	PAYE & Nat Ins March Qtr	840.00		840.00
	TOTALS		6,391.58	22.86	6,414.44

290/16 Actions undertaken by the Clerk since the previous Council meeting

- (a) **Neighbourhood Development Plan.** Grant applications to the Malvern Hills AONB and the DCLG were currently being undertaken.
- (b) **Clerk's CiLCA Portfolio.** The Clerk advised that he had been successful in passing 17 of the 24 modules of the qualification, but needed to resubmit 7 modules to complete matters. This was due to be done by the end of April and he was liaising with the CALC training team in that regard.

291/16 Report of County Councillor Mrs L Hodgson

Eaton Road Update

Roy Fullee last week spoke to the builder this morning and they've confirmed that works will commence next week, with the first stage being to remove the debris. During this stage of the works they will endeavour to open the road for pedestrian access and if possible, partial or full vehicle access. When rebuilding of the wall commences, it may be possible to keep the open, even if it's just for pedestrian access.

A formal road closure has been formalised, which I've requested commences tomorrow and runs until the end of April although the closure can be lifted at any time during this duration. If the builder's works go beyond April, they will need to apply for a new closure rather than an extension to the existing one as they will be the applicant.

Other Highways Issues

Roy Fullee will be leaving us next week; he will be missed from the Council. Whilst his replacement is sorted out Gerry Brienza will be acting as our Highways Liaison Engineer.

EnviRecover Energy-from-Waste facility now fully operational

Worcestershire County Council and Herefordshire Council's flagship waste treatment facility is now fully operational.

The facility was built on time by Mercia's contractors, Hitachi Zosen Inova. EnviRecover will treat up to 200,000 tonnes of waste, producing 15.5 MW of electricity for export to the grid.

The final piece of the waste management jigsaw for Worcestershire and Herefordshire is now in place, with the official handover of the EnviRecover Energy-from-Waste facility to Mercia Waste Management by main contractor Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI). The handover follows a 33-month construction programme, which has seen the facility built on time and to specification. EnviRecover is located on the Hartlebury Trading Estate near Kidderminster, Worcestershire. The facility will complement Worcestershire County Council and Herefordshire Council's other waste and recycling facilities, such as EnviroSort at Norton. The Energy-from-Waste facility is the largest single piece of capital infrastructure in Worcestershire and Herefordshire and marks the virtual elimination of landfill in the two counties. It will turn 200,000 tonnes per year of waste into electricity, exporting 15.5MW of electricity to the grid which is sufficient to power all the homes in Kidderminster.

EnviRecover was procured by the Worcestershire County Council and Herefordshire Council's waste management contractor Mercia Waste Management. The first waste was delivered into the facility in October 2016 for commissioning trials, and since then there has been a progressive involvement from Mercia's sister company, Severn Waste Services, who will operate the facility under its Environmental Permit issued by the Environment Agency. The handover of EnviRecover was marked by a gathering at the site including Councillors and senior Council officers from Worcestershire County Council and Herefordshire Council, along with representatives from Mercia Waste Management, Severn Waste Services, main contractor HZI and Wychavon District Council.

EnviRecover has an on-site visitor and education centre which becomes an integral part of Severn Waste Services engagement support for Worcestershire and Herefordshire, and complements the education programme provided at EnviroSort, Severn Waste Services' Material Reclamation Facility at Norton.

Vital Southern Link Road scheme progresses to next stage

The latest stage of the Southern Link Road overnight works has been completed.

To enable essential surfacing and drainage works to take place as part of the current improvements, two phases of overnight closures on the link road were scheduled, the first of which has recently been completed.

The next phase will take place from Tuesday 21 March to Friday 24 March from 9pm – 6am.

The dualling of the A4440 Southern Link Road in Worcester is one of the biggest upgrades to the road infrastructure in the county for many years.

The current phase of works will be completed in summer 2017 and includes: improvements to Norton roundabout; preparation for dualling between Whittington and Norton roundabouts; and a new dedicated left-hand turn from Whittington Road (from M5 Junction 7) to the westbound Crookbarrow Way (A4440), thereby removing the current "give way" arrangement.

Disruption to road users and local residents will be kept to a minimum where possible during these essential works. Clear diversion signage will be put in place and the scheme contractor Griffiths will be working in accordance with noise control measures agreed with Worcestershire Regulatory Services.

During this period, current temporary traffic management arrangements on the link road will also change, with road users being moved to the new road alignment. Road users are asked to be mindful of these changes while adapting to the new arrangements.

Recently released artist impressions show the overall vision of the scheme, with plans to dual all the way from Powick roundabout up to Whittington roundabout. Without any improvements, a 30% increase in journey times along the route has been predicted by 2026. The scheme will also make it quicker to access the south of the County and beyond, which will support existing businesses, attract inward investment and boost the local economy.

