

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 25th November, 2015** commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors Mrs H Burrage (Chairman) M Victory, N Chatten, P Bennett, K Wagstaff, B Knibb, Mrs C O'Donnell, Mrs J Smethurst, S Freeman, S Atwell* (from 7.45pm)

Apologies for absence: N Johnson, J Wagstaff, J Black, County Cllr Mrs L Hodgson

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

94/16 Declarations of Interest

(a) Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests: Although no changes were necessary it was noted that one Councillor still had not yet completed the 2015/16 update form. The Clerk advised that he would ensure that this matter was dealt with.

(b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature: The Chairman and the Clerk declared pecuniary interests in agenda item 9 (a) Approval of accounts regarding the approval of payments in their names. The Clerk also declared an interest in item 16(b) – the report of the Staffing Committee held on 14th November.

Cllr Freeman declared another disclosable interest in the confidential item 17 a regarding the potential purchase of land in that he was a Member of the Malvern Hills Conservators board who may be involved in part of any discussions on the subject.

(c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature: Cllr O' Donnell declared an other disclosable interest in agenda item 8c regarding planning application 15/01166 – 2 Yew Tree Lane - in that she was a close neighbour to the application site.

95/16 To Consider Requests from Councilors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011): There were none.

96/16 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th October, 2015

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 28th October, had been previously circulated. The minutes were **unanimously approved** as a correct record of that meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

97/16 **Matters arising from the Parish Council minutes of 28th October, 2015** - **Re minute 88/16 (b) Potential Relocation of the Wells Road bus stops** -the Clerk advised that he would continue to chase the County Council for a reply on this issue.

Re minute 91/16 (d) Cllr Knibb remarked that the Remembrance Sunday Service had gone very smoothly and that the arrangements for the control of traffic during the part road closure of the Wells Road had been very effective. Thanks were recorded to Cllrs Knibb and Johnson and the Council's outdoor contractor- Steve Maund - for their help with those arrangements

98/16 Reports from Council Committees

- (a) Cllr Chatten presented the previously circulated report of the Planning Committee meeting which had been held on 18th November, 2015. The report was **noted and accepted** by the Council.

99/16 Reports from Working Groups

- (a) **Gas lamps working group.** Cllr Freeman advised that there had been no meeting of the working group since its last meeting.

An order for the installation of a new electric lamp in Watery Lane had been placed back in August, 2015 and an £850 deposit for the work had been paid. The order had not yet been fulfilled by Sight Designs and the Clerk was asked to seek an explanation why the work had not been done. Members were asked to give consideration to the possibility of future payments to the Contractor being withheld until this task had been fully completed.

Cllr Freeman was continuing discussions with David Armitage of the Malvern Hills AONB regarding plans to install new lamps to fill the current gaps in lamp provision along the Wells Road. A report on this subject would be presented to the next meeting of the working group.

Members would be asked to consider whether it might be appropriate to approach David Armitage to assist with the management of this project and for Council to pay an appropriated management fee for services rendered in this regard.

This approach was **unanimously approved** by the Council. In response to a question from Cllr Wagstaff; Cllr Freeman advised that work was continuing on the compilation of the likely indicative costs for the overall project.

- (b) **Communications Working Group.** Cllr Smethurst presented the report of the Communications working group which had taken place on 3rd November.

The working group had reviewed and agreed their terms of reference which had been circulated to all members of the Council for information. Members **unanimously approved** the revisions which had been made.

Councillor O'Donnell had stepped down as Chairman due to weight of other commitments, but agreed to become Vice-Chairman. Councillor Jackie Smethurst was appointed as Chairman of the group.

It had been agreed that provision of adequate broadband in the Village Hall was a priority to enable Council agendas, minutes and documents to be read electronically if desired.

The Clerk advised that he had contacted BT about the installation of a line, router and broadband facility in the Village Hall. Further quotes from other providers would also be obtained for comparison purposes.

If it was agreed to proceed with the BT service the costs would be:
£115 as a one off connection /installation fee
£15 monthly for a telephone line
£17 monthly for Broadband

It was **unanimously agreed** that the Clerk should progress an order for BT Fibre Broadband if it was available in the area.

