

UNADOPTED

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF  
MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL**

held on Wednesday 6 February 2019

Council Chamber, Belle Vue Terrace, Malvern, at 6.00 pm

**Councillors**

Present

C Palmer (Chairman)  
C Bovey  
J Cain  
J Campbell  
M Harvey  
I Hopwood  
L Lambeth  
P Newton  
N Mills  
N Morton  
P Smith  
J Thomas

P Tuthill

D Watkins

Absent

S Charles (apologies)  
H Campbell (apologies)  
J O'Donnell (apologies)  
M Campbell

**In attendance**

Linda Blake – Town Clerk  
Charles Porter – Operations Manager  
Louise Wall – Minute Clerk

**123. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were considered separately and accepted from:

- Cllr Samantha Charles – family birthday
- Cllr Hannah Campbell - work commitment
- Cllr James O'Donnell – family illness

**124. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**125. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

After a secret ballot, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Jeremy Thomas be appointed Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the 2018/19 council year.

**126. DEPUTY MAYOR'S DECLARATION OF OFFICE**

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Jeremy Thomas, signed the Declaration of Office, witnessed by the Town Clerk.

**127. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the following meeting be approved and adopted as a correct record of the proceedings and they were signed by the Mayor:

- Full Council meeting 19 December 2018

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

**128. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Report CL01/19 was received.

It was **RESOLVED** that the appointment of representatives on the outside bodies listed in the report would be as follows:

<b>Outside Body</b>	<b>Councillor(s)</b>
Malvern Hills Council for Community Action	Cllr Cynthia Palmer
MTC/MHDC Liaison Group	Cllr Jeremy Thomas (as Deputy Mayor)
Malvern-Bagnères de Bigorre Twinning Association	Cllr Paul Tuthill
Malvern Twinning Steering Group	Cllr Jeremy Thomas (as Deputy Mayor)

**129. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor welcomed the Town Clerk back from holiday and thanked those councillors who had attended Cllr Regimbeau's funeral.

The Mayor had recently attended the Southern Area Planning Committee meeting to speak on behalf of the Town Council objecting to the proposed development at North East Malvern. However, the application was approved and it was noted that works to the roundabout have already started.

The only other engagement the Mayor had recently attended was at Collins Aerospace, at which she once again met Princess Anne. Collins Aerospace have a purpose-built facility which was constructed in 2016. Cllr Palmer noted how fortunate Malvern is in having so many innovative and successful businesses.

**130. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Heart of England in Bloom

Volunteers are needed for a seminar in March and to attend Bloom meetings. Cllr Jill Campbell and Cllr Jeremy Thomas volunteered to attend these and details will be sent out.

**131. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE**

**Cllr Paul Tuthill (County)**

The County Council budget has now been finalised and the reduction in library facilities has not been as much as expected and does not affect Malvern.

There are also to be devolved, discretionary budgets for councillors to use in their division.

Funding has now been agreed for three footbridges over the Southern Link Road. The works to dual the causeway of the Southern Link Road are now beginning and there will be some closures at night as a result.

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The recent report in the press regarding cuts in fire crews at Malvern station was incorrect. The proposed changes in crews will not affect the standard of cover and are more to do with ensuring fire crew live within close proximity of the station to guarantee the quickest response to calls.

### **Cllr James O'Donnell (District and County)**

Cllr O'Donnell had submitted a written report to be read in his absence.

Monies from the Business Rates Retention Pilot scheme will be made available to the County Council, ring-fenced for Adult Social Care and Children's Services.

The District Council is doing all it can to help the homeless and rough sleepers in the area and has referred the recent deaths of two rough sleepers in Malvern to the Worcestershire Adults Safeguarding Board. There will be a meeting on 27 February with representatives from health, housing and voluntary sectors plus Crisis and Shelter to discuss a way forward.

Cllr Jill Campbell and Cllr David Watkins also spoke about the homelessness issue and that meetings had already taken place to discuss improving the situation.

The District Council has approved from 1 April 2019 that properties which have been empty for two years or more will be charged a council tax long term empty homes premium (100% of council tax) to help to reduce the number of empty properties in the district and bring them back into housing stock.

District elections will be held on Thursday 2 May.