Worcestershire is best in country for productivity growth

New statistics from the Office of National Statistics show that Worcestershire leads the UK for productivity growth.

Statistics show that between 2010 and 2015, the county's productivity grew by an average of 3% each year.

Productivity is based on how efficiently workers create items to be sold, based on the working hours that are put in.

Worcestershire has seen the highest productivity growth when compared with the 38 other Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas in England, underlining how investment in innovation from firms throughout the county has helped to generate prosperous growth.

The statistics came after Chancellor Philip Hammond provided the county with a budget boost from the Government's Growth Deal, enabling a number of projects to develop across the area.

The Worcestershire LEP, has invested previous funds into projects including Hoobrook Link Road in Kidderminster, Malvern Hills Science Park, Gtech HQ in Worcester and the North Worcestershire Engineering Centre of Excellence.

£17.5 million cash boost for Worcestershire to help create local jobs and growth

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid today announced a government cash boost of £17.5 million for Worcestershire to help create jobs, support businesses and encourage growth.

Some of the locally-chosen projects likely to benefit over the next few years include:

- Improvements to the A38 to speed up journey times and accelerate the delivery of housing and jobs growth;
- A new engineering facility for Heart of Worcestershire College to meet the needs of local employers;
- Improvements to the Pershore Northern Link Road and Churchfields Urban Village Highway to relieve congestion and provide access to new homes.

These, alongside other projects, will improve skills, create jobs, build homes and improve infrastructure. This latest award of Local Growth funding is on top of £54.2 million of Growth Deal funding already awarded to Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership. This will see jobs created, homes built and extra investment. The Midlands Engine Strategy includes significant investment in skills, connectivity and local growth, while it sets out how the government plans to drive the region's huge potential and promote it to the world.

The £12 billion Local Growth Fund provides local leaders with the cash they need to support locally determined projects. Under the fund, England's 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships – made up of council leaders and business representatives – bid for investments based on local priorities.

Bids are highly competitive and to be successful, Local Enterprise Partnerships need to work with partners to agree strong and accountable governance and put forward proposals that boost growth and bring in private sector funding.

In Worcestershire, this has already:

- Made essential improvements to Hoobrook Link Road for the ongoing development of the South Kidderminster Enterprise Park;
- Funded the development of a new facility on the Malvern Hills Science Park, which will allow new and existing businesses in the high-tech sector to expand; and
- Delivered, in partnership with Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership, a new Engineering Centre of Excellence in Redditch to provide training in

Across the Midlands local people are set to benefit from £392 million investment, with Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership receiving £17.5 million to spend on projects including:

- A38 corridor improvements to speed up journey times and accelerate the delivery of housing and job growth in the area;
- Pershore Northern Link Road developments, which will enable development of commercial land and provide access for up to 700 new homes;
- Churchfields Urban Village highway infrastructure, which will relieve traffic congestion along A456 and A51 and provide access for up to 300 new homes; and
- A new Engineering Faculty working in partnership with Heart of Worcestershire College, which will see an extra 300 students per annum by 2021

Your Place Matters

Worcestershire County Council, in partnership with Historic England, have released a new community-planning toolkit and supporting guidance.

The toolkit 'Your Place Matters' focuses on what buildings tell us about places and can support Community-Led Planning, including Neighbourhood Plans, by offering a framework to inform the location and character of new development in rural areas, based on an understanding of place, as the result of past change.

The toolkit is supported by 'Your Place Matters: A Guide to Understanding Buildings and their Setting in Rural Worcestershire'. This complementary document provides detailed information on the broad range of rural building types and their settings, within their settlement and wider landscape.

Good design is fundamental to creating healthy and attractive places where people want to live.

The 2011 Localism Act gave new rights and powers to local communities over planning and setting the priorities for their own areas. To further support the process the Government will make further funding available to neighbourhood planning groups from 2018-2020.

'Your Place Matters' can be used by communities involved in Community-led Planning, including Neighbourhood Planning. It can also be used by those undertaking research into individual areas.

Ofsted Improvement plan update

The Service Improvement Board met last week and for the first time Nigel Richardson, the new independent chair, attended before taking over formally at the next meeting. Nigel was previously the Director of Children's Services in Leeds before retiring last autumn. He brings lots of experience to support and challenge our improvement.

The Department for Education has appointed Trevor Doughty as Commissioner for Children's Services in Worcestershire. He is currently the Director of Children's and Adults Services in Cornwall Council and has overseen the council's improvement from inadequate to good when they were inspected in 2016.

The Commissioner will be spending time in Worcestershire during the next few weeks. During this time he will be meeting and talking to staff and to partners.

