

## 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 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2016** commencing at 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Councillor N Chatten (Chairman)

**Councillors:** Mrs H Burrage, Mrs C O'Donnell, Mrs J Smethurst, N Johnson, K Wagstaff, Mrs H Burrage, B Knibb, J Black, S Freeman, J Wagstaff, M Victory  
County Cllr Mrs L Hodgson

**Apologies for absence:** Councillor K Wagstaff

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

- 232/16**      **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.
- 233/16**      **To Consider Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011):** There were none.
- 234/16**      **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.**  
The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 28<sup>th</sup> September, had been previously circulated. The minutes were **unanimously approved** as a correct record of that meeting and were signed by the Chairman.
- 235/16**      **Matters arising from the Parish Council minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> September.**  
There were none
- 236/16**      **Closure of the meeting to allow member of the public present to speak on parish matters to allow residents to speak on the following matters.**  
  
(i)    **Late night disturbance at the Village Hall**  
House holders with properties adjacent to the Village Hall attended the meeting to register their complaints regarding disturbances arising from a private party which had been staged in the Hall on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October.

The party had been attended by a large group of 16 to 17 year olds. Unfortunately, there seemed to have been little or no adult supervision at this event and at around 11.45 pm some of the attendees had spilled out onto the pavement and nearby roadway acting in a most unruly manner, drinking alcohol and urinating on neighbouring property. Throughout the evening there had been unusually high level of noise from the event causing great disturbance to nearby residents.

This was the third type of incident within recent months.

On behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee Cllr Black advised that the terms and conditions appertaining to Hall bookings were being reviewed to prevent similar such future reoccurrences of the problems which had been encountered.

(ii) **Withdrawal of Local Bus Services**

A resident was in attendance to express concerns about the impact of the cessation of the local "Malferna" bus service which had been operating on a six-month temporary basis in the local area, following the withdrawal of First Bus Ltd buses earlier in the year on commercial grounds. There was a clear worry that a further reduction in bus services would be to leave the elderly and other vulnerable groups increasingly isolated. Those people without access to other means of transport, or who cannot afford the cost of private cars or taxis, would be left without affordable access to services.

The Chairman advised that, in common with other local councils that the parish council had been repeatedly lobbying the county council in a bid to limit the impact of cuts to bus services. Unfortunately, the level of passenger numbers using the Malferna service had been relatively low and had not justified the continuation of that service.

A community bus service would be commencing on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October. This service is run by not-for-profit operators who use accessible vehicles with volunteer or paid drivers and provide transport for those in parts of the county which may have no or very limited registered local bus services. The route covered locally will run between Great Malvern to Malvern wells and a timetable will be published on the Parish Council website. Journeys must be pre-booked with Community action on telephone number 01684 892381.

Community Bus routes operate on set days to a flexible timetable and can pick-up/drop-off passengers at a pre-agreed location. A fare is payable and English National Concessionary Bus Pass holders can travel at a reduced rate of £1 per single journey which is a discretionary subsidy provided by Worcestershire County Council. Malvern Hills district resident Bus Pass holders are entitled to a further £1 per single journey reduction which is funded by Malvern Hills District

iii) **Pavement repairs**

A question was raised regarding the poor state of pavements around the area of Upper Welland and the Wells Road. The Clerk replied that pavement repairs were being undertaken throughout the local area on a rotational basis by the County Council as financial resources allow. Particularly dangerous patches of pavement should be reported directly to the County Council for attention and this can be done online at the following weblink [Report | Worcestershire County Council](#)

**237/16**      **Reports from Council Committees**

- i) Cllr Victory presented the previously circulated report of the **Finance and General Purposes Committee** which had been held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The report was noted and accepted by the Council. **It was unanimously resolved that** the following recommendation, which had been proposed by the Committee, should be approved; -

**That the increase in the level of the Parish Council precept for 2017/18 should be capped at 1.95% and that the final precept submission for 2017/18 should be calculated by the Clerk once details of the parish Council tax base had been received from Malvern Hills District Council**

- ii) Cllr Chatten presented the previously circulated report of the **Planning Committee** which had been held on **19th October 2016**. The report was noted and accepted by the Council.
- iii) The Clerk presented the previously circulated report of the Environment **Committee** which had been held on **6th October 2016**. The report was noted and accepted by the Council.

