

MALVERN WELLS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Malvern Wells Parish Council duly convened and held in
The Village Hall, Wells Road on Wednesday, 26th January 2011 commencing at
7.30pm

Present: Councillors K Wagstaff (Chairman)
Mrs A Bradshaw Mrs H Burrage
Mrs A Cheeseman T Henley
A Hull N Johnson
B J Knibb
M Victory

In attendance: D Cllr C Cheeseman, WCCllr S Brown
and Mr D M Taverner (Clerk)

Apologies noted: Cllr J Black, Cllr P Buchanan, Cllr C O' Donnell

01/11 Declarations of Interest for:-

a) the Meeting: None recorded
b) any Changes to be notified to the Registers of Interests and Gifts & Hospitality: No changes were necessary.

02/11 Closure of the Meeting to allow Parishioners Present to speak on any Matter on the agenda

No Parishioners were present at the meeting.

03/11 To receive a report from the local policing team

PC Steve smith and his team had tendered their apologies for being unable to attend the meeting due to operational reasons.

04/11 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council held on 24th November, 2010 having been previously circulated were **approved** and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

05/11 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising

06/11 To receive the Reports of the following Council Committees/Chairmen:

- (a) Environmental Working Group:** Cllr Cheseman presented the previously circulated report of the meeting held on 11th January, 2011.
- (b) Planning Committee:** Cllr Hull presented the previously circulated report of the meeting held on 12th January, 2011.
- (c) Finance and General Purposes Committee:** Cllr Johnson presented the previously circulated report of the meeting held on 20th January, 2011 with particular reference to the numerous recommendations contained therein. It was noted that the Cllr Johnson and the Clerk were to meet to review the Council's Risk Register and Schedule of Insurances. Further reports on these subjects would be made to the Finance and General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 28th April, 2011

The reports and recommendations contained in these reports were **accepted and approved** by the Council

At this point in the meeting the Chairman proposed a change to the scheduled agenda to allow for the consideration of item 8 (the review of winter gritting) and item 10a (report of the County Councillor) to be taken together. This proposition was unanimously supported.

7/11 Review of winter gritting and report of County Councillor and Review

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had previously submitted details of the priority locations where requests for grit bins had been made. Cllr Brown had been closely monitoring the effectiveness of the main gritting runs and snow clearance activity during the severe period of winter weather that had occurred around Christmas and the New Year.

Cllr Brown also advised that he had been in regular contact with the Council's Highways team to ensure that grit bins throughout the area had been properly maintained and replenished as necessary. The Clerk informed Members that the Council's outdoor worker had also been asked to report on the grit levels in the bins on a regular basis. Reports concerning damaged bins had been sent to the County Council for attention.

Following requests from Members, the Clerk advised that he would circulate a copy of the latest list showing where grit bins had been requested. Members were asked to add to or update the list as necessary for onward transmission to the County Council

Cllr Brown gave an outline on the anticipated budget pressures that were likely to be faced by the County Council in the years ahead. The impact of cuts in Central Government funding would result in the need for identification of budget savings in the order of £45m. This would be the equivalent of a 15 per cent reduction against the County Council's annual budget between 2011 and 2014. It was inevitable that this would result in cuts to front line services.

8/11 Report of District Councillor

Cllr Cheeseman reported that at the District Council would be freezing its council tax demand for the coming financial year. The government has told authorities who do this that they can expect a council tax freeze grant. In MHDC's case this should be worth about £100K. This means MHDC's band D council tax demand will remain unchanged at £132.33 - currently the 30th lowest out of the 204 district councils in England.

The District Council's Central Government Grant Settlement would mean that spending cuts totalling 26.8% over two years would need to be identified against the District Council's current budgets.

Cllr Cheeseman advised that he had been to view the refurbished gas lamps in Rosebank Gardens and had been very impressed with the results of the trial that had been undertaken.

The change of use to a Spar Convenience Store at 157 Wells Road was likely to be given approval although it had been noted that the Parish Council had asked for it to be a condition of the planning approval that deliveries would be limited to normal shop opening hours.

Cllr Cheeseman also reported that negotiations over the letting of the St Anne's Well cafe contract were progressing and that the Malvern Hills Conservators were carrying out a review of their car parking charges.

9/11 Gas Lamp Maintenance agreement

On behalf of the Gas Lamps working group Cllr Burrage gave a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the latest developments surrounding the planned refurbishment of the gas lamps within the Parish. This presentation included details of the proposed Eco Light and Gas and Reflection (ELGAR) upgrade proposed by Sight Designs Ltd.

Cllr Burrage drew attention to the fact that significant progress had been made on the issue of funding support for the project from Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC). MHDC had now made an offer to support 95% of the projected renovation costs, together with the costs of obtaining necessary listed building/ conservation area approvals for the works.

It was anticipated that the renovation project for the 48 lamps within the parish would see five lamps refurbished during each of the months April to June, a further 15 in July and the final 18 during August.

