

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 24th June, 2015** commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors Mrs H Burrage (Chairman) S Freeman
M Victory N Johnson
Mrs C O'Donnell B Knibb
Mrs J Smethurst N Chatten
J Black

Apologies for absence: Councillors K Wagstaff, J Wagstaff, S Atwell
P Bennett and County Cllr Mrs Lucy Hodgson

In attendance: David Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

42/16 **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.

43/16 **To Consider Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011):** There were none.

44/16 **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th May, 2015.**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Council, held on 27th May, had been previously circulated. The minutes were **unanimously approved** as a correct record of that meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

45/16 **Matters arising from the Annual General Meeting minutes of 27th May**

There were none

46/16 **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27th May, 2015.**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 27th May, had been previously circulated. The minutes were **unanimously approved** as a correct record of that meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

47/16 **Matters arising from the Parish Council minutes of 27th May**

There were none

48/16 Reports from Council Committees & Working Groups

- (a) Cllr Chatten presented the previously circulated report of the **Planning Committee** which had been held on 3rd June, 2015. The report was **noted and accepted** by the council
- (b) **Review of working groups' terms of reference.** Cllr Burrage referred to previously circulated updated terms of reference and scope of operation for the Council's principal working groups. As there had been no meetings of the working groups since the Council's Annual General Meeting it was agreed to defer the validation of the various groups' terms of reference and scope until the 29th July Council meeting, by which time each of the working groups would have had the opportunity to meet to consider the relevant contents.

49/16 Payment of Accounts:-

The following accounts were presented for payment:-

			£	£	£
3244	Steve Maund	Outdoor Work May	1,186.90		1,186.90
3245	AON Insurance	insurance Premium 2015/16	1,911.63		1,911.63
3246	Malvern Hills District Council	Rural rate relief - shop 157 Wells Road	405.00		405.00
3247	British Gas Trading	Gas lamps Consumption - March Qtr.	1,283.88	256.78	1,540.66
3248	Worcestershire CALC	Clerk & Cllr Training	80.00	10.00	90.00
3249	Martin Thomas	Outdoor Work May	152.37		152.37
3250	Carolyn Aynsworth	Wells News Editing - Honorarium	100.00		100.00
3251	Severn Trent Water	Cemetery water Supply	50.48		50.48
3252	Steve Maund	grass cutting and lengthsman June	2,523.25		2,523.25
	TOTALS		7,693.51	266.78	7,960.29

50/16 Chairman's Communications

St Wulstans Green

- (a) The Chairman presented details of a letter received from local resident, Mr Peter Holmes, who expressed both his concerns and offered advice regarding the management of the conserved area of flora and fauna at St Wulstans Village Green.

The Clerk advised that the conserved area had actually been increased in size during the spring/early summer to encourage more growth of the natural flowers and grassland and no cutting of that area was due to be undertaken until the last week of July in accordance with the agreed Village Green management plan. The Clerk advised that he would contact the complainant to arrange a site meeting to discuss the matter.

It was agreed to refer the future management of the grassland of St Wulstans Village Green for discussion by the Play & Open Spaces Working Group

Mr John Tretheway

- (b) The Chairman advised that she had been contacted by the Malvern Gazette to make a statement on behalf of the Council on the death of the former Parish Council Chairman – John Tretheway. As well as being a Parish Councillor John had also served the Wells Ward as an elected Conservator and had been a very active member of the community in many different guises. The Parish Council had been represented at John’s funeral. It was **unanimously agreed** that a donation of £50 should be made to the Tretheway family’s chosen charity – Little Malvern Priory – in memory of John.

Retiring former Council members

- (c) Former Councillors Peter Buchanan, Arthur Hull, Mrs Anne Bradshaw and Kevin Hurst had decided not to stand for re-election to the Parish Council at the May elections. Members signed cards thanking each of them for the work which they had undertaken on behalf of the Community. In recognition of their service it was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £25 to each of their chosen charities.