**238/16**      **Reports from Working Groups**

- i) **Gas lamps working group.**

A public consultation exercise, to assess support for the proposed scheme for the installation of replacement lamps to fill the current gaps the Wells Road, had recently been undertaken. There had been over seventy individual responses from residents. Some 68 respondents to the survey were in favour of continuing with the project, with only four votes being recorded as being against the scheme.

The working group was due to meet again on 22<sup>nd</sup> November to review progress with the next stage of the scheme.

- ii) **Communications working group.** A meeting of the working group was being arranged to take place in early December.

- (iii) **Open Spaces working group.** There had been no meeting of the group since the previous council meeting. Further attempts were to be made to develop a play facility in the All Saints Ward of the parish once land suitable for such a scheme had been identified.

Cllr Freeman advised that it was not possible for the parish Council to establish any legal title in respect of what was essentially common land close to the railway line at the end of Chestnut Drive/ Mulberry Drive on the Fruitlands Estate

It might be possible to have the land in question listed as an Asset of Community Value

These provisions give communities a right to identify a building or other land that they believe to be of importance to their community's social well-being. The aim is that, if the asset comes up for sale, then they will be given a fair chance to make a bid to buy it on the open market. If the nominated asset meets the definition of an asset of community value, the local authority will list it.

It might also be possible to use compulsory purchase orders to acquire the land under the Acquisition of Land Act 1981. These are powers which enable public bodies on which they are conferred to acquire land compulsorily. They are mostly exercised by local authorities to promote schemes for various purposes. Compulsory purchase of land requires the approval of a confirming minister/Secretary of State. Specialist legal direction would need to be sought by the parish Council should it wish to proceed down this route which would incur a significant level of costs.

The Clerk was asked to contact the MHDC community services team to enquire whether the land identified could be listed as a first step.

A review of the adequacy of the drainage system at the Assarts Road playing field was being undertaken in liaison with County Council's highways and land drainage team

Completion of the signing of the scout hut lease needed to be addressed regarding the lifting of restrictive covenants which had been incorporated in the original transfer document.

- iv) **Events working group.** A meeting was due to be arranged in early December to review the 2016 Summer fete and to begin planning for the 2017 event which was due to be held on Sunday 10th September. The Clerk advised that



**241/16**

**Election of the Chairman of the Planning Committee**

Following the resignation of Cllr Paul Bennett it was **unanimously resolved** that Cllr Neil Chatten be appointed to the post of Acting Chairman of the Planning Committee.

**242/16**

**Neighbourhood Plan**

It was agreed that a working group should be constituted to carry forward the development of a neighbourhood plan for the Parish. The terms of reference for the working group to be agreed at its first meeting.

External consultancy assistance was likely to be required and, in relation to this, a budget of £10k had been incorporated in the draft 2017/18 budget these costs would be substantially met from government grant funding.

**243/16**

**Report from the Clerk on actions undertaken since the previous meeting.**

- i) Remembrance Sunday Service -13<sup>th</sup> November**  
The Service had been well attended and had gone smoothly. Thanks were given to Members of the Women's Institute who had provided light refreshments in the Village Hall after the service.
- ii) Wells News Winter edition** – the final print deadline for articles had been set as 25<sup>th</sup> November

**244/16**

**Report of County Councillor – Cllr Mrs L Hodgson**  
**Highways Issues**

**Driving Home Delivering Better Roads Near You**

It has been a busy summer for Worcestershire County Council's Driving Home Programme with nearly 50 kilometres of improvements to local roads already completed benefiting almost 3,000 resident homes.

