

## MALVERN WELLS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Malvern Wells Parish Council duly convened and held in The Village Hall, Wells Road, Malvern Wells **on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>**

**February, 2020** commencing at 7 pm.

**Present:** Councillor J Smethurst (Chairman)

**Councillors:** N Chatten, B Knibb, J Black, M Dyde, G Turrell, H Burrage, T O'Donnell, C O' Donnell, P Stanier,

**Apologies for absence:** K Wagstaff, H Burrage, County Councillor Mrs L Hodgson, J Baker

**In attendance:** David Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)  
(from 7.35pm)

- 98/19      Declarations of Interest**  
**a) Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests:** No changes were necessary.  
**b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.** None were declared.  
**c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature:** None were declared.
- 99/19      To Consider Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011):** There were none.
- 100/19     Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26<sup>h</sup> January, 2020**  
  
The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 had been previously circulated. The minutes were **unanimously approved** as a correct record of that meeting and were signed as such by the Chairman.
- 101/19     Matters arising from the Parish Council minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2020.**  
There were none
- 102/19     Planning Applications**  
  
**20/00103HP 31 Assarts Lane Malvern WR14 4JR- Erection of a two-storey side extension- Members raised no objections to this application**  
  
**20/00121HP Veryan 116 Wells Road Malvern WR14 4JH- Conversion and extension of existing dormer bungalow to form two-storey dwelling and erection of detached carport. -Members raised no objections to this application**

## 20/00063FUL Former Malvern Wells Station Yard Peachfield Road Malvern

### **Proposed light industrial units and associated parking**

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow several parishioners to speak on these proposals and it was noted that there had been substantial number of comments about the plans posted on the District Council's website.

Whilst the Parish Council (PC) was broadly supportive of this application Members would like to see the following planning conditions attached to any approval which may be granted

1 - **Hours of operation**:- In view of the proximity of nearby residencies the hours of operation for all building works and on site activity should be limited to between the hours of 0830 and 17 00 Monday to Friday; and 0830 to 13 00 on Saturdays. No such works should be allowed on Sundays

2-**Drainage**: The PC fully endorses the comments made by Rail track in their letter dated 11th February, and an acceptable drainage scheme should be designed to meet their concerns before any decision on the application is considered

3-**Increase in traffic volumes**: The PC supports the request that the site access, at its junction with Peachfield Road, is subjected to a traffic and pedestrian safety review, based revised predicted traffic flows associated with the proposed development.

4- **Planning Committee consideration**: - In view of the scale of the proposed development, the PC requests that the plans are called in for consideration by the MHDC Planning Committee rather than them being dealt with under officer delegation.

### **103/19 Consultation on extension of proposed extension of the 40-mph speed limit on the A449 from Chances pitch to the Junction with the A4101**

Mr Charlie Long gave details of a proposal to extend the 40mph speed limit on the A449 from Chances pitch to the junction with the A4401. Whilst Members were supportive of the proposal it was noted that the stretch of road in question was located outside the Parish Council's boundary.

### **104/19 Reports from working groups**

(a) **Gas lamps working group**. There had been no meeting of the working group since the previous Council meeting. Sight Designs had been informed of the damage to the glass on some of the lamps located on the Wells Road. In response to a question the clerk advised that an amount of £10k had been included in the Council's current budget to allow for the repainting of the lamps. Members were asked to report any faults which they noticed with the lanterns directly to the Clerk, who would then raise any issues that had arisen with the gas lamps maintenance contractors -Sight Designs. Members were reminded that the maintenance contract was due for renewal in May 2021. The working group would continue to consider

the scope for the potential installation of new gas lamps on the Wells Road.

**(b) Communications Working Group**

There had been some discussion, at the previous Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting, regarding the costs of production of the half-yearly Wells News magazine. Following consultation with residents it was agreed to continue with printing of the magazine in hard copy as a significant number of requests for a printed copy, rather than an electronic version, had been received.

The Communications working group were tasked to review the magazine delivery process and the associated costs prior to the production of the 2020 Summer edition

**(c) Open Spaces Working Group**

Work on the extension of the Assarts Road play area fencing had now been completed. A budget of £2.5k had been set aside to pay for new items of play equipment which would be provided to meet the needs of under school age children and those with special needs. Due to the current waterlogging of the play area site the installation of new equipment had been deferred to a later date.

The Council's solicitors, Kidwells, had sent in a schedule of the steps that would be required to enable the Council to register title for the current waste land, at the rear of Cherry Tree Drive and Mulberry Drive, for use as a community asset. Kidwells had been requested to estimate the costs of the work involved so that a fee cap could be negotiated and agreed with them.

