

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 28th October, 2015** commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors Mrs H Burrage (Chairman) M Victory, N Chatten, P Bennett, N Johnson, K Wagstaff

Apologies for absence: Cllrs Mrs C O'Donnell, Mrs J Smethurst, J Wagstaff, B Knibb, S Atwell, S Freeman

In attendance: David Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)
County Cllr Mrs L Hodgson * (from 8.20pm)

82/16 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:** The Clerk declared a pecuniary interest agenda item 9 (a) Approval of accounts regarding a claim for payment of administration expenses incurred
- (c) **To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature:** None were declared.

83/16 To Consider Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011): There were none.

84/16 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 30th September, 2015

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 30th September, had been previously circulated. The minutes were **unanimously approved** as a correct record of that meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

85/16 Matters arising from the Parish Council minutes of 30th September, 2015 There were none.

86/16 Reports from Council Committees

- (a) The Clerk presented the previously circulated report of the **Environment Committee meeting** which had been held on 8th October, 2015. The report **was noted and accepted** by the Council.
- (b) Cllr Chatten presented the report of the **Planning Committee meeting** which had been held on 21st October, 2015. The report and the recommendations contained therein **were noted and approved** by the Council.
- (c) Cllr Johnson presented the report of the **Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting** which had been held on 22nd October, 2015. The report and the recommendations contained therein were **noted and approved** by the Council.

87/16 Reports from Working Groups

(a) Gas lamps working group. The Clerk had contacted Sight Designs Ltd to ask them to effect repairs to lamps 1 and 3 on the Wells Road. The installation of the new electric lamp MW51 in Watery Lane was due to take place before the end of October. The existing lamps were continuing to be maintained well, in accordance with the agreed maintenance contract. Cllr Wagstaff observed that some lamp posts were in need of extra cleaning and asked that this should be raised with the contractor. Cllr Freeman was continuing discussions with Malvern Hills AONB and Malvern Hills Conservators regarding plans to install new lamps to fill the current gaps in lamp provision along the Wells Road.

(b) Events Working Group. The Working Group had met and agreed the Group's terms of reference which had been circulated to all members of the Council for consideration. The Working Group constitution now included five council members and various co-opted volunteers who would help with the various events as and when required. The date for the 2016 Summer Fete had been set as Sunday 11th September, 2016

(c) Communications Working Group. A meeting of the Communications working group was due to be held on 3rd November.

It was noted that any expenditure that the various working groups might want to incur would need the approval of the full Parish Council.

88/16 Chairman's Communications

(a) Vehicle break break-ins near the Wells Primary School. The Clerk reported that there had been a spate of vehicle break-ins from cars parked near to the Wells Primary School. The police had attended the scene and had subsequently visited the school to advise to parents not to leave valuables on show inside their cars when the vehicles were unattended. The police were looking at CCTV evidence to see if it could identify the perpetrator(s) of the crimes.

(b) Wells Road Bus Stops. The Clerk advised that he had received a request from the resident that the bus stop near to the Village Hall should be moved to prevent traffic blockages at its current location. Additionally the bus stops near to the Hanley Road junction should be sited to afford the opportunity for passengers waiting for bus services to access services travelling both along the Wells Road, as well as services which divert down the Hanley Road to and from Upton. The request had been forwarded to the appropriate officer at the County Council and a reply was awaited.

89/16 (a) Payment of Accounts: - the following accounts were approved for payment:-

Chq	Payee	For:	NET £	VAT £	GROSS £
3285	Steve Maund	Outdoor Work September/October	2,580.41	21.45	2,601.86
3286	Neo Natal Ward- Birmingham Childrens hospital	Charity Donation - Cllr Arthur Hull	25.00		25.00
3287	Malvern Hills District Council	Elections Administration	52.98	-	52.98
3288	Malvern Wells Village Hall	Room Hire	56.00	-	56.00
3289	Wells and Wyche W I	Wi Centenary Picnic Contribution	56.00	-	56.00
3290	Brookside Fire Services	Chapel - Fire Extinguisher Serrvice	38.30	6.86	45.16
3291	Martin Thomas	outdoor Work - September	149.27	-	149.27
3292	Yvonne Scriven	Internal Audit Fee	100.00	-	100.00
3293	British gas trading	Gas lamps- September Qtr	1,283.88	256.78	1,540.66
3294	David Taverner	Administration expenses - october	306.56	44.17	350.73
s/o	David Taverner	Clerks Salary - October	1,522.04	-	1,522.04
			-		
TOTALS			6,170.44	329.26	6,499.70

89/16 (b) Report of the Internal Auditor - 1st Half year 2016/17

The Clerk reported that the internal audit of the Council's Accounts for the first half of the 2016/17 financial year had been satisfactorily completed. Councillors commended the Clerk for the excellent report that had been received.

