

# MAMBLE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Mamble Village Hall on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs: Mr C Bunn (Chairman), Mr P Bytheway, Mr S Finney, Mrs S Rawlins, and Mrs J Rogers.

In Attendance: Mrs A Watson (Clerk)

1. **Apologies:** These were received and accepted from County Councillor Mr D Chambers.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Dispensation has been granted to Cllr. Bunn at each meeting for a Declaration of Pecuniary Interest, to enable participation in all discussions relating to the 'Lengthsman'.
3. **Suspension of the meeting for the Democratic 15 mins/Public Question Time:** No public present.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Meeting held on the 07/12/2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Councillors', District and County Council reports:** County Councillor Mr D Chambers kindly sent his best wishes to everyone for a Happy New Year together with his report for January which is appended to these minutes.

## 6. Progress reports:

6.1 Lay by and road signs. The Chairman reported that the bins are full in the Lay-by, but will hopefully be emptied this week. Tanya Crake, County Highways Liaison Officer, has confirmed the sign for Church Lane will be moved forward towards the front end of the hedge. A work order has been raised for this to be done early 2024. There is still no update on the footpath sign.

6.2 Footpaths and fallen brash. The Chairman reported there had been additional fallen brash by the entrance to the land in the village, and although the inspector for the area has requested a standard letter is sent to the landowner to complete the work as requested, as this was again blocking the footpath it has been cleared away by the Chairman. The footpath around the edge of the land has been assessed and will be added to the 2024/2025 programme to be resurfaced.

## 7. Correspondence received and Items for Discussion.

7.1 West Mercia Police Quarterly Newsletter, Parish Contract and Road Safety Community toolkit. The Clerk has updated the Parish Contract and Councillors discussed grants, costs and hire of VAS signs.

7.2 West Mercia PCC Safer Roads Grant Round 2 launch. The Clerk will provide Councillors with the information.

7.3 Defibrillator pads. These have recently been replaced and the Clerk noted the cost has almost doubled since the last order. Councillors agreed to purchase another set towards the end of the year, to ensure there is always a pair in date for use.

7.4 To consider a request for a Parish tribute/memorial for Mr H Jenkins (deceased). It was agreed the Chairman will contact the Village Hall Committee regarding a suggested picture and plaque to be displayed in the Hall.

## 8. Finance:

8.1 Update on financial position to 31.12.23 and to agree the Parish Council Budget 2024-2025. The Clerk provided income and expenditure accounts that balanced with the Bank Statements at the 31/12/2023. Councillors agreed the Budget for 2024-25, which will be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting.

8.2 To agree the Precept request 2024-2025 and submit to Malvern Hills District Council by 31/01/24. Councillors agreed, due to a rise in costs, a small increase of £300 was necessary for the next financial year. The Clerk will put forward a Precept request of £6300 to Malvern Hills District Council.

### 8.3 Bank Statements

8.3.1 26.12.23 Business Account £5158.14

8.3.2 31.12.23 Current Account £3116.45

### 8.4 Payments - The following payments were ratified and cheques signed:

8.4.1 Mr C Bunn (Lengthsman December) £212.62

8.4.2 Mrs A Watson (Clerk Salary & Expenses inc defib pads @ £86.40) £416.40

8.4.3 Mamble Village Hall (Hire of Hall Sep 23-Jan 24) £75.00

9. The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.40pm

**The Date of next meeting is Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024.**

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman

### Councillors

Mr C Bunn (Chairman), Mr S Finney, Mrs S Rawlins, Mrs J Rogers & Mr P Bytheway  
Clerk to the Council: Mrs A Watson, Brookend Farm, Abberley, Worcs. WR6 6BU Tel: 01299 896841

[www.mambleparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.mambleparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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#### APPENDICIES

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##### Item 5

##### Worcestershire County Council Report

1. The County Council, like virtually all other local authorities, is experiencing increasing costs in general and in three expenditure areas in particular. Adult Social Care, Child Care Placements and Home To School Transport are seeing costs escalate, resulting in budget pressures which the Cabinet are addressing as a priority.

The Council is determined to not only maintain key services but to continue to provide the enhanced services which it has committed to do. It doesn't help when the government fail to maintain council grants in line with inflation and limit the increases that Council Tax can be increased by each year. For example, the Chancellor of the Exchequer can increase national taxes at will, to ensure "a balanced national budget", but local authorities are limited to a 3% rise in Council Tax each year, at a time when inflation has been running at over 10%.

I will keep you updated as the Council prepares its Budget for 2024/25.

2. The County Council has secured £1.1million to help speed up hospital discharges, boost social care provision and prevent avoidable hospital admissions. Local Councils with Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and identified by NHS England as experiencing challenges with urgent and emergency care, were invited to put forward proposals for access to a £40million government fund.

Worcestershire County Council were successful and will use the additional money to buy more services aimed at keeping people out of hospital as well as more packages for care at home.

3. A new bursary to aid young people with special education needs or disabilities is being made available by the County Council. The £1,000 Supported Internship Bursary will be for those partaking in the Supported Internship Programme. The fund will aid learners in acquiring work essentials such as PPE, uniforms, IT equipment and travel support.

The Supported Internship Bursary demonstrates the County Council's determination to fostering the growth and development of the county's future workforce and championing employment inclusion.

**David Chambers**

**County Councillor, Tenbury Division**

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