

Little Malvern & Welland Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18th March 2024

<https://www.wellandparishcouncil.org.uk>

@wellandparishnoticeboard

Present

Cllrs. Mr M Davies (Chair), Mr P Hancock, Dr J Mortimer, Mrs M Sumner and Mr M Whaley.

In Attendance

County Cllr. Tom Wells, District Cllr. Christine Wild, Barbara Stephens (Community Development Coordinator), Mr D Sharp (Clerk) and nine members of the public.

31/24 Public Participation

The Council invites local residents attending the meeting to make comments and suggestions, and question the Parish Council on issues on the agenda, or raise issues for future consideration:

Before the meeting there was a discussion about the state of some of the local footpaths, following a bout of bad weather. The Chair also gave a review of the ongoing improvement project that had been provisionally approved for S106 funding.

32/24 Apologies

To consider acceptance of apologies for absence from Councillors: Cllrs. Dr A Davis and Mrs V Nelson (accepted). Also County Cllr. Mr Malcolm Victory and District Cllr. John Gallagher.

33/24 Interests

i. Councillors Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Disclosable Interests and Non Registable Interests regarding items on the agenda: There were none.

ii. Notification of changes to the register of interests: There were none.

iii. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation for those with Disclosable Interests to take part in discussions or voting: There were none.

34/24 Co-Option

To consider applications for co-option onto the Parish Council: Councillors voted unanimously to co-opt Rachel Sampson on to the Parish Council and she duly completed her acceptance of office.

35/25 Planning

i. To consider responses to any late submitted applications:

None had been received.

ii. Decisions notified:

M/22/00608/OUT – Land at Gloucester Road – Refused

M/23/01769/HP – Strawberry Hill, Garrett Bank – Approved

36/24 Minutes

To consider for adoption the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th February:

These were accepted as an accurate record and they were signed by the Chairman.

37/24 Progress reports and matters arising from these minutes

A meeting was still to be held with Alex Pearson from Midlands Net Zero who were able to offer £40,000 feasibility study grants. A decision whether to proceed with the application for grant funding for a decarbonising project would be made at the next meeting.

38/24 Community Development Coordinator

Barbara Stephens presented her report: The survey and associated Kettle Quiz had closed on 29th February with a 9% response rate and the results were being collated. In brief residents commended the local community spirit, the variety of activities and the village store, but wished for improvements to a community hub and pub, footpaths and traffic calming.

A series of door knocking initiatives were to commence soon with the help of other local Community Development Co-ordinators.

39/24 Reports by District and County Councillors and other Representatives

County Cllr. Tom Wells confirmed how he had distributed his annual ward budget – Welland Pre School, Welland Primary School, Hanley Castle High School and Hanley Swan Primary School had all benefited. He was also to donate the Parish Council £500 this financial year and £500 for the next, to help fund two further Speed Indicating Devices. He confirmed that the District Council's 4 year housing land supply was being tested but the situation in Welland was helped now that the Local Neighbourhood Plan had been adopted. Finally he confirmed that the Powick Community Choir would be performing at St James' Church on 22nd June.

District Cllr. Christine Wild confirmed that among other responsibilities she was a member of the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board and The Corporate Parenting Board. She had recently attended a planning briefing where it was confirmed that Neighbourhood Plans would be given more weight on considering applications and more emphasis was to be on design and energy efficiency. She was working with Community Development groups to set up 'Wellbeing Hubs', similar to that at the village hall library. MHDC was currently setting up a waste food strategy. Finally she hoped work on the Kingston Close roadway would commence soon.