There had been previous debate whether the costs could be shared by the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC). An approach to the VHMC would be made to see whether they would be amenable to cost sharing.

Councillor O'Donnell distributed a brochure produced by Welland PC which showed headshot photographs of their Parish Councillors with contact details. It was agreed that a similar contact sheet should be adopted for the next edition of the Wells News and the Parish website.

It was also suggested that email addresses should be set up for each councillor to receive correspondence using the format [councillor surname & initial] @ malvernwells-pc.gov.uk. The Clerk advised that he would investigate the requirements for this.

In light of the need to moderate posts and all information submitted for publication it was agreed that Clerk remain as the central co-ordinator for updates for the website and the Council's social media output.

It was agreed to recommend to Council that the Council's existing laptop should be replaced, as the existing one is more than 10 years old and has reached the end of its economic life. There was also a need to purchase speech recognition software package to assist the Clerk with the use of his computer. **It was agreed** that the Council would allocate a total budget of £1,100 in 2015/16 to the IT equipment budget to fund the purchases which had been outlined.

100/16 Community Events

- (a) **Christmas Carol evening.** Cllr Burrage gave details of the Christmas Carol concert which had been scheduled for Friday 11th December in the Village Hall. Details of the outline budget of £190 for the event had been circulated. This was **unanimously agreed** by the Council.

Cllr Burrage informed the meeting that the target of the collection for this year would be aimed at supporting local charities which work to support vulnerable children in the local area. Following discussion Cllr Burrage was then delegated to decide which of those charities should be supported.

As in previous years assistance was needed with the decoration of the Village Hall and any volunteers who were able to help were being asked to meet in the Village Hall on 9th December between noon and 3pm.

101/16 Chairman's Communications

(a) Request for installation of new parish boundary signs

Cllr Bennett advised that he would investigate the costs involved with the installation of new Parish boundary signage akin to that on the boundaries of Malvern Town. Malvern Wells was an important and popular area for tourism and it was felt that the parish boundary signage could be improved. Cllr Bennett undertook to present his findings in this regard to a future meeting of the Council.

There was also a need to engage with officers of the Three Counties Showground to discuss the visual untidiness of their temporary event signage.

(b) School Crossing patrol at the Wyche Primary School.

Due to illness there was currently no school crossing patrol operating at the Wyche School. The County Council had advertised the post to recruit temporary cover but no applications had yet been received.

Work had been undertaken to make safety adjustments to the gate at the end of the pathway leading down from the school to the Wells Road.

(c) Treatment of Planning application 15/01166 – 2 Yew Tree Lane

The parish Council had previously raised strong objections to this particular application which had apparently been ignored by the Malvern Hills District Council and the application had subsequently been approved under officer delegation without any recourse to the MHDC planning

The Parish Council (MWPC) strongly shared many of the concerns that local residents had raised not only in respect of this particular planning application, but also the wider issue of the apparent manner in which proper consideration of some of the more contentious planning applications recently, is being subjugated to the District Council's need to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply and to deflect potential criticism and censure from the Planning Inspectorate.

Following careful consideration of this application, at the Parish Council planning committee meeting that was held on 21st October, MWPC members unanimously resolved to raise objections to the application on the basis that the intended development would detract from the character and appearance of the Malvern Hills Conservation Area and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in which the site stands.

There were strong concerns that the size of the proposed dwelling would be over dominant and out of character when compared with other buildings in the local area. In addition, members were of the view that if the application was approved it could set a precedent for further development which would potentially contribute to the erosion of the green gap between development in Upper Welland and the southern end of Malvern Wells. The objection response which was sent in also stated that there is no access point, as claimed in the application, to the site from Upper Welland Road.

In view of the detailed objections which had been expressed both by MWPC and local residents it was fully expected that this application would to be presented directly to the Southern Area Development Management Committee (SADMC) for determination. In view of this it was a surprise to learn that the planning officer dealing with the application, Gillian McDermott, decided to approve the application under officer "delegated" powers.

