

# 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 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2013** commencing at 7.30pm

**Present:**

**Councillors: -**

Mrs H Burrage (Chairman)	
Mrs A Bradshaw	S Atwell
Mrs C O' Donnell	P Buchanan
J Black	M Victory
A Hull	B J Knibb
K Wagstaff	

**In attendance: -**

David Taverner - Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

**Apologies recorded: -**

County Cllr Lucy Hodgson  
Cllrs S Freeman , K Hurst & N Johnson

**92/13**

**Declarations of Interest**

**a) Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests:** There were none

**b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature:** There were none

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

**93/13**

**To Consider Written Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011):** There were none.

**94/13**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.** The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting.

**95/13**

**Matters arising from the minutes**

***Minute 52/13 (26th June) - Possible purchase of land for provision of a Cemetery:-***

In relation to the sale of land at Chestnut Hill, members were advised that the land still remains unsold and although negotiations were continuing with a number of interested parties it was understood that there were some legal difficulties with the sale process. The vendors have no intention to sell the land other than as a single plot. The vendors' agents have already been notified of the Parish Council's interest. Further contact would be made with

the vendor's agents at the end of November to ascertain what progress was being made with the sale. Attempts were still being made to identify other parcels of land which might be suitable for an extension of the Cemetery.

### **96/13 Report of the County Councillor – Cllr L Hodgson**

Cllr Hodgson was unable to be present at the meeting but asked all Members to raise residents' awareness of the threat to withdraw bus fare subsidy from local services.

At present the county spends £3M subsidising buses across the county. 88 routes are affected. One route that is at risk is the Worcester, Upton, Malvern route which is subsidised by £1.69 per journey, the usage of this service is one of the highest, supported by a subsidy of £570K. The County Council was consulting on the issue and a consultation response document was available on both the county and parish council websites. Hard copies of the document could also be obtained from the Clerk on request.

The Clerk was asked to make a formal response to the consultation proposals on behalf of the Parish Council. County Council officers would also be travelling on the effected services to gauge the response of service users to the consultation process.

**Fruitlands estate pavements** - Cllr Hodgson had sent a list of priority areas for assessment by the County Councils footpaths team. There was a limited budget available for such repairs and Cllr Hodgson would be requesting a list of the Parish Council's main priorities in this regard.

### **97/13 Community events**

#### **Christmas Carol celebration - Friday 13th December**

Cllr Burrage reported that preparations for the Christmas carol celebration were well in hand. Volunteers were needed to help decorate the Village Hall for Christmas on Wednesday 11th December between 10am and 3pm.

**Summer Fête - 2014** – it was agreed that an informal discussion regarding the arrangements for the summer fête would be held following the conclusion of the planning committee meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> December. It was noted that there would be a need to decide on the chosen date for the fête to avoid any clashes with other local events. Consideration would also continue to be given to the appointment of a professional fête organiser to help with the planning of the event.

**Britain in Bloom - 2014** – Cllr Burrage agreed to ascertain how the Parish might effectively submit an entry into the 2014 competition.

### **98/13 Chairman's communications**

#### **(i) Malvern Wells C of E Primary School – School Crossing Patrol**

The Clerk advised that he had spoken to the County Council department responsible for the school crossing patrol service. Officers had undertaken an assessment of the need for a crossing patrol at the school. As a result of the

assessment the officers had decided that the location did not satisfy the criteria for a crossing patrol to be appointed. The Clerk was asked to contact the County Council to register the Parish Council's strong dissatisfaction with this decision.

## **(ii) Malvern Hills AONB – Request for funding**

A letter had been received from the Malvern Hills AONB setting out the cuts that had been made to their funding budget by both the District Council and Central Government.

An appeal was being made to all Worcestershire County Parish and Town Councils to ask for financial support to help part cover the AONB's income shortfall.

Following discussion, Cllr Knibb proposed that the Parish Council should make a contribution of £500 and this was seconded by Cllr O'Donnell.

By way of an amendment to the proposal Cllr Victory proposed a contribution of £800 and this was seconded by Cllr Wagstaff.

The amendment was put to the vote and **it was resolved** that the Parish council should make a contribution of £800 to the Malvern Hills AONB to help with administration costs for the financial year 2013/14.

## **99/13 Report of the Clerk on actions undertaken since the previous meeting**

### **(i) Drainage alleviation scheme for Assarts Road Playing field**

The Clerk reported that Claines Construction Ltd ,the contractors who had been appointed by the Council to undertake the suggested Phase 1 drainage scheme, had indicated additional piping works and ancillary works over and above the original scheme specified by the Council's consultants ( BWB) would be required.

The Clerk had expressed his concern at the proposed departure from the original scheme specification. Of particular concern was the fact that the contractor was now estimating that the works would cost somewhat more than had originally been envisaged when their original tender had been accepted.

It was now not possible to make a direct like for like comparison of the quotations which had been received.