90/16 Cemetery Matters – War Memorial, Wells Road

Following the problems that had arisen with the lack of Police presence to assist with the A449 road closure there was some discussion regarding the potential relocation of the War Memorial to a site at the parish Cemetery. The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with the War Graves Commission and War Memorials Trust and no formal permission to move the Memorial is required, other than from MHDC planning/conservation officers.

No indicative costings for the work that would be involved had yet been sourced but any such costs were likely to be of a substantial nature. Cllr Wagstaff advised that he had spoken to several local residents who had strong family ties to those servicemen honoured by the War Memorial and thus cherished the sanctity of the existing site and would be strongly against its relocation to a new site. The Memorial had been located at its current site since 1921.

Cllr Johnson proposed that the Council should undertake further investigatory work to ascertain the potential costs of the relocation of the War Memorial to a suitable new site. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Chatten and, on being put to the vote, **it was resolved** that further investigatory work should be undertaken to ascertain the costs and logistical work that might be involved.

91/16 Report from Clerk on actions undertaken since last meeting

(a) Assarts Road play equipment. The Clerk had met with the contractor, Wicksteed Ltd to discuss the arrangements for the commencement of the installation of the new pieces of play equipment which had been selected by the Council. It had been agreed that works

would start on 9th November. A new design had been drawn up by the contractors showing an extension to the play trial. The additional estimated cost of approximately £2.4k would be met from the existing section 106 funds held by Malvern Hills District Council. MHDC had subsequently advised that the Council's Section 106 application had been successful. There would therefore be no net cost to the Parish Council for this particular project.

(b) Jubilee Fountain garden.

The electrical connection work at the Jubilee garden had now been completed and a 20ft cut spruce tree had been ordered. The tree was due to be installed in the garden on 26th November with the intention of it being illuminated over the Christmas period.

(c) Defibrillator projects

Arrangements had been made to complete the installation of the community access defibrillator at the Wells school. This project had been beset with delays but it was now anticipated that the Wells School unit would be up and running by the end of October. Council had previously agreed to fund the costs of two further units which would be installed at the Wyche Institute and at the former SPAR shop on the Wells Road. A memorial plaque at the site of one of these defibrillators would be dedicated to honour the memory of the late Cllr Chris Cheeseman once discussions with his family representatives had taken place regarding the chosen site and memorial wording.

(d) Remembrance Sunday – 8th November

Preparations for the Remembrance Sunday were in progress. Peter Buchanan had agreed to lead the service. The Road closure licence had been received. The usual bugle player – John Frith- was unavailable this year but a replacement bugler had now been found. The Road closure arrangements would be looked after by the Clerk, Steve Maund and Cllrs Knibb and Johnson. The local Women's Institute members had kindly agreed to help with the provision of light refreshments in the Village Hall following the conclusion of the service.

(e) Wells News- Preparation and delivery of Winter 2015 edition

The final draft of the Winter edition was due to be completed by 4th November and the printer had advised that printing would be completed by the end of November, this was with a view to deliveries being completed by the end of the first week in December.

92/16 Report of District Councillor - Mrs C O'Donnell

Cllr O'Donnell had submitted the following report:

Cllr Gill Farmer Conservative Councillor for Teme Valley Ward

Taken suddenly October 1st, 2015. Gill had been a district councillor since May 2003. She was the much loved wife of Reg, Mum to Alison and Judith and Granny to Kathryn.

Operation Darker Nights launched to support residents

A new campaign has been launched to encourage residents to take extra security measures now darker nights have arrived. Malvern Hills Community Safety Partnership and West Mercia Police have joined forces to carry out

Operation Darker Nights. Police will be visiting burglary victims in the Malvern area who have had their properties broken into since May this year. They will be assessing properties to check adequate security measures are in place as well as offering basic crime prevention advice. Neighbouring properties will also be visited. The partnership will also be working with police to offer free home security checks to anyone who wants one. **Rob Rich, Community Safety and Resilience Manager at Malvern Hills District Council, said:** "Malvern remains a safe place to live but the arrival of the darker nights mean burglars have more opportunities to strike. By offering some simple crime prevention advice to our residents we can limit those opportunities."

Free first aid course could help save a life

Malvern Hills District Council is funding free community Essential First Aid courses to help residents learn what to do in an emergency. The course will be run by members of St. John Ambulance and covers how to deal with serious conditions and incidents involving people of all ages. The first of a series of courses is open to anyone who lives or works in Malvern Hills District. The course is free but donations are welcomed on the day towards St John Ambulance.

