

Minutes of **Malvern Wells Parish Meeting 2018** held on **Wednesday, 25th April 2018** in **The Village Hall, Wells Road** commencing at **7.00 pm**

Attendance: Councillor N Chatten (Chairman), J Smethurst, J Black, B Knibb, H Burrage, C O'Donnell, M Dyde, B Murphy

Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer: David Taverner

County Councillor Mrs L Hodgson

Apologies for absence received: K Wagstaff, J Baker, S Freeman

- 1 Welcome:** The Chairman, Cllr N Chatten welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2 Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 27th April 2017:** The minutes of the Parish Meeting which had been held on 27th April 2017 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**
Cllr Chatten presented the following report to the meeting: -

It has been another busy year for the Parish Council and firstly I would like to extend thanks to my fellow councillors who have all been tremendously supportive, and Cllr Jackie Smethurst who has again leant such excellent support in her role as Vice Chair of the Council.

There have been a range of issues for the Council to deal with during the last year and we've kept our hard-working Clerk, David Taverner busy over this period, so I should also extend our grateful thanks to him, without whom the council just wouldn't run.

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 and will then be used in the determination of planning applications. The plan will be subject to ongoing public consultation during its development phase, so residents and business owners will 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 the community's say in how development occurs within Malvern Wells.

One of the major concerns shared with residents is the continuing dangers caused by the speed of traffic along the Parish Roads. We now have acquired two Vehicle Activated Speed Signs for the parish that we are rotating to various at strategic points on a rolling programme. We shall continue to look at other initiatives aimed at reducing average vehicle speed, working in conjunction with the Worcestershire Road Safety Partnership and the local policing team.

Following further consultation with parishioners on a proposal to make a lottery funded bid to replace several 'missing' gas lamps, the Parish Council's project steering group has continued to work on bringing the scheme to a conclusion; but there are still some hurdles to jump in this regard.

The Jubilee Gardeners working group, ably lead by Ian Burrage, again were awarded a

certificate by the Royal Horticultural Society for the progress they had made on the continued enhancement of this central feature within the Parish.

The Summer Fete held on St Wulstans Green was again very well attended, and although we were not as fortunate with the weather as we had been during previous years, it was another highly enjoyable afternoon.

During November, we held our Remembrance Sunday commemorations at the War Memorial on Wells Road to which, as always, was well attended. 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 Carol Concert in which was staged in the Village Hall just before Christmas again proved to be highly popular event and thanks must go to the Helen Burrage and her team of helpers for organising the concert and decorating the Hall so beautifully. A generously supported collection raised more than £200 for the Malvern Special Families Charity.

The Christmas period was also marked by the illumination of the living Christmas tree on Fruitlands and the cut tree installed in the Jubilee Fountain Garden

Three Councillor vacancies arose during the years Following th resignations of Malcolm Victory (a former Parish Council Chairman), Nick Johnson (formally Chairman of our Finance Committee and Paul Ditchburn. Whilst we are sorry to witness their departures from the Council, we have recently welcomed three new Councillors – Julie Baker, Mark Dyde and Ben Murphy to our ranks.

The activities I have described are only my personally selected highlights and there have been a number of 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 in particular have supported our initiatives from their Councillor funds. The local policing team, Sergeant Ian Blanchard and PC Susa Parr, must also be thanked for their support.

5 Report from the Local Policing Team. Simon Thompson, business and rural crime co-ordinator for South Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership West Mercia Police, gave details of a West Mercia police campaign to raise awareness of Safer Neighbourhood Teams which aim to ensure that all communities have easy access to their local police officers.

Every community has a local policing Safer Neighbourhood Team which works with local people and partner organisations to identify and address specific local concerns, tackle crime and make communities safer.

Mr Thompson gave a presentation on the use of how "Smartwater" could help combat residential burglaries and property thefts.

The Smartwater scheme is part of a project being led by the South Worcestershire Business and Rural Crime team, which is funded by West Mercia Police and the West Mercia Crime Commissioner.

SmartWater is a colourless forensic liquid solution that can be applied to the surfaces of belongings and valuables. It leaves a unique code which is almost impossible to remove and can only be viewed under ultraviolet light.

Marked items are then registered with a national database, so they can be irrefutably identified if stolen, while the thief can be linked with the scene of their crime.

SmartWater's forensic marking product is extremely robust and holds Grade A External classification as part of a Publicly Available Specification published by the British Standards Institution (PAS 820:2012). This means it has been independently tested to last the equivalent of 5 years in external weather conditions. SmartWater are offering people who live in the West Mercia policing area an exclusive opportunity to purchase a home security pack at a special promotional price of £19.95. Further information on the Smartwater scheme can be found at <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/smartwater-offer>

The Project supports West Mercia Police's ongoing work to improve the services provided to communities, including investment in technology to help local policing officers to be more available and visible in local communities, making it easier for people to contact the Police when they need help and ensuring that everyone that needs help receives the right support as quickly as possible. Crime statistics for the Malvern Wells and Priory Area were available to be downloaded at the following weblink <https://www.police.uk/west-mercia/PAC17/crime/stats/>

5 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 grants during 2016/17 totaling some £ 265

b) Report from the Parish Council Representatives on Hanley Castle Almshouse & Relief in Need Charities (Cllr K Wagstaff). The 2017/18 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 Malvern Hills District Councillor

Councillor Mrs C O'Donnell tabled a report which can be viewed at the following web link [District Councillor report 25th April 2018](#)

7 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 25th April 2018](#)

8 Presentation from Malvern Hills Trust on changes to their Governance Arrangements and Powers

A presentation of the review of Malvern Hills Trust governance arrangements was outlined. The review had recently reached a key stage at the November meeting of the Board of Trustees when approval had been given to the final elements to be included in a proposed Charity Commission Scheme which will be presented next year for public consultation. Apart from several measures designed to clarify and broaden the existing powers of the Trust, it is proposed that the present Board be reduced from 29 members to 12 members. Of these, half would be elected by the precept payers and the remainder appointed; at present 11 are elected and 18 appointed. There are also proposals for reforming the method of electing members which at present results in highly disproportionate representation between the various parishes and wards.

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

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Cllr N Chatten
Chairman 24th April 2019