The Clerk was asked to write to Duncan Rudge, the Development Control manager at Malvern Hills District Council to ask: -

- Why had this decision been taken under delegated powers?
- Which Members and officers of MHDC were consulted about the application?
- Why had it not been thought appropriate for the application to be considered by the MHDC Planning Committee given the very sensitive nature of the site because of its prominent position in the Malvern Hills AONB and the Conservation area?
- Why had the request for input from the Malvern Hills AONB unit been delayed?
- Why had the lack of responses from the Councillors who had been consulted about this application not been followed up?
- Why had local residents' objections to this application been apparently totally ignored?

101/16 Payment of Accounts: - the following accounts were approved for payment:

Chq	Payee	For:	NET £	VAT £	GROSS £
3295	Steve Maund	Outdoor Work November	819.17	3.68	822.85
3296	Martin Thomas	Outdoor Work - November	558.55	-	558.55
3297	Helen Burrage Sight Designs	Chairmans Allowance 2015	250.00	-	250.00
3298	Ltd ***	Gas lamps maintenance	1,522.70	304.54	1,827.24
3299	Little Malvern Priory David	Donation re John Tretheway memorial Administration expenses - November	50.00	-	50.00
3300	Taverner David		831.08	131.77	962.85
s/order	Taverner	Clerks Salary - November	1,521.84	-	1,521.84
			-		
TOTALS			5,553.34	439.99	5,993.33

*** It was agreed that fututre payments to Sight Designs Ltd wolud be withheld until work had been completed on the installation of the new Watery Lane lamp

Having declared a pecuniary interest in this item Cllr Burrage left the room prior to the discussion regarding payment of the annual Chairman's Allowance

The Clerk advised Members that, under legislation outlined in the Local Government Act any Parish Council is able to pay a parish basic allowance for each year to its Chairman. The amount payable to the is payable because of the extra duties and personal expenditure which may be required of the chairman. The allowance is not a salary, it is a figure which is calculated to cover the expenses, which are normally associated with the basic duties of being the Chairman of a local council.

The allowance for 2016/16 of £250 had previously been set by the Council as part of its budget setting process. The payment had been listed for approval on the instigation of the Clerk as Cllr Burrage had not previously been paid the allowance during her time in office, covering a period of almost three years. During that time Cllr Burrage had incurred significant personal expenditure during a range of work undertaken on behalf of the Parish Council.

Following considerable discussion, it was proposed and agreed, by a majority vote, that the allowance should be paid for the year 2015/16. Cllr Knibb requested that his name should be recorded as having voted against this proposal.

102/16 Housing Needs survey

The Council had previously undertaken a Housing Needs Survey in 2010 and an update was needed to the information which had been provided then. Housing Needs survey work had recently been carried out in neighbouring parishes and

Cllr Bennett suggested that it might now be appropriate to invite representatives from those parishes to a future meeting to outline the methodology behind the work which they had undertaken.

103/16 Cemetery Matters No further information was yet available on the potential relocation of the War Memorial and an update would be presented to a future meeting of the Council.

- (a) Assarts Road Play Area.** A new design had been drawn up by the contractors showing an extension to the play area. 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 and MHDC would now be sending a legal agreement for completion prior to funds being transferred to the Council's bank.

Installation of the new equipment which had been ordered would take approximately two weeks and the contractors had indicated that they would start on site when ground conditions allowed

- (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**

The community access defibrillator at the Wells school had now been installed and was now operational.

The possibility of a motion sensor light for the unit would be looked at in conjunction with the Council's electrical contractor. Council had also 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. Orders for the two new defibrillators for those sites had now been placed

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) Wells News- Preparation and delivery of Winter 2015 Edition**

The deliveries of the wells News were due to commence on 28th November, with a view to deliveries being completed by the end of the first week in December. Many favourable comments had been received about the quality of the content of the magazine which could now be viewed on the Parish Council's website. Thanks were recorded to Carolyn Aynsworth the magazine editor, for the work she had undertaken on the magazine's production

104/16 Report of District Councillor - Mrs C O'Donnell

Report for Wells Parish Council 25th November 2015 - News from Cllr Chris O'Donnell District Councillor for Wells Ward & Little Malvern & Parish Cllr for Wells Ward

Attended meeting at Abbey House

We were all present but the meeting was postponed as the Manger Edward Rowland's did not turn up so it is being arrange again for January 2016.

Toilets strike gold in Loo of the Year Awards

Malvern Hills District Council is flushed with success after its public toilets struck gold in the annual Loo of the Year Awards.