Work at Hartlebury Castle Commences

As Chair of the Joint Museums Committee I was able to visit Hartlebury Castle to meet the new project staff team working to turn the site into a major visitor attraction. Alongside meeting the team, during the visit I was shown some of the work which has now commenced on site.

The newly formed project staff team includes Mark Davies, Director; Penelope Thomas, Activities Officer and Jacqueline Smith, Volunteer Co-coordinator. Alongside managing the development work for the site, the team will arrange events and community projects, including an Oral History project beginning later this month.

Works which have commenced on site include the building of a new car park, which will provide an extra 44 spaces, and landscaping works in the gardens.

The Hartlebury Castle project is run through the hard work of the Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust, and supported by £5million from the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The grant has made it possible for the Trust to purchase the site and conserve and preserve the historic Castle and its valuable assets.

As Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Localism and Communities at the County Council, I have been a supporter of the project, which received a funding contribution from **Worcestershire County Council.**

While work runs on site, Worcestershire County Museum will remain open to the public. Both the Museum and the Trust will be hosting events throughout the year.

Finally the notice for the County Election has been issued. County have announced that Purdah has now commenced and will last until after Election Day.

292/16 District Councillor Report – Cllr Mrs C O’Donnell

Member iPad update

All Councillor now have iPads to use in meetings.

Waste collection changes approved

Fortnightly rubbish collections are to be introduced next year 2018 across the Malvern Hills district as part of plans to plug a £1.45million gap in the council’s budget. Most councillors approved moving to alternate weekly collections – where rubbish is collected one week and recycling the next – during a Council meeting on Tuesday (21 February, 2017). Malvern Hills District Council needs to save £250,000 from its waste collection service, as part of an overall £1.45million budget gap needing to be plugged by 2020/21. The council is under significant financial pressure due to government funding cuts and by 2020 will have lost 60 per cent in real terms of its government grant, or some £4.5million. **Cllr Bronwen Behan**, portfolio holder for environment on Malvern Hills District Council, said: “We are the last council in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire to operate a weekly collection service so the decision to move away from it is not one we have taken lightly. “We know it is highly valued by residents. However, we also know residents want us to do other things like helping people access affordable housing, keeping the environment clean and tidy, providing more leisure activities or supporting people to remain healthy. Adjusting our waste collections will help safeguard services and as well as the significant savings we need to make. “Nothing will change until April 2018 and we will ensure we do everything we can to keep residents informed every step of the way as we prepare for the introduction of the new system.” This will include providing information directly to households, making officers and councillors available to answer questions at selected festivals and events throughout the year, focus groups, online and through the local media. Residents can also sign up to receive regular updates by email by visiting www.malvern hills.gov.uk/emailalerts.

Residents reminded to register to vote

Residents in the Malvern Hills area are being reminded to ensure they are registered to vote ahead of the County Council elections on Thursday 4 May 2017. Anyone who wants to vote in the forthcoming County Council elections must be on the Register of Electors. The electoral register is maintained and published by Malvern Hills District Council. People that are already on the electoral register will receive a poll card before the election telling them where and when to vote. If you do not receive one you should contact electoral services on 01386 565437 or email elections@malvern hills.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can visit the national voter registration website at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

Nominations open for Malvern Hills District Community Sports Awards 2017

The Malvern Hills District Community Sports Awards returns for its seventh year with the opportunity to recognise coaches, clubs, volunteers and sporting stars. Nominations are sought for the thirteen award categories on offer, including Positive Change of the Year and Sports School of the Year, which are new for 2017. The winners will then be announced during a ceremony on Thursday, 13 July 2017 at the Bank House Hotel – a new location for the awards which have proved so popular they have outgrown their previous home. More than 200 guests including nominees, their families, local sport and leisure clubs and organisations, local businesses, councillors, police and more will be attending. The awards are run by Malvern Hills District Council, the ceremony will be hosted by BBC Hereford and Worcester drive time presenter Andrew Easton, and produced by Malvern-based AN Event Services.

Success for first Walking for Health group

More than 40 people recently took part in the first Walking for Health group at Croome.

The free health walk took place on the morning of Monday 27 February, taking walkers around the beautiful historical grounds of Croome park. The next walk will take place on **Monday 27 March at 10.15am** and will offer three different ability groups, ranging from a gentle 30-minute walk, to a brisk 90-minute walk. The Walking for Health group was set up by Malvern Hills District Council, and is supported by The National Trust, as part of the National Walking for Health scheme. Trained walk leaders, Rachel and Pat aim to help participants feel more confident about taking those first steps to a more active lifestyle, as well as improve well-being. **Rachel Vann, Walk Leader from Malvern Hills District Council said:** “We had an amazing response to our first health walk, and we ended up walking for just over an hour clocking up 2.75 miles.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Minutes approved.....
Chairman
26th April, 2017