

CASTLEMORTON PARISH COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of Meeting of Castlemorton Parish Council held on
Thursday 7 March 2024 at 7.00 pm in Castlemorton Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs: Mike Wilkinson (Chairman), David Smallwood, Dawn Fisher, Hilary Flanders, Jeremy Hubbard and Rosemary Powell

Mrs C Leake (Clerk) & DCllr John Gallagher

In Attendance:

Members of the Public: 1

The Chairman commenced the meeting with a public acknowledgement following the recent death of Mrs Joan Bedford. Joan had been a former Parish Councillor and supporter of the Parish Hall Trust and village activity for many years. He also welcomed parishioner to the meeting.

Public Comments: None

14/24 Apologies: PCllrs. Baker, Bowker & Rollinson, DCllr Wild

15/24 Declarations of interests

1. *Register of Interests.*
2. *To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and/or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI) in items on the agenda and their nature. None*
3. *To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011. None*

16/24 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the meeting of **11 January 2024** were a true record of the meeting and were signed.

17/24 Reports from County & District Councillors

DCllr Gallagher. His report included:

- Adoption of MHDC budget and precept for 2024/25
- Upgrade programme presently underway of public toilets in the district
- Volunteering Options in the district (*To be highlighted in What's On*)
- Planned consultation on car parking charges. Last review in 2012

18/24. Finance Report

	£	£	
Balance: 11 January 2024		6385.19	
Add Income		286.00	WCC Lengthsman
Total			
Less Expenditure pre meeting		0	
Less Expenditure at meeting	253.00 214.50 39.22		Lengthsman Jan Lengthsman Feb Cllr Exps Re NALC Event
		506.72	

Balance at close of meeting 7 March 2024		6164.47	
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a) Budget Financial Year 2024/2025

A revised budget was presented following discussion with the Parish Hall Trust about sharing the cost of the Hall insurance. The Parish Council will allocate £250 annually towards the cost of Hall Insurance as a contribution to the Charity. The remainder will be covered by the Management Committee but paid through the Parish Council as the policyholder. (For next FY this is roughly a 65%:35% split.) A revised agreement between the Parish Council and the Hall Management Committee has been prepared reflecting these changes. The possibility of increasing the budget for S137 grants will be left for consideration depending on what requests come forward during the year. Future calls on our reserves are likely to include a new laptop (in 2025) and website. **The draft budget was adopted.**

b) Website: With the likelihood of WCC no longer maintaining *My Parish* website from 2025 an alternative provider will be sought. (It is a legal requirement for the purposes of transparency, certain council information must be publicly available.) At present this is being investigated by CALC in the hopes of achieving a group deal with a provider. This is likely to involve an initial set up cost with a recurring annual fee.

19/24 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 and Risk Assessment

20/24 Highways

In his written report Cllr Smallwood particularly noted the following & some further additions:

- **Cherry Orchard** – Negotiation matters continue but planned site meetings fail with insufficient representative attendance. Parishioners frustrated.
- Pot Holes in Hancocks Lane
- Demolished WCC building in Druggers End
- Seek discussion with WCC re the placement and removal of temporary signs.

Lengthsman Update

- Health much improved following eye injury and back at work. Especially active after recent storms and rain with tree clearance and grip work.
- With ongoing open conversations about Levelling Up is there scope for more local tasks to be completed by the lengthsman at present not permitted? This to be explored further with our County Councillor.

21/24 Footpaths

- **Ref Minute 82/23** success with the provision of new stiles for easier accessibility across this footpath 532(C) New Road to Bannut Tree track. WCC arranging a working group to execute the task
- Lengthsman clearance work completed on footpath 543 north of Robin Hood