Run by the British Toilet Association, the awards rank loos provided by different organisations on a range of factors, which together make them clean, safe and hygienic. Councils, hotels, shopping centres and more take part in the competition. Inspectors pay a visit to each toilet before issuing a bronze, silver, gold or platinum rating.

The eight public loos Malvern Hills District Council looks after in Malvern, Tenbury and Upton were entered into the contest, with seven achieving gold status and one being given a silver rating. MHDC will officially be presented with the awards on Friday, 4 December at a ceremony in Solihull where they will also find out their place in the national league table. Last year the council finished 15th but is hoping to improve on that this time around.

Cllr Bronwen Behan, portfolio holder for environment on Malvern Hills District Council, said: "We're delighted with these results which are a testament to the hard work of our staff. We know the provision of public toilets are important to residents and visitors and we're proud to say our loos are amongst some of the best in the country."

The seven toilets which received gold status are:

Grange Road Malvern, Edith Walk Malvern, Barnards Green Malvern, Worcester Road Malvern

Temme Street Tenbury, Market Street Tenbury

Hanley Road Upton-upon-Severn

The toilet which received silver status is: High Street, Upton-upon-Severn

Support local traders on Small Business Saturday

Residents are being urged to explore what the district's independent traders have to offer as part of Small Business Saturday. The annual event takes place this year on Saturday, 5 December and is a national scheme designed to encourage people to use and support small businesses. MHDC is supporting the event by offering free parking all day in its short and long stay car parks throughout the district, as well as on every Friday and Saturday in the run up to Christmas from 27 November. Cllr Rebecca Massey, portfolio holder for economic development on Malvern Hills District Council, said: "Independent traders are the lifeblood of our towns, giving them their distinct character. There's a range of reasons to shop local. For a start it boosts the local economy, with research suggesting 63p of every pound spent with a small business stays within the locality compared to 40p with larger stores. "They also sell a range of items you cannot get anywhere else **and** are very knowledgeable about their products. I would urge all our residents to head into out towns on Small Business Saturday and discover what's on offer." There are a number of Christmas events also

being held on the day including the annual Christmas Extravaganza in Barnards Green, organised by local traders. This year the event, which runs from 10am to 1pm, will feature the Dave the Wonder Dog puppet show, Father Christmas in his grotto, a circus skills workshop and more. Tenbury Wells is also holding its annual Mistletoe Festival with markets, events and entertainment throughout the day.

Malvern hosts refugee resettlement conference

A refugee resettlement conference, the first of its kind in the country, has been held in Malvern. The event took place on Monday, 16 November, and was hosted by Malvern Hills District Council and The British Red Cross. It brought together senior officials from councils, housing associations, the NHS and voluntary groups from across the West Mercia area, to discuss the challenges and opportunities involved with resettling refugees. The event was addressed by a number of key speakers including Akoi Bazzie, a refugee from Liberia who arrived in Britain in 2004 after spending 12 years in a refugee camp in Guinea. Worcestershire County Council and the six district councils across the county have agreed to support a bid to take Syrian refugees under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation (SVPR) scheme, subject to full five-year funding and the support of partner organisations. Details of funding for the SVPR scheme are expected to be announced by the Chancellor in his Autumn statement on 25 November. If Worcestershire did decide to proceed with a bid then it would be included in phase two of the scheme, meaning refugees would not arrive until sometime next year. Cllr Melanie Baker, portfolio holder for planning and housing on Malvern Hills District Council, said: "It was a very productive conference and highlighted the vast amount of work that needs to be done to ensure we can offer the appropriate support to refugees should they be resettled here in Malvern.

"This issue continues to be at the forefront of our minds and talks are taking place with our partners all the time.

"What we now need is clarity regarding funding and we hope we will receive that when the Chancellor makes his Autumn Statement on 25 November."