The remaining courses will take place on:

- Friday 30 October at 6.30pm – 9.30pm at The Council Chamber
- Thursday 12 November at 7pm – 10pm at Upton Hill Centre
- Saturday 21 November at 10am – 1pm at Martley Memorial Hall
- Friday 27 November at 6pm - 9pm at Tenbury Pump Rooms
- Saturday 12 December at 10am – 1pm at Malvern Vale Community Centre

Anyone who would like to enrol on a course please contact Jordan Cotton, Community Services, on 01684 862372 or by emailing Jordan.Cotton@malvern hills.gov.uk . Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Halloween safety advice issued to residents

Trick or treaters are being urged to think about the wishes of others as they prepare to celebrate Halloween. While many young children will be putting on their scariest costumes and taking to the streets to take part in the annual tradition, for others this time of year is not so fun. Malvern Hills District Council and West Mercia Police have produced a special 'no trick or treat' poster which residents can download and display in the front window of their homes to alert callers they are not welcome.

PC Dave Wise, Malvern Safer Neighbourhoods Team said: "We want you to have a good time during Halloween and we also want you to remain safe. Halloween can often be a worrying and unnerving time for the elderly, vulnerable or those who live alone. "If you are planning on going trick or treating, please be mindful of this advice and if a house is displaying a 'no trick or treaters' sign, please respect this." Visit <https://westmercia.police.uk/article/13778/Halloween-advice> to download and print out the poster.

Conference to discuss Syrian refugee scheme

A special conference is being held in Malvern for councils preparing or considering taking in refugees affected by the conflict in Syria. Malvern Hills District Council is hosting the event, which is being organised by The British Red Cross, on November 16. The event is being attended by senior officials from councils, the NHS and housing associations across the West Mercia region. The aim is to give decision-makers the chance to learn more about the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme, discuss the needs of those requiring resettlement and consider other ways of supporting communities wanting to help

those caught up in the conflict. The conference will also be addressed by a refugee who has already been successfully resettled in the UK. Malvern Hills District Council has already indicated it will take part in the SVPR scheme, as part of a Worcestershire-wide bid to the Home Office, as long as the Government guarantees funding for the full five years and not just the first 12 months. It will also have to be supported by partner organisations such as the NHS and housing associations.

Proposal to create joint management team could save £280,000

Creating a single senior management team to run Malvern Hills and Wychavon District Councils could save both authorities hundreds of thousands of pounds. There are currently nine senior managers running both councils but the plan is to cut that to six which would save each authority £140,000 a year. The two councils have already collectively saved £190,000 by sharing a Chief Executive/Managing Director, Head of Paid Service, Head of Housing and Planning and Head of Economic Development. It is hoped the changes will be made through voluntary redundancies, which could cost an estimated £220,000. The money will come from a government grant both councils received to transform the way they work and not from money to run services. The plan has been put forward by Chief Executive/Managing Director Jack Hegarty as part of the two councils' response to cuts to their government funding. Their main government grant has fallen by 53 per cent since 2010/11 and Chancellor George Osborne is expected to announce further cuts in his Autumn Statement on 25 November. The changes would have no impact on the day-to-day delivery of services to residents and both councils would remain independent.

93/16 Report of County Councillor - Mrs Lucy Hodgson

Cllr Hodgson had submitted the following report:

16,000 new jobs predicted for Worcestershire

It is predicted that up to 16,000 new jobs are to be created in Worcestershire in the next 5 years, a county that already boasts the third fastest growing economy in the country.

The jobs are to be located at development sites across Worcestershire which are identified within the county's Strategic Economic Plan. Key employment sites are at Worcester Six, Malvern Hills Science Park, Redditch Eastern Gateway and South Kidderminster Enterprise Park. Together they are known as 'Game Changer sites' and are driving the county's economic future prosperity.

Worcestershire has been allocated a total of £54.2m through the Government's Growth Deal. Developments that are already underway mean that there is now more land available today in Worcestershire for business investment and growth than at any time in the last 30 years.

Mobile Library service changes over Christmas and the New Year

Changes have been made to Worcestershire's mobile library service over Christmas and the New Year so that customers don't miss out on visits.

Replacement mobile library services are being provided by Worcestershire County Council's Libraries and Learning Service on Monday 21 December, Tuesday 22 December, Monday 4 January and Tuesday 5 January. The replacement services are instead of visits on Thursday 24 December, Christmas Day, Monday 28 December and New Year's Day when there will be no service.

