

West Malvern Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th September 2021 in West Malvern Village Hall at 8:00pm.

Present

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

In Attendance

District & County Cllr. N McVey, Mr C Penn (Malvern Hills Trust) and Mr D Sharp (Clerk).

94/21 Apologies

To consider acceptance of apologies for absence from Councillors: Cllr. Mr T White (accepted).
Also District Cllr. Prof. J Raine

95/21 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.

96/21 Co-option

To consider applicants for co-option onto the Parish Council: No applications had been received.

97/21 Reports from other representatives

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

District & County Cllr. Natalie McVey reported that August had been quiet for WCC. There had been an emergency road closure on West Malvern road which had caused confusion as the position of the closure had not been indicated on signage. She hoped that future incidents would be better organised. The hedge on Old Hollow was still to be cut and the drainage issue between West Malvern Road and DeWalden Road was ongoing.

As for District Council, she expected that Admiral Taverns would soon put The Brewers Arms up for sale and the issue with the derelict property on Nabs Pitch was ongoing.

Mr C Penn (Malvern Hills Trust) reported that board meetings were now being held face to face but still streamed online. Due to attendance numbers the recent annual meeting was held in Pershore. Parks were still being well used although the one at Swinyard Hill was currently closed due to electrical works. Ash dieback was causing concern and subsequent tree surgery costs were likely to use up valuable funds. A new method of cattle grazing was being trialled using electric neck collars and a sat nav system to determine grazing areas that dispensed with the need for fencing. Finally he confirmed that there was no badger cull on the hills at present.

98/21 Minutes

To consider for adoption the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 12th July were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

99/21 Progress Reports and other matters arising from the minutes

To consider procuring generic web address and email addresses for councillors and clerk:

This was deferred to next month when Cllr. White would be attending.

The Clerk confirmed that he had had no reply from the owner of a house on West Malvern Road that was in a poor state of repair.

100/21 Planning

i. To consider responses to the following and any late submitted applications:

Application No	Location	Details
21/01385/HP	Harwyn Lower Dingle	Demolition of existing lean-to extension, construction of side and rear extension to include new living and utility area, 2no. bedrooms and rendering of existing property.
21/01432/HP	210 West Malvern Rd	Formation of new vehicular access and driveway to provide off street parking'
21/01340/FUL	Brewers Arms Lower Dingle	Re-submission of planning application 20/01000/FUL for the refurbishment of existing terrace with decking board of 10 square metres in area and 50cm in height.

The following responses were agreed:

21/01385/HP, 21/01340/FUL – ‘The Parish Council has no objection to the application’.

21/01432/HP - ‘The Parish Council cannot see what is being gained by creating a new access. One off road vehicle space would be gained but one on road vehicle space would be lost. On road space is in short supply in West Malvern and any reduction should be resisted. A greater use of space would be achieved if the current off road parking area was enlarged, and the current entrance slightly widened if necessary.’

101/21 Playing Fields and Open Spaces

i. Update on Playground Improvements: A revised quotation and layout had been received from Mant Leisure. The Clerk was to gain further quotations.

The Clerk had arranged a meeting later this week with representatives from Malvern Town Council to discuss the division of S106 funding from the Broadlands Drive development.

The 4 way springer had broken and replacement parts were to be sourced.

ii. To review access to playing fields following request from Madresfield Estate: Madresfield Estate had reported problems with off road bikers accessing the wood beyond the playing fields and causing damage. Due to the numerous access points from the playing fields, gates or fencing options were not feasible. The situation was to be monitored.

102/21 Allotments & Community Woodland

The hedges and undergrowth bordering the track to the playing fields was to be cut.

103/21 Highways & Footpaths

The Clerk confirmed that Madresfield Estate had granted permission for the permissive path across the bluebell field to be strimmed, however the contractor was unable to fulfill the work due to the thickness of bracken. In future years it would be strimmed in July before full growth was achieved.

104/21 Finance

To consider payment of invoices presented: The following payments were made between meetings and were ratified here:

From/Due to	Date	Amount	Details
J Burford	31/07	£120.00	Village Handyman (July)
British Gas Ltd	-	£674.04	PAYE (Apr-Jun)
DA Sharp	12/07	£355.35	Clerk's Fees 35hrs (Gross £444.15 SP17)
Total		£1,149.39	

The following payments were approved:

From/Due to	Date	Amount	Details
J Burford	31/08	£96.00	Village Handyman (August)
Water Plus Limited	04/09	£78.68	Allotment Water Charges
West Malvern Allotment Association	-	£182.00	NSALG Membership 52 x £3.50
Go Greener Ltd	27/08	£240.00	Allotment Skip
JMart	10/09	£35.91	9m Chain for allotment security
DA Sharp	13/09	£355.35	Clerk's Fees 35hrs (Gross £444.15 SP17)
Total		£987.94	

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

Savings Account B/F	£14,550.86
Savings Account C/F	£14,550.86

Community Account B/F	£16,837.19
August Payments	-£1,149.39
September Payments	-£987.94
Community Account C/F	£14,699.86

105/21 Correspondence***To consider the following correspondence previously circulated:***

FROM	* email	SUBJECT
West Mercia PCC	*	West Mercia Police's Local Policing Charter
SWDPR	*	Parish and Town Council Newsletter July 2021
West Mercia PCC	*	Safer West Mercia Plan
Boundary Commission	*	Ward boundaries for Malvern Hills District Council
Madresfield Estate	*	Off Road Bikers
WCC	*	Road Closures
Citizens Advice	*	Invitation to CASW's 2021 AGM
CPRE	*	Worcestershire Annual Newsletter

106/21 Councillors' items for Report

Complaints had been made over the brightness of the car park lighting at West Malvern Club. Chair was to investigate.

107/21 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 11th October 2021 in the main village hall commencing at 8:00pm.

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