Views needed on benefits of waste collection contract

Residents are being asked to give their views on the benefits to be gained from contracting out waste collection and street cleaning services. MHDC agreed earlier this year to seek bids from other organisations – including private and not-for-profit companies – to provide refuse and recycling collections, garden waste collections, street cleaning and litter picking. Refuse and recycling collections could be provided jointly with Wychavon District and Worcester City Councils. As part of the process the council is required by law to explore how wider economic, social and environmental benefits could be gained from any new contract for these services. Residents, businesses and other interested parties are being urged to give their views by filling in a short online survey. Those who take part will be asked to rank 14 factors bidders need to consider, ranging from unimportant to very important. Items people will be asked to rank include paying the living wage, providing local jobs, education and awareness campaigns and supporting voluntary organisations. The results will be used to guide the contract negotiation process. They will also be published on the council's website www.malvern hills.gov.uk. Cllr Bronwen Behan, Deputy Leader and portfolio holder for Environment on MHDC, said: "Our residents' views about these issues are important to us and we want to incorporate them at the earliest possible stage in seeking bids from potential service suppliers." To take part in

the consultation visit www.malvern hills.gov.uk/public-notices before 18 December.

Post a letter to Father Christmas - I love this idea and each year take part in this with our grandchildren

Children will soon be able to send their Christmas wish lists to Santa from Malvern Tourist Information Centre, whilst also raising money for charity. The Victorian Post Box will be open from Monday 16 November until Thursday 17 December, and located inside the TIC at the top of Church Street, Great Malvern. Letters can be posted with the purchase of a special £1 stamp. All children will then receive a personal reply and small gift from Father Christmas, straight from the North Pole. All proceeds from the letters will be donated to Acorns Children's Hospice. Last year £184 was raised. Cllr Phil Grove, Leader of MHDC said: "This is a wonderful festive tradition for the children that we are delighted to hold in our town every Christmas.

"Acorns Children's Hospice provides amazing care and services for children, young people and their families, and we are proud to support such a fantastic charity." For more information, please contact Malvern Tourist Information Centre on 01684 892289.

Please do promote it as it is raised in a good cause for one of our local charities.

Answers to your questions revealed

Parking charges, dog fouling and planning concerns were among the issues raised as part of Malvern Hills District Council's first Ask the Leader question and answer session. During the recent local democracy week, residents across the district were asked to submit questions on any subject they liked. They were then put to Cllr Phil Grove, Leader of Malvern Hills District Council and Chief Executive Jack Hegarty and their answers filmed and published online as a video blog. A number of issues were raised as part of the session which council officers have now been asked to explore further. They include the potential creation of Youth Forums to help improve communication with the district's young people, an investigation into problems with dog fouling in Upton and a promise to look at the possibility of creating a three-hour parking permit to make it easier for people visiting Malvern Theatres.

Cllr Grove said: "I was really impressed with the range of subjects we were asked questions on. There were some interesting issues raised and some positive suggestions which we will definitely be asking officers to look at in more detail." The Ask the Leader blog is available to view on the Malvern Hills District Council YouTube channel by [visiting https://youtu.be/usVbu4GWcno](https://youtu.be/usVbu4GWcno)
More Ask the Leader sessions are planned in the future. Anyone who would like to ask a question should email claire.vaughan@malvern hills.gov.uk

105/16 Report of County Councillor – Mrs Lucy Hodgson

Report from County Councillor for Wells Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 25th November 2015

The Council's Corporate Plan is having are fresh. One area that is being looked at is Directorates of the Council. There is a proposal for some changes to be made. The new directorates will be: -

- Adult Social Services
- Infrastructure/ Highways and Environment
- Children's, Families and Communities

- One the consequences of these changes will mean that Libraries, Museums, Countryside services will all be transferred to Children's, Families and Communities. There will be a new head of service appointed to the role and this will be done in the New Year.

These changes are to be implemented from Jan 2016.

The use of new technologies in Care The council is investing £2 million pounds into the use of new technology to help residents remain in their homes whilst been supported. The University of Worcester has done a lot of work in the area and has built a special house on their main canvass which shows all the different type of technology

Worcestershire Regulatory Services Worcestershire Regulatory service was set up in 2010 and included all the districts as well as the county Council's trading standards. Over the years the service has developed and saving have been made by both the County Council and the District Councils. Following a large reduction in County Funding for the next financial year a decision has been made for the County Services for Trading Standards and Animal Health to be taken back in house. This will be completed by the beginning of the new financial year. By leaving the shared service the County Council will be able to maximize the budget by absorbing employee costs and employ more officers to carry out the work.