**(d) Events Working Group**

Ian Burrage- Chairman of the working group had submitted the following report: -

"The Working Group met on Tuesday 14 January.

The meeting concentrated on those matters involving external third parties.

It was decided that as the pizzas had been so well received last year, they should be invited to attend the fete for 2020 along with Friday Beer and the usual Ice Cream provider. Since that meeting all three have agreed to attend and to make a payment to the Parish Council of 10% of their takings. In 2019 these payments amounted to £86, although nothing was requested from the Pizza provider as his attendance was only agreed at the very last minute due to the inability of the BBQ provider to attend.

The meeting also decided that the Bouncy Castle, the Swing Chair and the Ponies should be provided for the children. The ten picnic tables provided in 2019 proved very popular and useful. These should again be provided. The usual generator and toilet facilities, and the first aid assistance, will also be required. In total these facilities will cost in the order of £1,500 but in 2019

the cost of the amusements for children was offset by income for the using of the amusements of £321. All these facilities will be booked as soon as the budget for the 2020 Fete has been agreed.

The finances of the Fete have benefitted in previous years from District and County Councillor Grants. Last year budgetary restrictions precluded the District Councillors from making their usual grants. The County Councillor very kindly again in 2019 made a grant of £1,000.

The Terms of Reference for the Working Group include "*The Working Group would require the approval of the Parish Council prior to incurring any cost in its name (in practice this would mean working inside the annual budget for Events as set aside by the Council).*"

- (e) **Neighbourhood Plan Working Group** Consultation Events were continuing at locations throughout the Parish and work was continuing to update the evidence base supporting the compilation of the Draft Plan, focusing on the major policy issues contained within it prior to the public referendum. The draft plan had been sent to MHDC for an initial screening and Peter Hamilton our planning consultant was working through the issues which had been raised during that process
- (f) **Cemetery Working Group.** There was nothing to report. The working group would be meeting to review Cemetery Management Procedures during the course of the next few weeks.

#### **105/19 Chairman's communications**

- (a) A Parishioner had reported that she had been distressed by an unspecified noise nuisance at her property. Officers from the South Worcestershire Regulatory services team had visited the complainant's property to investigate the matter but could not find any issues or problems which might have been causing the disturbance
- (b) **Wells Close car parking.** A resident had asked if additional car parking could be provided on the grass verges in the proximity of Wells Close. The Clerk advised that this request would be sent to the relevant team at Worcestershire County Council for consideration.
- (c) **Assarts Road new planting scheme.** The agreed planting scheme had now been completed by the AONB contractors in accordance with the feed-back received from residents. The field looks more open but the good thing about planting late in the growing season is that the leaves and shoots from the planting would not take too long to materialise
- (d) **Trial composting scheme.** Steve Maund, the Council's outdoor Contractor agreed to lead a trial composting scheme for local residents and school children interested in studying such a scheme for educational purposes.

**106/19 Finance. The following accounts were approved for payment:**

			Net £	VAT £	Gross £
1599	Steve Maund	Outdoor work March	1,009.72		1,009.72
1600	Martin Thomas	Cemetery work - January	347.45		347.45
1601	Playsafety Ltd	Play Area inspection	93.00	18.60	111.60
1602	Croft Castings Ltd	Jubilee Garden plaques	825.00	165.00	990.00
1603	N Power	Cemetery Electricity	38.69	1.93	40.62
1604	Upper Welland Methodist Church	NDP-Room Hire	40.00	1.93	41.93
1605	Direct 365 Online Ltd	Defibrillator pads	67.15	13.43	80.58
1606	D M Taverner	Clerk Salary January	1,715.16		1,715.16
1607	PFK Littlejohn	Audit Fee year ended 31 3 19	300.00	60.00	360.00
1608	NEST	Clerk Pension	112.00		112.00
1609	Worcestershire CALC	Chairman Training	40.00		40.00
1610	First Paige Worcester	NDP Printing	55.20		55.20
1611	Amazon	Office Printer/Scanner	199.01	39.31	238.32
1612	First Paige Worcester	NDP Printing	84.30		84.30
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		<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,926.68</b>	<b>300.20</b>	<b>5,226.88</b>

**107/19 Report of Staffing Committee**

Following the Clerk's Annual performance Review. The Staffing Committee recommended the following resolution for approval.

**“That the Clerk of the Council, David Taverner, be awarded an annual pay award of 2% (in line with the offered but not yet finalised National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay award), and this should be authorised to take place as from 1st April 2020 following his satisfactory Performance Review for the year 2019-2020.”**

This Resolution was **unanimously approved** by the Council.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm

Signed as approved..... Chairman 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020