The ongoing maintenance of the lamps during that period would continue to be provided by the existing contractors and the current 50% grant funding support from MHDC would continue until all the refurbishment works had been completed.

Following the completion of the refurbishment, it was anticipated that ongoing maintenance of the lamps would be provided by Sight Design Ltd. The Company had provided a quotation which indicated that the annual cost for each refurbished lamp would be an estimated £80. This would result in a saving of more than 50% against the current maintenance costs.

The refurbished lamps were likely to use only some 20% of the current gas consumption and not only would substantial cost savings arise, but this would also help in vastly reducing the carbon footprint of the current lamps.

A quotation of £55K for the refurbishment of the lamps had been received from Sight Designs and the application of the 95% grant from MHDC would leave the Parish Council with a relatively small deficit of £2.7K which could be funded from within the current approved budget.

Based on the figures provided it was anticipated revenue saving of £4k would be achieved in respect of annual maintenance costs, once the renovation works had been completed.

In concluding the presentation Cllr Burrage submitted the following **proposal** for consideration by the Parish Council;-

That MWPC will accept the MHDC offer of grants to fund:-

- *95% of the projected and any additional costs of the ELGAR renovation of the forty eight MWPC gas lamps, in accordance with payment terms to be negotiated*
- *The continuation of the 50% grant to support current maintenance works and gas supply costs until the ELGAR renovation of all of the forty eight MWPC gas lamps has been completed.*

Cllr Knibb spoke to support and **second the proposal**. Cllr Knibb remarked that he had viewed the refurbished gas lamps, which had been trialled in Rosebank Gardens, and had been impressed with the trial results and the level of illumination provided by the upgraded lamps.

It was unanimously **resolved** that the Council should support the proposal, set out above, subject to the satisfactory completion of negotiations with MHDC and the agreement of a contract with Sight Designs Ltd for the renovation and ongoing maintenance works .

On behalf of the Parish Council the Chairman thanked Cllr Burrage for the excellent and informative presentation she had given.

10/11 Chairman's Communications

The Chairman drew Members attention to the Council's Policy for dealing with press and media communications

If a Member or employee receives an approach or enquiry from the media about any matter relating to the Parish Council business then it should be referred, in the first instance, to the Clerk. A decision will then be made by the Clerk and/or Chairman, in consultation with other Members where necessary, about the format and content of any response.

Press releases and statements should be prepared by the Clerk and/or Chairman in association with other Members as required, and will normally be restricted to matters that have been debated and agreed by the Parish Council.

Nothing in these guidelines is to be interpreted as preventing, or attempting to prevent, a Member from expressing a personal opinion through the media, for example by writing to a newspaper or posting an item on an internet site. Members however should make it clear that any views expressed, where they differ from Council Policy, are presented as their own personal views.

Members should take care not to misrepresent and/or bring the Parish Council into disrepute, and must bear in mind their responsibilities under the Local Government Code of Conduct.

11/11 Report of representatives on other bodies.

- (a) Malvern Wells Village Hall Management Committee** – Cllr Burrage drew attention to the Christmas Carol Concert that had been held in the Village Hall on Friday 17th December. The event had gone well and had been reasonably well attended. The current organisers of the concert had given notice that they wished to stand down and Cllr Burrage had expressed an interest in helping to organise the event in 2011
- (b) AONB: Joint Advisory Committee** – Cllr Black had submitted his apologies for the meeting and there was no report to make
- (c) Malvern Hills CAB** - Cllr Johnson reported that no meeting had taken place since the last Parish Council meeting. The Council's annual grant to the CAB was due to be paid. The Clerk advised that there was provision of £1,000 in the current budget for this contribution and he would arrange for the payment to be made.
- (d) The Wyche Institute** – Cllr Bradshaw reported that no meeting had taken place since the previous Parish Council Meeting
- (e) MH District Community Policing Matters** – Cllr Knibb reported that no meeting had taken place since the previous Parish Council Meeting
- (f) CPRE-** Cllr Mrs Cheeseman reported that there had been no meeting since the previous Parish Council Meeting
- (g) Three Counties Showground Liaison group-** Cllr Mrs Cheeseman reported that there had been no meeting since the previous Parish Council meeting. Nick Vincent – the Chief Executive of the Three Counties Showground (TCS) had been invited to attend the Council's Annual Parish Meeting.

12/11 Cemetery Matters

The Clerk reported that a meeting of the Cemetery working group would be called to review cover arrangements for interments at the Cemetery and to review the existing fee structure. A report would be made to the March meeting of the Parish Council.

13/11 Financial Matters

(a) To set the Precept for 2011/12: Following discussion and consideration of the papers distributed for , and amended at, the F & GP Committee meeting on 20th January members **unanimously resolved** to set a precept against MHDC of £72,400 for the financial year 2011/12. This would be an increase of 2% over the 2010/11figure.

(b) Payment of Accounts: Members **approved** the payments of accounts as in the presented schedule **(Appendix 1)**.

There being no other business the meeting Closed at 9 45 pm

K. WAGSTAFF

-----**(Chairman)**
(26th January,2011)