Councillor training

- (d) Cllrs Smethurst and Atwell had attended CALC training events which they had found very beneficial. The Clerk had circulated details of similar events which were being planned and the Parish Council had agreed to meet the costs of such courses from within its approved training budget. Cllr Freeman advised that he had attended the Parish Conference at Worcestershire County Council on 4th June

51/16 Report from the Clerk on actions undertaken since the previous meeting

(a) **Assarts road play area – new play equipment**

Quotations for the new equipment which had been selected for purchase by the Play and Open spaces Working Group had now been received from Playdale Ltd and HAGS SMP Ltd in the sums of £25,452.60 and £25,983.00 respectively. A meeting with a third potential supplier, Wicksteed Ltd, had now taken place and the Clerk circulated illustrations of the similar types of equipment which they could provide.

It was **unanimously resolved** that Wicksteed Ltd should be given two weeks to submit a detailed quotation for the equipment which would be referred to the Play & Open Spaces group for consideration prior to the next meeting of the Parish Council on 29th July.

The Clerk advised that he was seeking a firm written commitment from Malvern Hills District Council regarding their agreement to the release of section 106 funding to support the project.

Assarts Rd Playing Field

Cllr O’Donnell mentioned that she had been approached by residents wanting to stage community gatherings on Assarts Road playing field.

The Clerk advised that the Council’s policy was such that formal permission for such events should be sought, in advance, from the Parish Council giving the time and date planned for such events and indicating the estimated number of people who would be likely to

attend. The Council's insurers would need to be notified of such events as a condition of the Council's public liability insurance. Concerns were expressed that the playing field's Covenants only allowed its use for sports events. The above matters concerning the use of the playing field were referred to the Play & Open Space Working Group to consider at their next meeting and bring recommendations to the Council.

- (b) **Jubilee Fountain update on Christmas illumination scheme** The Clerk had asked Prysmian Ltd to supply an electricity connection point at the Jubilee Fountain Garden, to which illuminations could be connected, for the decoration of a cut Christmas tree in a suitable part garden during the Christmas 2015 period. Quotations for a suitable cut tree of around 8-10 metres in height were also now being sought.
- (c) **Britain in Bloom competition 2015 entry** The Clerk advised that an entry had been made into the RHS Britain in Bloom competition for 2015. Judging was due to take place during late July. The aim would be to enhance the work which had been undertaken in 2014, culminating in the award of "level two improving" recognition. Maintenance of the garden was currently being undertaken by the council's outdoor contractors.

Further work would now be undertaken to establish a water supply to the Garden by connecting a standpipe to the Jubilee Spring water supply.

- (d) **Wells news summer edition.** Printing of the Wells News magazine was now underway and it was anticipated that delivery of the booklet would commence during the last week in June.
- (e) **Community access Defibrillators.** Agreement had been reached with the Head of the Wells Primary School for the location of a cabinet and defibrillator at the school and an electrician had been appointed to undertake the work. The electrician would require access to the school to fit the cabinet and the school had been asked to arrange a suitable time and date for the work to be completed. A second cabinet had been ordered to house a similar defibrillator at the Wyche Institute.
- (f) **Summer fete- Sunday 6th September.** The organisation of the event was continuing to progress well and the clerk advised that he had invited Harriett Baldwin MP to open the fete. Flyers advertising the event were being produced for distribution to the two local primary schools.

The events organising group would be meeting again on 30th July to continue with the planning of the fete events.

52/16 Report of District Councillor - Mrs C O'Donnell

"There have been no further meetings since our last Parish Council meeting. Next full council meeting is July 14th 2015.

Changes made to Ketch Junction

Work has been undertaken in a bid to improve the controversial layout of the Ketch roundabout.

Urgent calls had been made to suspend the work on the A4440 Southern Link Road over fears of a 'serious head-on collision' on one of the busiest routes into Malvern.

Worcestershire County Council subsequently brought forward a safety audit for the £40million scheme.

Changes include hatching out the merger lane exiting the roundabout onto Carrington Bridge, removing the straight on arrow on the right hand lane approach from the Norton roundabout and improving the circulatory markings on the roundabout.

Flying the flag for Armed Forces

The Union Flag has been raised above the Council House to pay tribute and celebrate the work of the Armed Forces. Councillor Barbara Williams, chairman of Malvern Hills District Council, led the flag raising event on Monday (22 June) as a show of honour and respect for servicemen and women.