At the Driving Home launch in July, Worcestershire County Council announced it was doubling the amount spent on improving local roads by investing an additional £12m over the next two years. The ambitious plan is helping to benefit the roads that make up three quarters of the county's infrastructure, those which are closest to where people live. The Council confirmed the £12 million investment over the next two years is in addition to the continuing commitment of £10m assigned to main roads.

The Driving Home team have been collecting data about the state of the roads and liaising with local members to ensure the roads that need improvement and those which are most important to residents are included in the programme. State of the art machinery has been used to survey the county's roads and the data overlaid with the number of residents on

each stretch. In addition to this the most used roads linking villages and hamlets has been added to ensure the additional £12 million is benefiting as many residents as possible. The Driving Home roads will receive the TLC they need whether it be minor patching, surface dressing, a complete reconstruction or resurfacing.

To further improve the county's roads and to ease congestion, motorists and businesses in Worcestershire are now benefitting from the new £16m Hoobrook Link Road. The road, which opened last Monday, will also improve accessibility to the South Kidderminster Enterprise Park, which is one of the county's four key employment sites also known as 'game changer sites'.

### **Council gritting teams on standby to keep Worcestershire moving this winter**

Worcestershire County Council gritting teams are now officially on standby and ready to keep Worcestershire's roads safe this winter.

Worcestershire Highways depots are stocked with 17,000 tonnes of salt, including a 5,000 tonne strategic reserve in the event of an unusually harsh winter. Checks are also being made on the county's 1,233 grit bins to ensure they are full. The last checks have been actioned and the Worcestershire Highways fleet of 36 gritting vehicles and the teams that drive them are ready to cover Worcestershire's 1,500 miles of designated roads. Last winter, teams clocked up more than 50,000 miles across the county – the equivalent of more than twice around the world.

A couple of years ago Worcestershire Highways was one of the first in the country to take advantage of pioneering brine technology, which helps the salt to work more quickly and cuts the potential for waste as it helps more grit stay on roads rather than bouncing off. This technology will be employed once again this year.

There's also a variety of information on the gritting operations, including interactive maps showing designated routes, which also enables all users to pinpoint the location of their nearest grit bin, on [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/gritting](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/gritting). People are also being encouraged to report any issues with grit bins via the [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/report it](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/report-it) section. Residents and businesses can also get the latest on what the teams are up to through the County Council's Twitter accounts @worcscc or @worcstravel, which will jump into #grittertwitter mode through the winter months.

### **1000 Days of Art in Worcestershire starts now**

The Worcestershire Arts Partnership (WAP) has launched its new Arts Strategy for the next three years that will celebrate art across the county.

This strategy will demonstrate the positive direct benefits the arts have on the county's economy, wellbeing and health. The Worcestershire Arts Partnership brings together both professional and amateur arts organisations and individuals across the county to champion the arts and its value to Worcestershire's people, visitors and businesses.

1000 Days, represents the period of time this strategy covers. Over this time WAP will showcase the range of art taking place across the county and highlight the positive impacts it is having on communities across Worcestershire. Through capturing the stories of how the arts is impacting on Worcestershire's young, old, communities, businesses and visitors, this strategy will show how the arts contribute to improving the lives of children, young people and families. Arts organisations and anyone interested in knowing about the arts in Worcestershire can read the 1000 Days arts strategy on the county council's website

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/WAP](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/WAP)

### **Worcestershire as a pollinator friendly county - one year on**

It's 12 months since Worcestershire County Council became a 'pollinator friendly county' to promote the protection of pollinating insects and their habitats.

On October 14 the first 'Worcestershire Pollinators Conference' was held at The Hive, to look at some of the initiatives being delivered by the County Council and partners including Natural England, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and Wyre Forest District Council.

The event also saw the launch of a new pollinator garden at the CrownGate shopping centre.

Since officially designating itself a pollinator friendly county, Worcestershire County Council and partners have taken a number of steps to ensure habitats are not destroyed and encourage them wherever possible.