Worcestershire building relationship with Chinese powerhouses Twenty-two high ranking Chinese officials have got to see World Class Worcestershire at its best – meeting with Council Chiefs, local business and educational institutions, as well as having the opportunity to take in tourist attractions such as the stunning Stanbrook Abbey, Malvern Hills and the historic Morgan Motors. World Class Worcestershire shone through as quintessentially English with a heart of innovation and our Chinese guests were impressed with our growth ambitions and opportunities for investment.

The delegation was visiting as part of the World Cities programme, which has made funding available to 4 regions of Europe to develop relationships with regions in China. Mercia was successful in its application to work with the regions of Tianjin and Guangzhou in China.

These are strong areas for collaboration because of the clear resonance with the history and changes in the manufacturing base in Mercia, with both regions seeking in particular to move from basic manufacturing into high value manufacturing and undergo a technology-led industrial renaissance.

The objectives of the collaboration are:

1. To attract inward investment into Mercia. There are possibilities for inward investment into Mercia's infrastructure. There have been a number of examples of this in the recent past, particularly within the motor industry.
2. To open up business to business opportunities. Mercia has been developing a relationship with the city region of Tianjin, China for 18 months. To further cement this relationship and build on the business relationships already established with Tianjin the World Cities programme will be used to develop business to business opportunities particularly in the SME and 2nd and 3rd tier companies.
3. To explore research, technology development & innovation opportunities. Mercia has a strong research and development base in both its universities and research organisations; consequently there is an opportunity to develop opportunities with Chinese companies, universities and research organisations.
4. To develop professional training, student exchange, apprenticeships and education (FEI & HEI): Many Mercian Universities have a strong international

reputation for recruiting foreign students, delivering degree courses abroad and undertaking international staff exchange programs. There is also a strength in the delivery of apprenticeships in both the HE and FEI sector. Although many universities are already active in China they are always keen to further develop their links.

5. To strengthen cultural links: Along with business opportunities, cultural exchange between Mercia and Guangzhou and Tianjin should not be ignored. All 3 areas have distinct heritage and cultural offerings which, if shared, could further strengthen ties. For example, Mercia has Shakespeare and the Royal Shakespeare Company who have been translating the canon into Mandarin.

6. Civic Cooperation: The World Cities programme will help strengthen civic cooperation between Mercia and Guangzhou and Tianjin allowing for exchange of knowledge and good practices between the political leaders on issues such as sustainable and inclusive urbanization. The experiences of Mercia in dealing with rapid industrialization and urbanization would be invaluable to both Chinese cities.

County Council to partner Environment Agency in Flood Risk Management campaign

Worcestershire County Council's Flood Risk Management Team is working in partnership with the Environment Agency to help people at risk of flooding protect their homes and businesses.

The Flood Risk Management Team has been working with other organisations to implement local flood alleviation schemes which reduce the likelihood and impact of flooding. However, there is still a lot of work to be done - there are around 1,700 flood spots in Worcestershire and up to 20,000 properties potentially at risk of flooding.

From 2 November 2015, the Environment Agency will be running Floodaware, a nationwide flood action campaign. People can get involved with the campaign by following @EnvAgencyMids on Twitter, or by sharing #floodaware Facebook posts from Flood Group UK and the Environment Agency on Facebook.

Alternatively, visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>

106/16 Report of the Elected Conservator – Cllr S Freeman

At this stage of the meeting the Council passed a resolution that the remainder of the meeting should be closed to the public and press under the Local Government Act (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. The reason being the consideration of possible land purchase during which discussions might take place which may be commercially sensitive.

Publication of the minutes of this item are restricted as they contain information which may be commercially sensitive

The full version of the approved minutes are retained by the Clerk

The Council remained in closed session and then passed the following resolution: -

PART B

"That, pursuant to the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it

is advisable in the public interest that the public and press should be excluded from the remainder of the meeting. The reason being the consideration of staff contracts”.

The Council then received the report of the Staffing Committee held on 14th November.

***Publication of the minutes of this item are restricted
The full version of the approved minutes are retained by the Clerk***

There being no other business the meeting the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm.

Minutes approved Wednesday 27th January, 2016

**Signed
Cllr Mrs Helen Burrage Chairman of the Council**