

Little Malvern & Welland Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 19th February 2024

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@wellandparishnoticeboard

Present

Cllrs. Mr M Davies (Chair), Dr A Davis, Mr P Hancock and Mrs M Sumner.

In Attendance

Mr D Sharp (Clerk), Barbara Stephens (Community Development Coordinator) and ten members of the public.

Before the meeting the Chair paid tribute to Cllr. Mandy Renton who had sadly passed away recently following a short illness. She had paid an active roll in many parts of village life, particularly the Parish Council and the village Hall committee. She would be greatly missed. A brief period of silence followed.

16/24 Public Participation

The Council invites local residents attending the meeting to make comments and suggestions, and question the Parish Council on issues on the agenda, or raise issues for future consideration:

Concerns were raised over the detritus left after the cutting of the hedges bordering the Pheasant Inn. The Clerk was to write to the company who had submitted recent planning documents and Cllr Sumner was to speak to onsite contractors.

Concerns were also raised over the height of the leylandii trees on the western border of the Marlbank cemetery. This was to be considered later in the meeting.

17/24 Apologies

To consider acceptance of apologies for absence from Councillors: Cllrs. Dr J Mortimer, Mrs V Nelson and Mr M Whaley (accepted). Also District Cllrs. John Gallagher and Christine Wild.

18/24 Interests

i. Councillors Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Disclosable Interests and Non Registable Interests regarding items on the agenda: There were none.

ii. Notification of changes to the register of interests: There were none.

iii. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation for those with Disclosable Interests to take part in discussions or voting: There were none.

19/24 Co-Option

To consider applications for co-option onto the Parish Council: Two residents had expressed and interest and it was hoped that they would put themselves up for co-option at the next meeting.

20/25 Planning

i. To consider responses to any late submitted applications:

None had been received.

ii. Decisions notified:

M/23/00332/FUL – Land at Drake Street – Approved

M/23/00916/HP – Willow End Farm Cottage, Blackmore Park Road – Approved

M/23/01642/FUL – Old Cider Mill, Drake Street – Approved

M/23/01508/FUL – Welland House Care Centre, Lime Grove – Refused

M/22/00185/FUL – Hazor Field, Garrets Bank – Appeal dismissed

It was also noted that the application for 56 houses off Gloucester Road was still live.

21/24 Minutes

To consider for adoption the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th January: These were accepted as an accurate record and they were signed by the Chairman.

22/24 Progress reports and matters arising from these minutes

It was noted that the investigation from the Environment Agency over the burning and disposal of rubbish from the Pheasant Inn was ongoing.

The data from the speed indicating signs was to be distributed.

23/24 Community Development Coordinator

Barbara Stephens presented her report: The Kettle Quiz had been distributed with the last newsletter and so far 56 responses had been received. Initial replies had indicated satisfaction with a local community spirit and parish communications but improvements to the local pub, speeding traffic and footpaths was required. A need for more age related events, particularly at weekends was also evident.

She considered it important that volunteers should be given more support and recognition. A series of door knocking initiatives were to commence with the help of other local Community Development Coordinators

24/24 Reports by District and County Councillors and other Representatives

No reports were made.

25/24 Committee, Working Party & Other Representative Reports & Recommendations

i. Neighbourhood Planning Working Group:

To review progress towards referendum: A referendum was scheduled for 7th March, the result announced on 8th March.

ii. Communications Working Group:

a. To review website provision: The Clerk reported that the current contract was due for renewal on 1st April (last years cost was £145). The Parish Online site would cost £350 but was considered more user friendly. Further investigations were to be made but if no objections were received the new site would be created.

b. To consider response to BT intension to remove analogue telephone service: The Parish Council was continually trying to encourage mobile operators to improve their service in the area and once BT made the move to 'digital' it was agreed that 'drop in' sessions at the village hall would be a good way to show residents their options.

iii. Playing Fields/Open Spaces Working Group:

To consider removal of Leylandii trees from Marlbank Cemetery: The Clerk was awaiting a quotation for their removal and it was agreed that all residents sharing the border would be consulted before a decision was made. Suitable replacement species were also to be investigated and Sue Haywood offered to help in this matter.

iv. Highways Working Group:

a. To consider a request from Malvern Wells Parish Council to install village gates on Wells Road: The position requested was some distance within the Little Malvern parish boundary, but was deemed acceptable, and the request was approved and Malvern Wells Parish Council would be liable for maintenance

b. Update on positioning of speed signs and to consider further purchases: The positions requested had been approved by WCC Highways. The sign on Garret Bank would ideally be placed within the Steam Rally field, due to the narrow verge increasing the likelihood of collisions by traffic, and the Clerk was to request permission for the installation of a post adjacent to the hedge.

v. Pavilion Working Group: To consider a request from Welland Juniors FC to make improvements to the kitchen: This was agreed. Furthermore the electrical works costing £440 were to be paid for by the Parish Council.