The Clerk had been in contact with BWB to ask them to investigate why these changes were now being proposed and it was agreed that a meeting should be convened with the senior Managing Director of BWB to discuss the difficulties which had arisen.

Members expressed their extreme disappointment with the manner in which BWB had undertaken their consultancy role on the project to date.

Following discussion it was agreed that, as this work had not been undertaken to the council's satisfaction, a reduction should be made to the outstanding invoice

payable to BWB.

Cllr Knibb proposed that a payment of 75% of the invoice should be made and this was seconded by Cllr O'Donnell. By way of an amendment Cllr Buchanan proposed that a payment of 80% should be made and this was seconded by Cllr Victory.

On being put to the vote the amendment was carried and **it was resolved** that the outstanding payment to BWB in the sum of £1,304.60 should be reduced by an amount of 20% pending a satisfactory resolution of the existing problems with the proposed scheme.

**(ii) Update report regarding the potential development of a new play facility on Peachfield Road Common**

The Clerk advised that the Council's presentation on the potential development of a play facility on Peachfield Road Common would be considered by the Conservators Land Management Committee at its meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> December.

It was clear that members of the Conservators still have some concerns regarding the legality of the construction of a play area and it was possible that further legal work would have to be undertaken by both parties in this regard before the commencement of any such project. The Parish Council would need to be certain about what, if any, such work would need to be carried out. Further discussions on this point would take place should the need arise and a full report on such matters would be made to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

**(iii) Assarts Road Play area fencing**

Work on the Assarts Road Play area fencing would be undertaken by the contractor during the week commencing the 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**(iv) Fruitlands Green – to consider the reintroduction of Christmas Illuminations**

Quotations were being sort to restore the electricity supply to the connection point on Fruitlands Green. The preference was for a new living tree to be sited on the Green with the existing tree there being relocated to the Parish cemetery. It was now likely that work on this project would start early in the New Year.

Cllr Wagstaff asked if consideration could also be given to the possibility of a similar tree being sited in the Jubilee Fountain garden with the object of it also being illuminated in time for Christmas 2014.

**(v) Fruitlands Green – pavements condition survey**

Following the survey which had been undertaken of the poor condition of the pavements in many parts of the Fruitlands area County Cllr Hodgson had sent a report to the County Council's Highways team for their assessment with a view to remedial works being carried out. A priority ranking list would need to be sent to the County Council highlighting those areas which were in need of the most urgent repair.

(vi) **Printing of the Wells News**

Printing of the Wells News had now been completed and copies had now been distributed to the volunteer delivery team. All deliveries would be completed by the 4<sup>th</sup> December.

(vii) **Section 106 Funding application**

An application for funding had been submitted to the District Council to release funding to support the Assarts Road Drainage Scheme and the purchase of new play equipment. The Clerk was liaising with the District Council Community services team in this regard with the hope that funds could be released by the District Council early in the New Year.

**100/13 Cemetery matters**

Work had now been completed to plot new grave spaces in the new area of the cemetery to be used for interments. Quotations were to be sought for an extension of the water supply and the construction of a new pathway for this area.

**101/13 Financial matters**

**Payment of Accounts**

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

<b>Chq No</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Net £</b>	<b>VAT £</b>	<b>Gross £</b>
<b>3067</b>	Arkell and Hurcombe	Remembrance Plaques Bottrill & Read	<b>199.75</b>	<b>39.95</b>	<b>239.70</b>
<b>3068</b>	<b>**BWB consulting</b>	Drainage scheme -replacement for chq 3060	<b>1,153.75</b>	<b>230.75</b>	<b>1,384.50</b>
<b>3069</b>	Brookside Fire Services	Cemetery Fire Extinguisher Mtce	<b>38.30</b>	<b>6.86</b>	<b>45.16</b>
<b>3070</b>	Steve Maund	Grass Cutting contract second half year	<b>1,500.00</b>	-	<b>1,500.00</b>
<b>3071</b>	Steve Maund	Outdoor & Cemetery work Oct/ Nov	<b>914.60</b>	-	<b>914.60</b>
<b>3072</b>	Steve Maund	Cemetery Materials	<b>49.39</b>	<b>9.88</b>	<b>59.27</b>
<b>3073</b>	David Taverner	Clerk Salary - November	<b>1,396.77</b>		<b>1,396.77</b>
<b>3074</b>	David Taverner	Administration & Expenses - Nov	<b>139.86</b>	<b>2.86</b>	<b>142.72</b>
<b>3075</b>	Martin Thomas	Cemetery work - November	<b>266.68</b>		<b>266.68</b>

\*\*Cheque 3068 to BWB Consulting would be cancelled and replaced in accordance with the Council's resolution as set out in minute 99/13 (i)

**102/13 Date of next meeting**

The Clerk gave notice that the date of the next full meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2014.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

Approved..... Chairman

**Cllr Mrs H Burrage**

Dated 29th January, 2014