

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 28th September, 2011 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Mrs H Burrage (Chair)
A Hull Mrs C O'Donnell
B J Knibb P Buchanan
K Wagstaff (from 7 45pm)
Mrs A Bradshaw M Victory

In attendance: District Cllr C Cheeseman
D M Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

95/11 Apologies noted: County Cllr S Brown, Malvern Policing Team,
Cllrs Mrs A Cheeseman, J Black and N Johnson

96/11 Declarations of Interest for the meeting and any changes to be notified for the Registers of Interests and Gifts & Hospitality:

Cllr Black had notified the Council of that he was now working in a voluntary capacity for Sight Designs Ltd / Transitions Malvern in connection with the gas lamps refurbishment project. This would be unpaid work and postdates all the discussions relating to the final contract for the refurbishment works being awarded.

The Clerk advised that the amendment to Cllr Black's declaration of interests form, once signed, would be lodged with Malvern Hills District Council.

It was also agreed that whilst Cllr Black's involvement with the Gas Lamps working group should continue, he would relinquish the Chairmanship of the group and a new Chairman would be elected at the next meeting of the Council.

97/11 Closure of the Meeting to allow Parishioners Present to speak on any Matter on the agenda

There were no questions from parishioners.

98/11 Policing Report

Due to operational reasons the Policing team had presented their apologies for being unable to attend the meeting.

99/11 Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27th July, 2011 were unanimously **approved** by Members and signed by the Chair as a correct record of that meeting.

100/11 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda for the meeting.

101/11 South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP). The Clerk had previously circulated electronic copies of the SWDP consultation document to Members. Copies of the full consultation booklet were available from the Clerk on request.

Sites adjoining the former Abbey College Playing Field near Rothwell Road (SWDP ref 13/4 – 35 new properties) and at Upper Welland Road (SWDP ref 13/3- 24 new properties) had been identified by the planners as preferred development sites within the Parish.

The Clerk advised that the period for the parish to make its response to the consultation runs until Friday 18th November.

A series of drop in consultation road shows had been set up across the County. Malvern Hills District Council would be hosting one of these events at Priory Lodge, Malvern on 12th October between 2pm – 8 pm.

Malvern Town Council had also invited Parish Council representatives to a public meeting on the proposals to be held on 24th October in the Forum Theatre in Malvern.

It was agreed that, if it was found to be necessary, the Parish should engage specialist planning consultants to help not only formulate the response to the consultation, but also to lead on the development of a Parish Neighbourhood plan.

Further consideration would be given to the consultation response at the next meeting of the Council once Members had taken the opportunity to study the consultation documentation and associated information.

102/11 Malvern Hills District Council – Review of Car parking Service

Cllr Burrage referred members to the draft response made by the Clerk in respect of the review by the District Council of its parking services.

Members agreed some amendments to the draft reply to emphasise the need for enhanced short term parking provision close to local businesses, and to help ease some of the congestion caused by on street car parking

Whilst Members recognised that car parking income was a significant part of the Council's overall revenue budget, it was felt that there is a need to support local businesses and local residents during these harsh economic times and this should be at the forefront of considerations when the issue of car parking charges is considered. The Parish Council would not want to see visitors to the town centre dis-incentivised as a result of disproportionate increases in car parking charges

103/11 Reports of Committees / Committee Chairmen

(a) Report of the Planning Committee held on 6th September, 2011

Cllr Buchanan presented the report of the Planning Committee which had been held on 6th July. This report was noted and **accepted** by the Council

104/11 Chairman's Communications

A Consultation document detailing proposed changes to the present constituency parliamentary boundaries had been received. If the proposals went ahead the Parish would be transferred to the new Evesham constituency, rather than the new Malvern & Ledbury constituency. The Parish Council was unanimous in rejecting the notion of being the only Malvern Ward to be separated from the other six within the Worcestershire County Administrative area. This would result in a loss of the sense of community identity for local residents. The Clerk was asked to formulate a response to the consultation document on this basis for review by Members prior to the next Council meeting.

105/11 Remembrance Sunday preparations

The Clerk advised that preparations for the annual Remembrance Service on 13th November were well in hand. The relevant road closure notice had been applied for and the local policing team had agreed to be present to ensure local traffic is properly controlled. The Rev Steve Martin had agreed to officiate at the Service and the Scouts would be attending to lead the parade from the Village Hall to the War Memorial.

106/11 Gas Lamps Refurbishment project

Cllr Black had submitted a written update report on progress with the gas lamps refurbishment project.

The Parish had chosen to be the last in the queue for the refurbishment of its lamps and works on the Town Council and the West Malvern's lamps was proceeding.

Example of the refurbished lamps back on their posts could be seen at various locations in Malvern Town and Malvern Link

All of the Windsor pattern lamps have been removed, stripped, straightened, and repaired where needed, repainted and re-glazed and should be back on their posts by mid October.