Declining numbers of all types of pollinators including bees and their habitats have been seen throughout the United Kingdom including Worcestershire. By making this commitment, the County Council has been able to make a direct difference through the management of County Council owned land including roadside verges. It has also meant spreading information on biodiversity to help residents and businesses play their part in increasing local habitats, promoting bee keeping and planting pollinator friendly plants. Pollinators include various species of bees, butterflies, moths, beetles and hoverflies. Declining numbers of all types of pollinators have been seen throughout the United Kingdom including Worcestershire. In the UK around 70 fruit, vegetable and cereal crops are insect pollinated. The



economic value of honey bees and bumble bees alone as pollinators of commercially grown crops in the UK has been estimated at over £200 million per year. Pollinators are vital to our food supply and are particularly important in a county such as Worcestershire with a large agricultural and horticultural industry.

They are vital to the food supply of the nation and are particularly important in a county with a large agricultural and horticultural industry such as ours where food including fruit, grains and animal feeds are grown. Don't forget to include autumn and winter nectar in your planting schemes .

You can provide year-round nectar in your gardens The Wildlife Trusts and RHS have a joint project on this with some information here  
<http://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/thingstodo/allyearround/nectar-cafe.aspx>.

There is more information about how you can make a difference and help our pollinators online:

<http://butterfly-conservation.org/10759/plant-pots-for-pollinators.html>

<https://www.buglife.org.uk/Activities-for-you/pollinator-pledge>

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/perfect-for-pollinators>

### **A unique Worcestershire honour for Rio 2016 athletes**

Evesham rower Alex Gregory who won a glorious gold medal at the Rio Olympics is to become one of the first recipients of a new Worcestershire award.

Worcestershire is a county that has so much to boast about. Its economy is one of the fastest growing in the country, its university is amongst the best in the UK for getting graduates into work and by Royal command the county has a coat of arms that's unlike almost any other.

To celebrate World Class Worcestershire

[www.worldclassworcestershire.co.uk](http://www.worldclassworcestershire.co.uk) those who have championed the county and have helped to raise its profile are to be presented with an award that's unique to Worcestershire.

Rather than a blue plaque on the wall of his house or a gold painted post box, Gregory along with Paralympians Claire Cashmore and Lauren Rowles are to be the first ever people to be presented with their very own Worcestershire Black Pear Tree at the official awards ceremony at Evesham Rowing Club.

The Black Pear appears on the county's flag. It can be seen in the Council Chamber at County Hall and it's proudly worn by the county's professional cricketers.

More winners of the Black Pear Award will be named shortly. People can also nominate those who they think should receive this unique prize which is open to individuals, companies and to organisations who champion Worcestershire and represent the best of what this county has to offer.

To make a nomination just visit the World Class Worcestershire website: [www.worldclassworcestershire.co.uk](http://www.worldclassworcestershire.co.uk) and go to the Get Involved section.

**Word Up! Call for young people to take part in the search for Worcestershire's next Young Poet Laureate 2017**

Budding young poets from across Worcestershire are being sought to enter Word Up! as the search for Worcestershire's next Young Poet Laureate gets underway.

To be eligible to enter, young people need to be aged between 13 and 19 and live in Worcestershire, or attend a school, college, university or youth club in the county.

To become the sixth Young Poet Laureate, entrants are asked to submit two poems, one on the subject set by National Poetry Day, which this year is 'Messages,' and another on a subject of their choice. Application forms can be downloaded from the Word Up! webpage

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/wordup](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/wordup)

Current Young Poet Laureate, **19 year old Ellie Courtman from Hanley Swan** is nearing the end of her reign but has enjoyed her experience, which has seen her writing, performing and enthusing young people across the county. "The year has been really enjoyable" she said, adding "being Young Poet Laureate and the support and encouragement I have received in the role has really boosted my confidence in terms of writing and sharing my work!"

Entries can be submitted from October 6<sup>th</sup> until the deadline of midnight on Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**245/16**

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to the Malvern

**Report of the Elected Conservator** – Cllr Freeman  
advised that there was to be a rebranding exercise which  
which would see their title change  
Hills Trust

Minutes approved Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November

Signed .....

Cllr Neil Chatten- Chairman of the Council