22/24 Planning

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

M/23/00957/FUL	Land at (OS 7853 3776) Castlemorton	Proposed holiday cabin and orchard tree planting.	Pending
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M/22/00797/LB M/22/00798/HP	Cider Mill Barn Hollybush Ledbury HR8 1ET	Erection of single storey extension and alterations	Pending Decision
M/23/01341/FUL	Thistledome Church Road Castlemorton Worcestershire WR13 6BH	Proposed Holiday Cabin	Pending Decision
M/23/01787/CLE	Caravan At Upper Orchard Cottage Hollybed Street Castlemorton	Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use of land for stationing a caravan for residential purposes	Pending Decision
M/23/01761/FUL	Willow Tree House Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6DA	Replacement dwelling and exterior cladding/re-roofing to existing garage	Pending Decision
M/23/01790/FUL	Walnut Tree Cottage Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6BS	Proposed Manege adjacent to existing stables and variations to stables planning permission 07/01900/FUL	Application Withdrawn
M/24/00184/CU	Meadow Barn Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6LT	Conversion of Existing Livery Stables to One Bedroom Holiday Accommodation	Pending Decision
M/23/01683/HP	Ebenezer Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6BY	Demolition of existing single storey, brick, 3 bay garage and construction of replacement single storey 2 bay garage with home office in roof space	Pending Decision

M/23/01683/HP: No objection to this application

M/24/00184/CU: Discussion ensued on planning history and lack of evidence to purport the present status is not a viable business. Proposed and agreed objection due to lack of evidence. provided with the application.

M/23/00940/FUL: Mobile structures to be removed by 15 August 2024 unless appeal submitted.

M/23/01790/FUL: submitted and then later withdrawn leaving enforcement action to reinstate the ground by 31 March 2024. Within this application was a retrospective application for consent for changes to the stables which were not covered by the previous permission granted in 2007. Resolved that we should write to MHDC querying the planning status of the structures added to the stables.

Planning Procedure: further updated to also include a reference to enforcement and adopted.

23/24 Parish Hall Trust

Updated agreement between Parish Council and Management Committee, the Charity has been prepared reflecting changes to clarify roles and insurance costs. This will be considered by the next Management Committee. Councillor Hubbard asked for more information to be available about the finances of the PHT given the Council is the trustee for the charity. (Hall balance sheet has been circulated following the meeting.)

24/24 Environmental Group

As reported by Cllr Fisher:

- Recent enjoyed talks on 'Treescapes' and 'Creating a garden for drought' and others planned.
- Sharing activities with other local groups
- On going Churchyard project
- Availability of trees.

25/24 Correspondence

Particular mention of:

- CALC/NALC Updates including courses & training for councillors.

- Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams – Neighbourhood Matters Notifications. Update to contract.
- **Hills Ford 3 Stage Rally 14/15 September.**
Ensure residents are aware of the planned arrangements for the rally the day it is in the parish. Also agreed take up the organisers invitation to seek a donation towards a parish project.
- Resolved following a vote (2 in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention) not to take up free offer from The Cabinet Office for framed portrait of His Majesty, The King. It was noted that the Parish Hall had not displayed a portrait the late Queen.
- Review of Malvern Hills National Landscape Management Plan
- Forthcoming digitalisation of the Lengthsman Scheme.
- Abba Tribute Band at Malvern Theatre 24 March proceeds supporting AGE UK
- Worcestershire County Council Budget Consultation with Parish and Town Councils 2024
- **NALC – Climate Emergency.** ‘Unleashing the power of local councils to tackle the climate emergency’ 26 June 2024 12.00 – 13.15 Again interest for this event following on from the one about Levelling Up and will be booked by Cllr Hubbard. Ticket £32.68
- **Home & Property Security Roadshow.** An invitation from the Malvern Hills Community Safety team for an offer to receive our upcoming Property and Home Security Roadshow. Maybe liaise with the former Morton Ward and host with the larger parish, Welland. TBC
- **Healthy Worcestershire Team initiative.** Request via CALC to engage in a trial working with the County Council looking for 5 Parishes that would like to take a lead on health and well being. Potentially a pilot scheme with 2 hour sessions focusing on gentle physical activity with a talk (probably focusing on mental health). It was proposed that we find out more about what the initiative might entail without committing ourselves to participating.

26/24 Meetings

- **4Cs**, 20 March, Agenda items. Check vegetation clearance at Hartspool and seek clearance on path between Berrow Downs and Huntsbridge
- **Worcestershire County Council Town and Parish Councils Conference** - Wednesday 12th June 6 - 9pm
- **Malvern Hills Trust** – new chief Executive, Deborah Fox, in post and looking forward to meeting Parish Councils to further the process by the Trust in “....putting forward proposals for a new Act of Parliament to bring the charity into the 21st century and ensure it can continue its vital work”.

27/24 Next Parish Council Meetings

RESOLVED that the next meeting will be Thursday 23 May 2024 (Annuals)

Meeting concluded at 9.20pm

Signed

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