It was with regret that the resignation of Joe Whitehouse from the Group was accepted due to his relocation and a replacement was to be sought.

26/24 Biodiversity

Update on progress and to consider adopting a biodiversity policy and longer term action plan utilising volunteer expertise: The policy and action plan were approved following amendments. The terms of reference for Sue Haywood, the volunteer advisor, were to be reviewed at the April meeting.

27/24 Correspondence**To consider the responses to the following correspondence previously circulated:**

FROM	SUBJECT
CALC	Updates
NALC	Events and Newsletters
West Mercia	Kyle Gordon next Chief Constable for West Mercia Police
WCC	Worcestershire County Council Budget Consultation
Linda Cook	Hedgehog Highway Project
CPRE	Preparation of county Local Nature Recovery Strategy
Bryan Smith	British Camp Reservoir Scheme (i)
MHDC	January Malvern Hills Business e-Bulletin
Kompan	Inspection Reports - January 2024
National Landscape	Grants for Improving Local Access for the Less Able
Severn Arts	Travelling Music Box bus
WCC	Home Upgrade Grant Scheme
WCC	Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2023-2028
National Landscape	Management Plan Review

(i) A meeting had been held to discuss the possibility of creating a hydro energy scheme, utilising the British Camp reservoir. A further meeting was to be held with a representative of Midlands Net Zero who were able to offer £40,000 feasibility study grants. A decision whether to proceed with the application for grant funding would be made at the next meeting.

28/24 Finance**i. To consider payment of invoices presented:**

The following payment was made from the **Neighbourhood Plan Account** between meetings and was ratified:

From/Due To	Date	Amount	Details
Peter Hamilton	19/01	£1,156.00	Professional Fees
	Total	£1,156.00	

The following payment was made from the **Fete Account** between meetings and was ratified:

From/Due To	Date	Amount	Details
Amazon	12/01	£47.00	Hot/Cold Flask Dispenser
	Total	£47.00	

The following payment was made from the **Funding Account** between meetings and was ratified:

From/Due To	Date	Amount	Details
Mighty Tight Records Ltd	12/02	£1,000.00	Event Fee
	Total	£1,000.00	

The following payments were made from the **Main Account** between meetings and were ratified:

From/Due To	Date	Amount	Details
Barbara Stephens	03/02	£912.60	Community Development Co-Ordinator
Hanley Castle High School	31/01	£75.00	Spitalfields Maintenance
ZFA Design	31/01	£130.78	Quiz/Survey Design
	Total	£1,118.38	

The following payment was approved from the **Fete Account**:

From/Due To	Date	Amount	Details
House of Tents	04/01	£220.00	Gazebo
	TOTAL	£220.00	

The following payments were approved from the **Main Account**:

From/Due To	Date	Amount	Details
J Moore	16/01	£128.00	Lengthman Duties (January)
NA Priday	29/01	£720.00	Hedge Cutting
Vinyl Fencing	22/01	£18.00	Village Gate Parts
Solopress	24/01	£257.91	Newsletter and Quiz printing
E Hardman	19/02	£150.00	Handyman (£150 Gross - tax coding 1251L)
D Sharp	19/02	£478.40	Clerk's Fee (40 hrs @ SCP 17. £598.00 Gross)
	TOTAL	£1,752.31	

Accounts Summary

Reserves Lloyds B/F	£3,007.69		Main Account B/F	£37,723.43
Interest	£3.30	£3,010.99	Welland Pavilion (Insurance)	£537.40
Saver Account	£30,469.44		Welland Juniors FC (Pitch Hire)	£3,695.00
Interest	£76.02	£30,545.46	WCC Lengthman	£256.00
Fête Account	£1,102.13		HMRC VAT Rebate	£7,229.87
Pursers Orchard Group	£600.00			
Amazon	-£47.00	£1,655.13		
Buildings Account	£6.47	£6.47	Donation to Welland Pavilion	-£440.00
Neighbourhood Plan Ac.	£1,156.00		Pre Payment	-£1,118.38
Peter Hamilton	-£1,156.00	£0.00	Correction	-£54.79
Funding Account	£1,997.67			
Ticket Source	£556.92			
Door Sales	£620.00			
Welland Community WCC	£60.00			
Ticket Source	£420.00			
Mighty Tight Records	-£1,000.00	£2,654.59		
Total C/F		£37,872.64	Main Account C/F	£47,828.53

29/24 Any other matters for report or for future consideration

It was noted that several residents had been concerned about the authenticity of an MHDC survey on rented property.

Councillors were asked to consider topics for discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting due to be held in May.

30/24 Date of the next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting would take place on Monday 18th March 2024 at 7.30pm in Welland Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:30 pm