

# **Malvern Wells Parish Council**

## **Minutes of Meeting held on September 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 7:00pm via Zoom**

### **Present**

Cllrs. J Smethurst (Chair), B Knibb, C O'Donnell, C Gates, H Burrage, M Dyde, T O' Donnell, P Stanier, G Turrell

### **In Attendance**

Mrs S Hart (Clerk), six members of the public

### **Residents questions and items for future consideration:**

Can the Council confirm that work on the NDP is suspended? This will be dealt with at Agenda item 8.

What is the review process? This will be dealt with at Agenda item 8.

What criteria will see work on the NDP commence? This will be dealt with at Agenda item 8.

What help can Woodfarm residents give to support the NDP group? This will be dealt with at Agenda item 8.

Does Council know what is going on in the field by Hornyold Wood – there seem to be construction preparations? No

Does anyone know who owns Hornyold Wood? No

How does the Parish Council seek to improve Communications with residents? This is something that the Communications Working Group are considering.

Is the Council aware of the development in Hanley Swan? Yes, the Council is aware but is not a statutory consultee. Members of the public can also respond.

Does Council consider Annex A of the July meeting minutes to be satisfactory? Yes

Housing survey response – does Council consider the response was good and accurate? Yes it was in line with expected responses for this type of survey.

Was all the work done by Carly Tinkler (as referenced in the NDP accounts) related to the NDP? Yes.

Does the Council receive records of Consultants meetings? No.

Would Council be surprised to know a Consultant was helping someone with a planning application on behalf of the Council? Yes

### **1. Apologies:**

#### **To consider acceptance of apologies for absence from Councillors:**

Cllrs J Black, K Wagstaff - Accepted

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

**a) Register of Interests: there were none.** Cllr T O'Donnell was reminded to amend her address.

**b) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: there were none.**

**c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature: there were none.**

**d) Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation: there were none.**

### 3. Appointments

- a) Cllr C O'Donnell was elected as chair.
- b) Mr Dan Preece was co-opted to the Councillor vacancy.

### 4. Minutes

#### To consider for adoption the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on:

These were amended for accuracy and will be signed by the chairman at a date convenient to the Chair and Clerk whilst observing social distancing guidelines.

### 5. Progress reports and other matters arising from these minutes:

- a) It was clarified that the Environment Working Group would still be able to call on the services of the parish Lengthsman, in liaison with the Clerk, for any remedial works identified by the group.
- b) Renaming the Environment Working Group was raised as an issue and put forward to a future agenda.

### 6. Finance

#### The following fees and invoices were presented and agreed for payment:

09/07/2020	Water Plus	Water Meter Cemetery	2.61
01/08/2020	Water Plus	Water Meter Cemetery	25.51
01/08/2020	Water Plus	Water Meter Cemetery	30.72
01/04/2020	WCALC	Annual Renewal	1,163.29
30/06/2020	British Gas	Gas lamps fuel	1,540.66
05/03/2020	County Building Supplies	Engine oil - cemetery	34.08
31/08/2020	Print Plus	Wells News Summer 2020	2,744.00
11/09/2020	Npower	Loo electricity cemetery	82.97
20/09/2020	Steve Maund	Outdoor work Sep20	871.36
20/09/2020	Steve Maund	Mower fuel - Sep20	30.57
29/08/2020	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Fee	40.00
29/08/2020	BT Wi Fi	Monthly fee Aug20	15.00
13/09/2020	Zoom	Monthly subscription Sep20	14.39
23/09/2020	PKF Littlejohn	Extrenal Audit 2020	480.00
21/09/2020	British Gas	Gas Lamps Fuel	1,540.66
23/09/2020	Michelle Alexander	Cemetery Contract payment	371.25
11/09/2020	Carolyn Aynsworth	Honrarium Wells News Editing	200.00
01/10/2020	MHDC	Refuse collection - cemetery	59.86
22/09/2020	Martin Thomas	Outdoor work Aug and September 20	222.10
30/09/2020	Malvern Tree Services	Damaged Tree removal at cemetery	270.00
22/07/2020	David Taverner	Clerk phone bill July 20	164.78
21/08/2020	Steve Maund	Outdoor work Aug20	746.88
04/06/2019	WCALC	Cllr Training M Dyde	30.00
11/02/2020	WCALC	Training M Alexander Cemetery ICCM	120.00
30/09/2020	Sarah Hart	Clerk salary Sep20	1,171.33
29/09/2020	Collett Accountancy	Payroll Preparation, Yr End, Final salary	735.99

7. The following policies were approved for content.

#### **Grievance; Disciplinary; Equal Opportunities; Health and Safety**

There are some minor alterations to be made regarding review dates and version control. This will be discussed by email and carried to a future agenda if required.

### 8. Recommendations to Council

#### a) Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group

There are currently not enough members of the NDP Working Group for the NDP to continue. The Council approved the proposal to put the Neighbourhood Development Plan on hold (to include two-monthly reviews) so that a new Chair and potential new members for the group are found.

