

West Malvern Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th June 2021 in West Malvern Village Hall at 8:00pm.

Present

Cllrs. A Turner (Chairman), Ms C Baxter, Mrs J Burford, Mr L Gregory, Mr C Rouse, Mr T White.

In Attendance

District Cllr. Prof. J Raine and Mr D Sharp (Clerk).

68/21 Apologies

To consider acceptance of apologies for absence from Councillors: District & County Cllr. N McVey and Mr C Penn (Malvern Hills Trust).

69/21 Interests

i. Councillors Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and Other Disclosable Interests (ODI) 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.

70/21 Reports from other representatives

To receive reports from County and District Councillors, Tree and Footpaths Wardens and other representatives:

District & County Cllr. Natalie McVey had forwarded a report earlier in which she mentioned that she was to sit on two County Council committees: Health and Corporate & Communities as well as on the Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority. The recent emergency closure of West Malvern Road to deal with a gas leak was causing problems. She has also allocated some of her divisional funding to the refurbishment of the primary school playground surface. On a District level she was liaising with the planning department over the enforcement order on The Brewers Arms, and on the empty property on Nabs Pitch. Finally, offroad cyclists were causing damage to Cowleigh Wood and she was speaking with Madresfield Estate and she was investigating the possibility of implementing a pollinator friendly strategy for grass cutting in the area.

District Cllr. Prof John Raine gave an overview of the Boundary Commission review which was looking to standardise the number of electors per ward and so reduce the number of councillors from 38 to 31. A public consultation was due to start later in the summer.

Mr Charles Penn (Malvern Hills Trust) had reported that meetings were still suspended due to Covid but that the Trust had purchased a 6 acre parcel of land adjacent to existing holdings at Park Wood.

71/21 Minutes

To consider for adoption the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 10th May were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

72/21 Progress Reports and other matters arising from the minutes

No further news had been received concerning the poor state of the Lamb Inn development, however it was noted that one of the new properties was now occupied. It was agreed that this site should be highlighted in the MHDC annual planning review the next time recommendations were requested. It was noted that the new village hall committee were seeking to obtain a lease from the diocese and the Clerk confirmed that he had been in contact with Richard Timney and forwarded details of failed discussions that took place with the diocese some years ago.

73/21 Planning

To consider response to any late submitted applications: No applications had been received.

74/21 Playing Fields

i. Update on Playground Improvements: Cllrs. Baxter and White had met with the Clerk on site and recommended that the quotation from Mant Leisure be adapted to include the installation of the 'Fort Yuma', manufactured by Creative Play. A revised quotation and layout was awaited.

Details of the proposed S106 contribution from the Adelaide House development had been received from MHDC and further potential schemes were to be investigated.

ii. To review current grass cutting regime: The regime for next year was to be reassessed to include possible provision of wild areas.

75/21 Allotments & Community Woodland

The new allotment fence was to be installed this week.

76/21 Highways & Footpaths

The recent emergency closure of West Malvern Road had caused confusion because signage at some distance eg. Wyche Cutting lacked information regarding the exact point of closure.

77/21 Finance

i. Completion of 'Annual Governance Statement': This was completed and signed by the Chair and Clerk.

ii. Approval of Annual Accounts: These were approved and signed by the Chair and RFO.

iii. Completion of AGAR requirements: The certificate of exemption was completed and signed by the Chair and RFO.

iv. To review effectiveness of internal financial controls: The current controls were agreed to be sufficient for the Parish Council's needs.

v. To consider payment of invoices presented: The following payments were approved

From/Due to	Date	Amount	Details
J Burford	31/05	£120.00	Village Handyman (May)
Water Plus	05/06	£1.83	Allotment Water Supply
St James CofE Primary School	-	£3,100.00	S137 Donation
RM&J Goddard	10/06	£241.20	Allotment Fence Posts & Gate
DA Sharp	14/06	£355.35	Clerk's Fees 35hrs (Gross £444.15 SP17)
	Total	£3,818.38	

After these payments are made bank balances will be as follows:

Savings Account B/F	£14,550.50	Community Account B/F	£22,176.34
		June Payments	-£3,818.38
Savings Account C/F	£14,550.50	Community Account C/F	£18,357.96

78/21 Correspondence

To consider the following correspondence previously circulated:

FROM	* email	SUBJECT
SWDPR	*	Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations DPD Revised Preferred Options Consultation 17 May to 5 July 2021
Act on Energy	*	Worcestershire Funding Available
MHDC	*	Update for town and parish councils
MHDC	*	Adelaide House S106 Funding
West Mercia PCC	*	Town and Parish Survey
SWDPR	*	Newsletter
MHDC	*	Empty Property - West Malvern Road

79/21 Councillors' items for Report

A meeting with David Clarke from MHDC to discuss Neighbourhood Development Plans had been arranged for 17th June at 6:30pm.

The Clerk confirmed that the section of the telephone box recently replaced had been painted. He was also to contact Tom Dutton again regarding the installation of a defibrillator.

It was noted that some households had allowed excessive tree growth to cause a nuisance to neighbours and solutions were to be sought.

80/21 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 12th June 2021 in the main village hall commencing at 8:00pm.

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