The square Maxilla lamps will be removed to go into the refurbishment process to be followed by the older Foster & Pullen Lamps, which are proving to be more difficult to repair.

As with many refurbishment projects, problems have appeared which were not expected and there has been some time slippage but the predicted finish date for all of the lamps is the end of October.

The standard of the work being carried out is very good, with the restoration work on the lamp structure being both thorough and sympathetic. The improved reflector systems being installed are casting the light in the most useful directions (i.e. along the pavement rather than into adjacent gardens and commons). A lot of work on optimising the gas pressure, gas mixing and the burner design has led to a piece of kit which is producing the maximum amount of light from a minimum usage of gas. This is pleasing as it fulfils the goal the Gas Lamp Working Group set for itself at its inception.

The first 'electric' gas lamp in Watery Lane has had its lantern removed and has had the first two production LED 'mantles' installed on a mock burner mounting. This part of the project was funded by a grant from the AONB Sustainability Fund, and has attracted much interest. Currently the lamp is being exhibited at the National Street Lighting Exhibition in Harrogate, but it will be reinstalled on its' post when it returns for all to see.

107/11 Provision of new play facilities within the Parish

The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with officers at the District Council regarding the potential release of Section 106 funding which had been earmarked for the development of recreational facilities within the Parish.

Work was continuing to identify a suitable piece of land for the development of such a project in the All Saints Ward of the Parish. An update report would be made to the next meeting of the Council.

108/11 To Receive the Reports of Representatives on other bodies:

- a) **Malvern Hills District Council** – Cllr C Cheeseman reported that structural changes were taking place to the Senior Management Team at the District Council.

A small business start up grant scheme was being promoted by the District Council. Businesses can apply for a grant of up to £500, or up to £750 if they are moving into business premises that are liable to business rates. The grant must be match-funded, pound for pound (at least), from the business's own resources.

- b) **Malvern Wells Village Hall Management Committee** – Cllr Burrage outlined details of plans for the Christmas Carol Service which was due to be held in the Village Hall on 16th December
- c) **Malvern Hills Area CALC** – Cllr Knibb advised that he and the Clerk had attended the recent CLAC area meeting where there had been a very informative presentation on the work of the County Council Highways team. Copies of the presentation slides were available from the Clerk on request

109/11 Cemetery Matters

The Clerk reported that some essential remedial works to trees in the Cemetery had been identified and that he was arranging to meet with a local tree surgeon to assess how this work should be undertaken. A report on this matter would be presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration at its meeting on 20th October.

110/11 Payment of Accounts: The under mentioned accounts were approved for payment:

Cheque			£
2841	David Taverner	Clerks Salary & Expenses -August	1,348.95
2842	Sight Designs Ltd	Gas Lamps Contract	1,741.20
2843	West Mids Air Ambulance	Fete Singer Donation	30.00
2844	Clement Keys Ltd	Annual Audit Fee	480.00
2845	County Building Supplies	Cemetery Materials	56.71
2846	NALC	Magazine Subscription	15.50
2847	Worcestershire CALC	Annual Subscription	764.21
2848	HMRC	PAYE & Nat Ins Sept Qtr	1,327.44
2849	David Taverner	Clerks Salary & Expenses - Sept	1,317.94
2850	Jim Black	Marquee Hire - Fete	25.00
2851	Brandon Hire	Toilets - Fete	108.00
2852	Arkell and Hurcombe	Remembrance Plaque	111.60
2853	Morgans Blacksmiths	Cemetery Raillings Repairs	468.00
2854	N Power	Cemetery electricity	32.35
2855	Malvern Hills DC	Election Administration	67.58
2856	Severn Trent Water	Cemetery Wate Bill	14.94
2857	PCC Wells & The Wyche	Room Hire	30.00
2858	Worcestershire CALC	Clerks Gathering	7.50
2859	Steven Maund	Outdoor Work - September	1,491.63
2860	Martin Thomas	Cemetery Work - September	470.90

The Clerk reported that the external audit of the 2010/11 accounts had now been completed satisfactorily by Clement Keys Ltd.

111/11 Co option of new Council Member

The Clerk reported that there had originally been three applications for the two vacancies which had been declared in the All Saints Ward, although one of these candidates had subsequently withdrawn their application. Statements of introduction for each person had previously been circulated to Members

One of the candidates -Mr Simon Freeman – was in attendance at the meeting and ,after being invited to do so, made a further short verbal statement of introduction for the benefit of Members.

Following due consideration of Mr Freeman’s application it was **unanimously resolved** that he should be co- opted to serve as a Member of the Parish Council. Mr Freeman then signed the relevant declaration of acceptance of office.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9 35pm.

Signed

Chairman

2nd November, 2011