The flag will continue to fly in the run up to Armed Forces Day on Saturday 27 June 2015.

Armed Forces Day is a great opportunity for the local community to come together to show their support and appreciation for our Armed Forces and all the good work they do.

Armed Forces day events are being held across the country this week, to commemorate and remember those in the Armed Forces who have served or are serving our country.

Thousands of people are expected to show their support for the Armed Forces Community at events across the UK.”

53/16 Report of County Councillor - Mrs Lucy Hodgson

Babcock announced to be providing support services to Worcestershire's schools and Academies

Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet today approved the recommendation of appointing Babcock International Group to deliver Learning and Achievement services to children and young people.

Learning and Achievement services are services that are offered by the county council to schools and settings to support children and young people. These services could be direct support offered to a pupil, such as educational psychology, or services that train school staff, such as specialist teaching or learning support.

The decision to commission Learning and Achievement services was approved by the county council's Cabinet in April 2014. The decision was reached because of the continuing need to improve educational standards and to reflect the changing relationships that the council has with schools. In recent years there has already been a significant shift to focus services in areas of greatest need, principally for underperforming schools, and the needs of vulnerable groups of learners. Over this period, educational outcomes have improved significantly for many young people and which is reflecting in the figure of 88% of schools being judged as good or outstanding by Ofsted. The commissioning of Learning and Achievement will enable the Council to effectively maintain its overview of improving outcomes for pupils by giving schools more responsibility and holding Babcock to account for achieving key performance targets.

Babcock is the UK's largest provider of support services to schools, academies and multi-academy trusts. They currently work with over 50 local authorities across the UK and they employ over 600 education specialists. In 2004 they

created Babcock 4S – a joint venture with Surrey County Council to develop a new approach for improving local authority education support services and school effectiveness whilst reducing costs. In 2012 they created Babcock LDP with Devon County Council to bring together quality assurance expertise in the South West to raise education outcomes and deliver effective support to schools and academies.

County Council's safeguarding children Peer Review findings published

A team of local government practitioners were invited by the Council to act as 'critical friends' to evaluate the local authority and its partners' approach to safeguarding children. The team visited the county in April to help evaluate the strengths and areas for consideration.

The team spent more than a week with senior managers, front-line staff, Councilors and a number of the Council's partner organisations to find out more about the service in order to report back. They were asked to focus on a number of key areas by the County Council. These included looking at:

- Are the right structures, systems, processes and management focus in place to deliver children's social care services moving forward?
- Are the current strategies and plans having the right impact?
- The quality of front-line practice.
- Views on corporate level support for safeguarding and partnership working, supporting the improvement of outcomes for children and families.

They also identify a number of strengths for the Council, including:

- A clear ambition, sound strategies and strong support across the whole organisation when it comes to our approach to safeguarding children.
- A committed workforce keen to make a positive difference to children and families in Worcestershire.
- The county has a number of strong and committed partners and that high-level 'buy-in' is of benefit to the Council's Children's Services.
- Appropriate decisions by the Children's Social Care Access Team are made in a timely fashion.
- Leadership at school level and officer level are impressive with examples of good practice.
- All Local Authority run residential provision for children in care is rated as either 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted
- Workforce strategy is comprehensive and focused on the right things, with incentives for newly qualified social workers.
- There are many examples of how the council's innovative approaches are having a positive impact. These include social care pods, the drive in-house social worker recruitment and the Stronger Families programme.
- Resources are prioritised and there is a commitment to address increasing financial pressures.

The County Council will focus primarily on four areas, based on the review findings. These look to strengthen our operational safeguarding practices, simplify the 'Family Front-Door' service, review and define the Early Help strategy and put in place a detailed financial plan.

Since the review, the council has already put a number of improvements in place. A Prevention and Intervention Strategy is being developed to replace the previous Early Help Strategy and there is a 'back to basics' plan to focus on making operational improvements to safeguarding practice.

Immediate improvements to Ketch Junction Following the completion of a review of the Ketch Junction audit findings, work will be carried out over the coming days to put in place a number of its recommendations.

The audit was brought forward by Worcestershire County Council following public feedback. In addition, interim traffic management arrangements were promptly put in place. These have remained in place while the audit has been completed and the findings have been reviewed by the Council, scheme designers CH2M and an independent engineering firm.

