

Minutes of **Malvern Wells Parish Meeting 2017** held on **Wednesday, 26th April 2017** in **The Village Hall, Wells Road** commencing at **7.00 pm**

Attendance: Councillor N Chatten (Chairman), K Wagstaff, J Wagstaff, M Victory, T O' Donnell, J Black, B Knibb, P Ditchburn, S Freeman, Mrs H Burrage, Mrs C O'Donnell

Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer: David Taverner

County Councillor Mrs L Hodgson

Apologies for absence received: CSO Karen Watson (Priory Policing Team), Cllrs J Smethurst and N Johnson

- 1 Welcome:** The Chairman, Cllr N Chatten welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2 Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 27th April 2016: The minutes of the Parish Meeting which had been held on 27th April 2016 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 - N Chatten**

After my first year as Chairman of the Parish Council I would like to extend thanks to my fellow Parish Councillors who have been tremendously supportive, and Cllr Jackie Smethurst who has leant support in her role as Vice Chair of the Council.

It's been business as usual, throughout the year in the council and we've kept our hard-working Clerk, David Taverner busy over this period so I should also extend our heartfelt thanks to him, without whom the council just wouldn't run.

I must also pay special thanks to Cllr Helen Burrage, who I succeeded as Chairman, following the three years she spent in the role. Helen has made it easy for me to settle into the position of the Council's Chairman

Having taken over the reins of the chairmanship during the early Summer the highlight of it for me was the Summer Fete on the second Sunday in September which was wonderfully well supported by the community with (anecdotally) higher footfall than ever. I would thank all of those on the Events Committee itself, our Parish Lengthsman, Steve Maund, and the wider supporters, such as those who run the various stalls and Howard Allen et al who brought their classic cars to the show, for their enthusiastic support and for making the day so successful. My biggest thanks however must go to all of those who came along to share the day and make it such a lively and fun packed event. My personal favourite, if I'm allowed to have one, was the children's tug-of-war. Of course, we are very open to suggestions for improvement or new entertainments – a dog show was one suggestion – or if you would like to get involved and lend a hand then please do not hesitate to contact us.

During November, we held our Remembrance Sunday commemorations at the War Memorial on Wells Road to which was well attended and this event always acts as a reminder to us helps us to think about others and the sacrifices that people make on our behalf as well as their need for support.

The Christmas period was marked by the illumination of the living Christmas tree on Fruitlands and the cut tree installed in the Jubilee Fountain Garden. The ever-popular Christmas Carol Concert was held in the Village Hall during December and thanks are again due Helen Burrage, Sue Black and the Wells Singers for leading th celebration of this event so well.

Two Councillor vacancies arose during the year which have been filled by Tonya O'Donnell and Paul Ditchburn and we welcome them to their places on the Parish Council.

During the last few months the Parish Council has decided to forge ahead with the development of a Neighbourhood Plan which will supplement the South Worcestershire Development Plan and the policies contained within it will then be used in the determination of planning applications. The plan will be subject to public consultation, so you'll be able to see and have a say in what we are proposing. This is a large project with a lot of hard work and resources going into it, but we are hopeful that it will strengthen community say in how development occurs within Malvern Wells.

Following consultation with parishioners on a proposal to make a lottery funded bid to replace several 'missing' gas lamps, the Parish Council is proposing to progress this now. The consultation responses were almost universally positive with only a handful opposed to the idea.

We have recently acquired Vehicle Activated Speed Sign for the parish that we are locating at strategic points on a rolling programme to remind drivers of the speed limits within the Parish. Fortunately for us our supportive and hardworking County Councillor, Lucy Hodgson has identified sufficient funds within her budget to kindly pay for this and you will now see it in various locations around the parish hereon. Without wishing it to become a hobbyhorse of mine I do find the occasions when a car comes speeding up behind me seemingly out of nowhere, especially on Wells Road, extraordinarily commonplace. It is a shame that we can't treat other vehicles as the humans that are driving them rather than a machine to be chivvied along or brushed aside.

The activities I have described are only my personally selected highlights and there have been several initiatives as well as ongoing work undertaken by the various working groups of the Parish Council that continue to try to foster our overriding aim of making Malvern Wells a place that is enjoyed by its residents and visitors alike.

No review of the Parish Council's activities would be complete without recording our thanks for the time and support given by our County Councillor, Lucy

Hodgson and our District Councillors Chris O'Donnell and Jill Campbell who have carried out a great deal of work on behalf of the parish within their respective local authorities. Lucy and Chris have supported our initiatives from their Councillor funds. The local policing team, Sergeant Ian Blanchard and PCSO Karen Watson, should also get a mention for their support.

Mr Neil Chatten – Chairman, Malvern Wells Parish Council

26th April 2017

5 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 2016/17 there had been 438 recorded police response incidents in the PPT area of which 49 were crime related.

The crime figures had included: -

21 vehicle crimes

11 thefts

7 dwelling burglaries

5 drug related crimes

5 cases of criminal damage/anti-social behaviour

The comparable figures in 2015/16 were that there had been 473 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.

6 Charity Accounts

a) The accounts of Great Malvern Relief in Need Charities

The previously distributed financial statements were noted and accepted. The Charity had made 13 grants during 2016/17 totaling some £492. The Charity's level of donations and Investment income for the year had been recorded as £2,979

b) Report from the Parish Council Representatives on Hanley Castle Almshouse & Relief in Need Charities (Cllr K Wagstaff).

The 2016/17 Statement of Accounts was noted. Cllr Wagstaff advised that the all the Almshouses were currently fully occupied and in a good state of repair.

7 Annual Report from the Malvern Hills District Councillor

Councillor Mrs C O'Donnell tabled a report which can be viewed at the following web link [District Councillor Report 27th April,2017](#)

8 Annual Report from the Worcestershire County Councillor

Councillor Mrs L Hodgson tabled a report which can be viewed at the following web link [County Councillor Report 27th April 2017](#)

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

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Cllr N Chatten
Chairman 25th April 2018