

CASTLEMORTON PARISH COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of Meeting of Castlemorton Parish Council held on
Thursday 10 March 2022 at 7.00 pm in the Parish Hall.

Present: Cllrs: Don Lupton, (Chairman) Jeremy Hubbard, David Smallwood, M Wilkinson and Dawn Fisher.

In Attendance: Mrs C Leake (Clerk)

Members of the Public: 0

Public Comments: None

15/22 Apologies: Cllr Wilkes, Fryman, Baker and Flanders. CCllr Wells and DCllr Davies

16/22 Declarations of interests

1. *Register of Interests. No updates.*
2. *To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and/or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI) in items on the agenda and their nature.*
3. *To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011).*

17/22 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the meeting of **6 January 2022** were a true record of the meeting and were signed and the following matters noted:

- **04/22** Letter of acknowledgement sent to former MHDC officer Duncan Rudge upon new appointment in Worcester.
- **05/22 d)** The requirement for an internal auditor is for a competent person to be asked to check year end accounts, no financial qualification necessary and retired accountant ideal. Technically not signing off accounts that is responsibility of PC Chair.
- **05/22 e)** Written request received from Castlemorton PCC and cheque then sent.

18/22 County & District Councillor's Report

DCllr M Davies provided the following report.

- Households in receipt of council tax bills. MHDC increase of £5.00 per year for a Band D property. Able to invest new money into community and environmental services, mainly aimed at supporting local initiatives.
- The Boundary Commission has issued preliminary proposals and the consultation closes on 21 March. The Commission will decide and the changes will be implemented for May 2023.
- Grant support available for community, business and environment projects. Grants are modest and are always associated with matched funding and also possible support from ward funding.
- The SWDPR process continues apace with some disruptions and difficulties. The internal and external Plan Making resources have been strengthened recently and there is confidence that the draft plan will be published on schedule in July this year.
- Struggling to maintain service levels with Planning (Development Control as opposed to Policy) given the continuing high level of applications and the industrywide difficulty of

recruiting and retaining staff. The Validation backlog sorted and now working hard with additional contract labour to improve in other areas, particularly householder applications. Meanwhile, in February 6 appeals were concluded with 5 dismissed and 1 allowed.

- Re start of weekly 'surgery' sessions previously derailed by Covid. At the café in the church at Welland – Harvey's @ St James – most Thursdays from 9.00 – 10.00.

Discussion re Boundary Commission proposals for local authority Malvern Hills. These proposals include the creation of a new Longdon rural ward. Castlemorton and Birtsmorton will be removed from present Morton ward and join Eldersfield, Pendock, Berrow and Longdon parishes. **Agreed** to send response to Boundary Commission acknowledging the proposals to include Castlemorton in this new rural ward.

19/22. Finance Report

a) Finance Report to date

	£	£	
Balance: Jan 22		9805.48	
Add Income	95.92 453.75		Donations from bat evening WCC Lengthsman
Total		549.67	
Less Expenditure pre meeting	100.00 2585.89		Section 137 Castlemorton PCC HWAS Fire Inspection/Action/Hall
		2,685.89	
Less Expenditure at meeting	182.11 206.25 17.95 72.00		Cllr Exps re hall Lengthsman Nov Cllr Exps Lengthsman CALC Cllr Training
Total		478.31	
Balance at close of meeting 10 March 2022		7,190.95	

20/22 Update of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and Model Publication Scheme.

Councillors **agreed** to adopt the updated and reviewed as necessary Parish Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and Model Publication Scheme.

21/22 Highway/Footpath Reports

Highways – Cllr Smallwood presented highway report on recent activity in conjunction with lengthsman work.

Particular mention of progress of matters on New Road and and 'Fly Tipping' Druggers End and the necessity for the use of the flood signs at the bottom of Feathers Pitch during recent wet weather.

It was agreed to acknowledge the efficiency of WCC contractors following up the numerous highway incidents particularly involving fallen trees during the recent storms. A tree which fell across B4208 at Bannut was cleared very quickly.

Footpaths –

Cllr Flanders noted in a report:

- The completion of winter clearance along Green Lane and this has been appreciated with thanks by recent walkers in addition to the new signs.
- Footpath 546(C) A new gate has been installed with footpath signage now directing the walker to the right and away from the private entrance (to the left and running parallel) of Rough Chase.
- Application process underway for the addition of a footpath to the definitive map re that part of the track (ancient parish road) off B4208 along the side of Bannut Tree house to footpath 535(B).
- The accessibility regarding CM 550 behind Robin Hood was discussed. Pedestrian gates are installed but not always clear for access and alternative route outside fence line on private property invariably used. Also noted hedgerow, a requirement of planning, has not been planted.