Continued investment in positive activities for young people

Positive Activities come in the form of a range of out-of-school activities for young people that have a positive impact on their personal development, health,

social, educational and economic well-being and come in the form of open access youth clubs, arts and crafts, music, sports or specific need groups. The recommendation follows a full review of the existing provision that involved evaluating its reach and impact on the young people that accessed services. This included an online survey of young people attending the activities that attracted over 700 responses. The scope and effectiveness of the activities was also reviewed by the Council's all-party Children's Overview and Scrutiny Panel, who met with the provider organisations and other partners such as Police and school leaders.

The three year commitment would recognise the value Positive Activities has in providing places to go and things to do for young people in their spare time. These activities not only are fun but provide support to improve outcomes for some of the most vulnerable young people who often do not access any other local opportunities. The continued investment would focus these services in areas of greatest need in line with the Council's wider approach to prevention and intervention to improve the life chances of children, young people and their families in the county.

With continued pressure on public sector budgets, the investment would be reduced annually to allow time for organisations to be supported to work towards a sustainable future without total reliance on Council funding in the longer term.

Work to begin on £33 million phase of Southern Link Road improvements

Worcestershire County Council have started work to improve the Norton Roundabout in Worcester, as part of the next stage of the multi-million pound A4440 Worcester Southern Link Road improvement scheme

The programme is one of the biggest upgrades to the road infrastructure in the County for many years. The scheme has been identified as one of the highest priorities in terms of tackling both current and future levels of congestion, which is a significant barrier to economic growth.

The Southern Link Road is used by around 30,000 vehicles each weekday and suffers from severe congestion at peak times. Modelling forecasts a worsening picture where doing nothing would result in a 30 per cent increase in journey times by 2026. An extensive public engagement exercise about this next phase was carried out during winter 2014 which helped formulate the final detail of the scheme.

In order to keep this important route open and to reduce disruption for road users, traffic management arrangements will be in place and overnight road closures will be kept to a minimum. In addition, contractors' vehicles will be prohibited from using residential areas to minimise disturbance for local residents.

The next phase of work will focus on:

- Improvements to Norton Roundabout, after which work will start on dual-tracking of the Southern Link Road between Whittington and Ketch roundabouts.
- A new dedicated left-hand turn from Whittington Road (from M5 junction seven) to the westbound Crookbarrow Way (A4440) – thereby removing the current "give way" arrangement on the Whittington Roundabout.
- A new bridleway bridge crossing the road suitable for pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders.

The start of the next phase will be the reconfiguration of the Norton Roundabout. As part of the work, an earth bund will be installed on Broomhall Green and on

the north-eastern side of the roundabout to serve as a buffer. The existing bund on the north side of the A4440 east of the roundabout will be in-filled and planted up with additional vegetation.

Plans to make Worcestershire a landmark county for the protection of bees have been revealed - including getting schools involved.

Three months ago the county council first revealed its intentions to draw up a 'pollinator friendly' blueprint to respond to national concern over declining species.

A detailed plan of action has now been created which the Conservative leadership endorsed at cabinet, including:

- Countryside centres around the county, including the main one at Worcester Woods, are expected to get extra bee hives dotted around them
 - Worcestershire's highways network will be examined to see if more roadside verge nature reserves can be created in suitable locations
 - A bid has been made to the Government for extra funding so schools can create 'pollinator friendly zones' in their grounds as part of pupils' education
- The schools funding bid has been made to DEFRA (the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and will focus on south Worcestershire sites like Worcester, Malvern and Droitwich initially.

The report says if successful, the council will launch a competition to select winning schools which will receive expertise to make their grounds pollinator-friendly.

If it proves popular and there is still money available it will then be rolled out across the rest of the county.

The report also reveals how the council wants the Heritage Lottery Fund to help assist with a trial scheme in Evesham, based on making the town more pollinator-friendly.

A bid will be put together in 2016 with input from the likes of the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

In recent months talks have taken place with other organisations to see if they are able to play a part in the efforts.

It has led to the University of Worcester agreeing to investigate all its sites to see if "pollinator corridors" can be created along them.

The project comes after years of alarming declines in bee species, which is down by a third since 2007.

Butterflies, moths, beetles and hoverflies are some of the other species where numbers have tumbled.

Three bumble bee species have become extinct and another eight have declined around the nation over recent decades with the use of land, climate change and the use of chemicals all contributing factors.

Share article

The economic value of honey bees and bumble bees alone as pollinators of commercially grown crops in Britain is more than £200 million a year.

There being no other business the meeting the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Minutes approved Wednesday 25th November, 2015

Signed ...Mrs Helen Burrage.....

Cllr Mrs Helen Burrage Chairman of the Council