## **9. Committee and Working Group Reports to Council**

### **a) Planning Committee Report:**

i. It was noted that there were no planning applications to consider at the meeting. The Committee reviewed the Government Consultation for Planning Reform and answered questions to form a response. It was noted that the nature of the questionnaire made it difficult to give adequate responses. There was a lack of information and the questions were limited. The clerk will write up the response and submit. It was also agreed to send a letter to CALC with feedback on the questionnaire – to forward to NALC with a view to giving representation to Parliament.

ii. It was noted that the Council's comments on application 20/00822/HP 3 Holywell Road, had resulted in the Enforcement team investigating previous work undertaken without planning permission.

## **10. District/County Councillor Reports:**

See Annex A - it was noted that there had already been at least eight people interested in the Good Neighbour Scheme.

## **11. Any other matters to report or for future consideration:**

- The weather and Covid have restricted progress on the playground in Assarts Road.
- The Village Hall is closed for redecoration. Their maximum occupancy is 25 and they have a QR code.
- The Christmas Carol service is not viable due to the rule of 6.
- The Jubilee Garden is awaiting installation of the new sign.
- There is a possibility of Worcestershire becoming a Unitary authority with a North South divide.
- Residents can report overgrown hedges to the Clerk.
- The Clerk had found the missing name badges and will forward on to Councillors.

## **12. Future Council meetings**

The next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday October 28<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9:09pm.

## Annex A

### District Council Report Sept 2020; Cllr Mark Dyde

The council has moved to a “crowd funding” platform to help local groups looking to fund good causes. The platform is called Spacehive and allows community to groups to “match fund” their fund raising with district council funds. To donate or find out more about projects needing funding visit:

[www.spacehive.com/profile/malvernhillsdistrictcouncil](http://www.spacehive.com/profile/malvernhillsdistrictcouncil)

Anyone who wants more information about the People Make Places Fund or would be interested in adding their own project to the platform, should email [communityservices@malvernhills.gov.uk](mailto:communityservices@malvernhills.gov.uk).

MHDC is currently running it’s residents survey via the following link:

[www.malvernhills.gov.uk/performance](http://www.malvernhills.gov.uk/performance)

The deadline is: midnight on Sunday, 4 October.

Unemployment has risen to 5.0% in the MHDC area (compared to 4.8% in June). This compares with 5.4% unemployment in Worcestershire and 6.5% in England.

More than £440,000 has been given to councils across Worcestershire to continue supporting rough sleepers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The money comes from the Government’s Next Steps Accommodation Programme, which is part of the national strategy to end rough sleeping for good. Funding will be used to continue providing B&B and hotel accommodation until March next year. Help will also be given to people to find a permanent home in the private rented sector. There will also be extra money to provide emergency cold weather shelters for rough sleepers this winter.

Nationally the EU settlement scheme has been in place to help EU citizens remain in the UK after Brexit. More than 3.9million applications have been made to the scheme (people have until 30 June 2021 to apply). Settled status is granted to people living in the UK before December 31, 2020 for five continuous years. Pre-settled status is granted to people living in the UK before 31 December 2020, without five years continuous residence. The rights of both groups are virtually the same, but people with settled status can stay in the UK as long as they like and apply for British Citizenship. Those with pre-settled status can apply to convert their status to settled once they have five years continuous residence. In Malvern Hills District, as of 30 June 2020, 990 applications have been made, 940 have been completed with 660 people being given settled status and 270 pre-settled status. The majority of applications have come from Polish (320), Romanian (160), Bulgarian (60) and Portuguese (50) nationals

The South Worcestershire Development Plan Review Parish and Town Council Briefing, is on Wednesday 7 October 2020 6:00pm-7:30pm. The SWDP will be delayed (as yet to an undetermined time) due to the pandemic. On top of this there have been a number of changes to the planning system proposed by government. These changes are in a consultation phase and representations are being made at various levels. In Worcesetershire, a number of objections have been raised based mainly around the number of houses proposed and the loss of local input to planning applications.

Central government has also asked local councils to consider devolution proposals that would see MHDC being “absorbed” into a more unitary system (as in Herefordshire). There is resistance to this from MHDC and also by other councils and the Local Government Association is canvassing members on their views to consolidate concerns.

The Splash refurbishment continues apace and the aim is to have it open again by the end of January. The next leisure project will be the refurbishment of Priory Park. Plans for the theatre have been “put on ice” for the moment.

## MHT Report

It's been mostly business as usual at the Trust. Visitor numbers have been higher this year but the problems we saw earlier in the season seem to have abated. The emergency committee formed in March to cope with special conditions relating to the pandemic has now been mothballed and the normal committees have restarted (by video conference). A special board meeting was held last week where trustees voted to have an external investigation undertaken into the running of the trust. This is in response to ongoing complaints from one of the Trustees (going back before the current board was installed). A sub-committee will be meeting to propose terms of reference for the investigation.

## Covid 19 Support Group Report

The group has now ended as a formal entity although we are looking into starting a “good neighbour” scheme using the volunteers who want to continue helping. To initiate this, there will be a Zoom meeting involving interested parties (including Age UK, and the church) so if any parish councillors are keen to be involved please let me know.