22/22 Planning

Report of planning applications **received/decided** since last meeting was noted

Decision

21/00400/CLE	Workshop At (Os 7845 3772) Castlemorton		MHDC Refused
21/00887/FUL	Bowling Green House Castlemorton Common Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6LH		MHDC Approved
21/01264/LB & 21/01263/HP	Church Farm Church Road Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6BQ		MHDC Approved
21/01804/FUL	Strawbyn Hancocks Lane Welland WR13 6LG		Pending Decision
21/01764/FUL	Church Farm Church Road Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6BQ		MHDC Approved
21/01769/CU	Workshop At (Os 7845 3772) Castlemorton		Pending Decision
21/01864/HP	Pewtrice Farm U61413 Castlemorton Castlemorton WR13 6LT		MHDC Approved
21/02070/GPDQ	Building At (Os 7948 3915) Castlemorton		MHDC Refuse
21/01869/FUL	Land At (Os 7865 3821) Castlemorton		Pending Decision
21/01793/FUL	Workshop At (Os 7845 3772) Castlemorton		Pending Decision
21/02208/HP	Old Post Office Church Road Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6BE		Pending Decision
21/02313/FUL	Land At (Os 7973 3830) Druggers End Castlemorton	Proposed agricultural building for storage of hay and machinery.	MHDC Approved
M/22/00073/FUL	Church Farm Church Road Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6BQ	Demolition of agricultural buildings. Change of use from agricultural land to garden land and erection of a greenhouse.	Pending Decision
21/02315/FUL	New House Farm Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6BJ	New replacement dwelling including new access, stables and menage	PC Support
M/22/00133/CLPU	Kingswear Castlemorton Common Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6LH	Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed for the siting of a mobile home within the residential curtilage of a dwellinghouse to provide dependent relatives accommodation.	Pending Decision
M/22/00065/FUL	Hailes Pitt Farm Druggers End Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6JD	Proposed conversion of attached outbuildings to holiday accommodation to include demolition and replacement of north west section	PC Support

22/00133/CLPU. The Parish Council agreed to ask the planning officer whether the matter of seeking permanency is a valid request in this application for a permitted certificate of lawfulness. If

MHDC is minded to approve the application the parish council would like to suggest conditions be applied relating to appearance fitting for the location with the AONB.

23/22 Parish Hall and Parish Hall Trust

The chairman reported a number of matters on behalf of Trust:

- Fire Certification updated
- Internal Painting completed
- Encouraging level of bookings
- Pipes lagged over kitchen and further ones in need of lagging.
- Final payment due on extension with snags now resolved.
- Leaflet of forthcoming public events to be distributed
- Looking for more speakers in the Tuesday slot. A successful form of income.

24/22 Castlemorton Environmental Action Group

The establishment of this committee has been very successful and enthusiastic involving 5 councillors. Further support can be co-opted but not able to vote. Any expenditure agreed as per financial regulations. The chairman, Cllr Fisher particularly noted:

- The Logo competition in conjunction with local children.
- Leaflet drop around Parish
- Launch date on 24 March 2022
- Forthcoming Electric Car afternoon, Sunday 20 March at 2pm. An opportunity to learn more about using an electric car.
- On line survey and a response to date
- Consideration to future ideas including solar and PVs in light of recent fuel price hike.

25/22 Correspondence

Particular mention of:

- CALC/NALC Updates Log in details. Whistle-stop Tour booked for new members. An informative event for attendees.
- SNT – Upton updates, New Neighbourhood alert scheme. ***Put registration details in magazine.***
- A Nature Recovery Plan for the Malvern Hills AONB – Consultation
- Malvern Hills Electoral Review: Draft Recommendations
- Defibrillator grant available for councils in England . London Hearts
- Malvern Hills District Council Connected Communities Themed Transport Summit - 17th February.
- Destination Zero Crowdfund PR – MHDC. The £100,000 fund, which is aimed at community groups, charities, local councils, schools and individuals, is to help bring forward projects that would have a wider community benefit.
- Malvern Hills area committee for (WCALC) Tuesday 8 March at 7pm via Zoom.
- Natural Networks Webinar- 30th March 2022, 6.30pm-8.30pm. ***Cllrs book own tickets.***
- 4Cs meeting 16 March at CPH
- Update on Police Charter
- MHDC Parish and Town Councillor Conference - 17 May 6-8pm
- Heartstart Malvern training sessions Suggest June or July. ***Agreed to book a date.***
- As-One Community Project. "As One" campaign, with c 600 large vinyl banners gradually going up around the county, supported by WCC and backed by a large group of schools, churches and others (see list at www.as-one.uk/worcestershire).

26/22 New Initiatives

Defibrillator: Ref Min 83/21 Update. A resident has expressed a wish to financially support the venture. Agreed to follow up training sessions. There is still doubt as to whether there would be accessibility to a mobile network in the event of an emergency which is necessary to access equipment.

Twinning – Cllr Smallwood has investigated this further and it was agreed to put a note in the parish magazine to see if there is any support for such a scheme possibly looking to link with a rural French area.

Parish Leaflet Delivery – With the increasing event activity in the parish it was agreed where possible to endeavour to link up as regards leaflet delivery across the parish, so reduce the leg work.

Platinum Jubilee. Parish Council not looking to stage an independent event but aware of CCA’s forthcoming summer Jubilee Shindig.

27/22 Ukraine

Cllr Hubbard asked what action could be considered by Parish Council in light of recent events involving Russia and Ukraine.

Event: Russia began an invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, in a major escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War that began in 2014. It is the largest military attack in Europe since World War II.

It was agreed that the best option of support was financial. The film club has advertised that proceeds from the next film showing will be donated to The Disaster Emergency Committee. (This committee brings together 15 leading aid charities, raising funds to quickly and effectively respond to overseas disasters.)

It was decided that any other further fund raising which takes place at the various forthcoming public events at the Parish Hall would also be donated to DEC. This would provide the opportunity to acknowledge a sum being donated from the village to one source. Donations buckets are ready and available for use.

28/22. Next Meetings

RESOLVED that the next meeting will be Thursday 12 May 2022 (Annual Meetings)

commencing at 6.30pm

Meeting concluded at 9.15pm

Signed

Date.....