The work was timed to minimise disruption to motorists and be subject to suitable weather conditions and was carried out on a Saturday evening.

It included: Hatching out the merger lane exiting the roundabout onto Carrington Bridge;

Removal of the straight on arrow on the right hand lane approach from the Norton roundabout to the Ketch roundabout and replacing this with destination marking; Improving the circulatory markings on the roundabout.

Roads leading up to the roundabout and the roundabout itself remained open, with temporary traffic management arrangements in place to ensure the work can be safely carried out.

The Ketch Junction improvements are Phase 2 of the overall A4440 Worcester Southern Link Road project. This is one of the most significant projects of its type in Worcestershire for decades with investment of over £40m. When complete, it will improve traffic flow along one of the key routes in the county.

Get close up to Worcestershire's treasures in the county archives

Worcestershire County Councils, Worcestershire Archives and Archaeological Service are inviting residents the rare opportunity to see behind the scenes, during a special tour.

The service which houses over 12 miles of archives relating to the County, including treasures such as William Shakespeare's marriage bond, a letter written on board the Titanic and the visitor book signed by Her Majesty the Queen during her visit to the Hive in July 2012, will offer the 90 minute tour providing an opportunity for people to see areas not usually open to the public including the specially designed strong rooms and the archaeology workrooms where finds from excavations across the county and beyond are processed. Attendees will also have the chance to handle Roman pottery as well as watch conservators at work.

The tour takes place on Tuesday 14 July between 2 and 3.30pm in The Past floor, level 2, The Hive, Worcester.

Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme

At last week cabinet meeting a response to a recent motion was made. The motion asked the council to consider supporting proposals to take part in a Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme. The request was for help to house 12 families to be housed in the Malvern Area. After careful consideration the decision was taken that the cabinet could not to support this scheme due costs involved for council services as well concerns about funding from other partners including the local CCGs and the local health trust. It was agreed that the council would monitor the situation and the cabinet decision would be considered at the next full council meeting in July.

Cllr Knibb raised the issue of the dangerous state of the pavements near to 70 and 72 Fruitlands and the Cllr O' Donnell advised that she had raised the matter

with Cllr Hodgson to ask her to bring the problems to the attention of the County Council department responsible.

54/16 Report of Elected Conservator – Cllr S Freeman

Cllr Freeman reported that the Conservators had produced a first draft of the Business/Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 which together with the new Land Management Plan will form the basis of their activities over the next few years

Elections to the Board were due to be held in October.

There had been preliminary discussions regarding the potential for the installation of new gas lamps on the Malvern Common along the Wells Road. The matter would be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the Conservators Land Management Committee. A meeting of the gas lamps working group would be taking place on 29th June when there would be an update on the feasibility of the project.

55/16 Reports of representatives on other bodies.

- (a) **Malvern Hills CALC – Cllr B Knibb** – Cllr Knibb advised that an interesting presentation had been made to the recent CALC area meeting by a representative from the Worcestershire Safer Roads partnership (WSRP) whose aim is to reduce the number of people involved in accidents on roads across Worcestershire.

It was agreed that it would be beneficial to invite a representative from WSRP to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council to air local road safety concerns.

- (b) **Malvern Wells Village Hall - Cllr J Black** –Cllr Black advised that the Village Hall Management Committee were willing to host an internet connection facility in the Village Hall, but were not in agreement with the costs of funding it. It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain quotations for the cost of a connection from an internet service provider for consideration by the Finance & General Purposes Committee at its next meeting.

- (c) **Three Counties Showground liaison – Cllr Mrs C O’Donnell** – Cllr O’Donnell reported that she had attended a meeting of the Three Counties Showground (TCS) Liaison group. Fewer complaints of noise disturbance from TCS events had been received although there were still some events which were causing problems in that regard. Mr Ken Nottage – Chief Executive of TCS had agreed to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council to present an outline of the activities of TCS and to discuss any ongoing issues which may be impacting on local residents.

There being no other business the meeting the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

Minutes approved Wednesday 29th July, 2015

Signed

Cllr Mrs Helen Burrage- Chairman of the Council