40/24 Committee, Working Party & Other Representative Reports & Recommendations

i. Neighbourhood Planning Working Group:

Next steps following referendum: The referendum held on 7th March had resulted in a 19% turnout with 90% in favour. The Plan would be adopted by MHDC on 9th April. Aspects of the Plan would require monitoring including Community Development.

ii. Communications Working Group:

a. To review website provision: Cllr. Sampson gave a brief overview of the options and would email her conclusions to councillors. A decision would be made next meeting but in the mean time the current contract with C3 Marketing would continue.

b. Items for April Newsletter: The next edition was planned for after 9th April and would include details of the Neighbourhood Plan adoption. Other articles were requested.

iii. Playing Fields/Open Spaces Working Group:

Update on removal of Leylandii trees from Marlbank Cemetery: The Clerk confirmed that all residents sharing the border had been consulted and no objections had been received. He was to request additional quotations and the work would not be undertaken until September.

iv. Highways Working Group:

a. Update on positioning of speed signs and to consider further purchases: The Steam Rally had given permission for the sign on Garret Bank to be placed within their field. WCC were to fit the new posts and it was agreed to order two new units from Elan City, with additional solar panels for a total of £4809.75.

The old mains powered sign on Gloucester Road was not working properly and was to be switched off.

v. S106 Working Group:

Update on potential projects: The footpaths improvement scheme was ongoing and the group was to meet before the next Parish Council Meeting with proposals.

vi. Pavilion Working Group:

Report from recent Management Committee Meeting: The improvements to the kitchen had been well received. Work to secure another grant to improve the hot water system was ongoing. The Pre School were to prepare a proposal to install a sign on the side of the building advertising its use.

41/24 Biodiversity

To finalise Volunteer Terms of Reference: These were to be reviewed at the April meeting.

42/24 Correspondence

To consider the responses to the following correspondence previously circulated:

FROM	SUBJECT
CALC	Updates
NALC	Events and Newsletters
Clerk	Web Site Providers
Clerk	Meeting with Alex Pearson (Midlands Net Zero Hub)
WCC	Parish Councils Conference Wednesday 12 June 2024 from 6 – 9pm
District Cllr. Wild	Kingston Close Roadway
Clerk	Funding budget for Community Development
MHDC	February Malvern Hills Business e-Bulletin
FPCR	Pond Survey Request
Misc	Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) (i)
Worcestershire Cricket	Community Environment Fund

(i) A document to be included in the Preparation of County Local Nature Recovery Strategy was approved for submission.

43/24 Finance

To consider payment of invoices presented:

The following payment was made from the **Main Account** between meetings and requires ratification:

From/Due To	Date	Amount	Details
Barbara Stephens	05/03	£645.00	Community Development Co-Ordinator
Middleton Welding	29/02	£296.40	Drain Cover for orchard
Total		£941.40	

The following payments require approval from the **Main Account**:

From/Due To	Date	Amount	Details
J Moore	16/02	£128.00	Lengthman Duties (February)
Welland Parish Hall	31/03	£550.00	Library Hire Fee
E Hardman	18/03	£150.00	Handyman (£150 Gross - tax coding 1251L)
D Sharp	18/03	£478.40	Clerk's Fee (40 hrs @ SCP 17. £598.00 Gross)
TOTAL		£1,306.40	

Accounts Summary

Reserves Lloyds B/F	£3,010.99		Main Account B/F	£46,076.22
Interest	£3.32	£3,014.31		
Saver Account	£30,545.46			
Interest	£61.01	£30,606.47	WCC Lengthman	£128.00
Fête Account	£1,655.13		Cemetery Fee	£160.00
Gazebo Purchase	-£220.00	£1,435.13	Pre Payment	-£941.40
Buildings Account	£6.47	£6.47		
Neighbourhood Plan Ac.	£0.00	£0.00	March Payments	-£1,306.40
Funding Account	£2,654.59	£2,654.59		
Total C/F		£37,716.97	Main Account C/F	£44,116.42

44/24 Any other matters for report or for future consideration

Cllr. Hancock reported that he hoped to get progress on improved drainage on Castlemorton Common car parks at the next 4Cs meeting next week.

June 22nd was proposed as a possible date for a fete.

45/24 Date of the next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting would take place on Monday 15th April 2024 at 7.30pm in Welland Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:25 pm