## **132. TOWN COUNCIL WARD REPORTS / REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **Cllr Jeremy Thomas**

Cllr Thomas had attended an executive meeting of CALC. The person chosen to replace Richard Levett has been announced. The name had not yet been formally announced but it was hoped that they would take up the position as of 1 April. The CALC subscription would increase by 7.4% (0 this year) but this was the last increase in the five-year plan to balance costs. A main topic of discussion at the meeting had been the importance of training councillors in various matters. Although councillors cannot be made to attend training, it is known to be very useful and to make it easier for councillors to attend, CALC hope to offer more places where training will take place, including in Malvern.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would send a card on the council's behalf wishing Richard a happy retirement.

### **Cllr Ian Hopwood**

Cllr Hopwood reported on the Malvern-Mariánské Lázně Community Partnership, which is in its 8<sup>th</sup> year, and its plans for the coming year:

- A visit from the Mayor of Mariánské Lázně to Malvern during Civic Week when a programme of Czech films and a folklore music and dance event will take place – it is suggested that the Town Council extends the invitation to

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the Mayors of Bagnères-de-Bigorre and Landrecies and this would be considered at the next council meeting

- Hosting of the Fontana Choir and a Youth Jazz Band during Civic Week 2020
- Organisation of a visit to the four Science and Technology Interactive Centres in the Czech Republic with a view to establishing a similar centre in Malvern
- Representatives of the MLCP to attend the opening of the spa season in Mariánské Lázně in May, to which the Mayor of Malvern and the British ambassador will also be invited.

### 133. **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

There were no Members' Questions.

### 134. **ELGAR AVENUE – PLANNING PERMISSION**

The Town Clerk reported that the pre-application feedback had not been too positive, with objections being made to the loss of green space. To counteract this, plans had been modified to reduce the number of houses from 20 to 16, move the houses further from the trees, including a footpath and allowing more green space on the site. The Town Clerk is investigating figures relating to actual needs of affordable housing in the area.

Councillors felt that the negative feedback should be strongly challenged as the proposed plans are modest and would provide much needed affordable housing on a site that has been little used over many years and pointed out that it was the Secretary of State that had agreed the lifting of the allotment provision.

It was **NOTED** that district councillors for Pickersleigh ward could request that the application goes to committee rather than just be considered under officer delegation.

### 135. **THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Following the final Section 16 Final Public Consultation which ended on Friday 21 December 2018, 70 responses were received from a mixture of sources including residents of Malvern, local statutory bodies as well as legal firms representing housing developers.

The Plan's examiner allowed Malvern Town Council to provide feedback to the consultation responses and just three days later, a confidential first draft of the examiner's report was received for fact checking by both MTC and MHDC. The final examiner's report was then issued on Friday 1 February.

The examiner has recommended 28 modifications to the plan (mostly rewording of policies) and three policies to be removed:

- Promoting sustainable design
- Transport and development and
- Development and infrastructure

Officers from Town and District Councils are currently working together to ensure all of the recommended modifications are made and it is our understanding that

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MHDC intends to ask its Full Council for its approval that the document can go to referendum, at its meeting on 19 February.

Once a Neighbourhood Plan has been independently examined and the decision taken to put the plan to a referendum then it must then be taken into account when determining a planning application as far as the policies are material to the application.

Many of the reports that have provided evidence and support for the Plan have been commended by the examiner and his report is available in full at <https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/malvern-town-neighbourhood-plan>

The examiner has recommended that the plan should proceed to a local referendum and all being well, that will happen on 2 May alongside local Town and District Elections.

The Town Clerk thanked Officers Charles, Clare, Louise; and consultant Peter Hamilton for all of their recent work which had been crucial in getting the plan ready for Referendum. Thanks were extended by the Mayor to Cllr Peter Smith for his contribution to the supporting documents.

**136. BASKETBALL COURTS – VICTORIA PARK**

The Operations Manager reported that he was in the process of obtaining tenders for the concrete pad. The Flex Court representative will meet with Charles at the courts on 14 February to agree on the installation process and the timetable. Although planning permission has not yet been granted, it is hoped that this will be obtained soon and that the courts will be ready to open in May/June.

**137. TASK AND FINISH GROUP – AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

Cllr Morton thanked the councillors who had attended the meeting held on 29 January 2019, at which the Task and Finish Group had reviewed the long-term Aims and Objectives for 2018/19. These had been sent out to all councillors with the previous week's pack and Councillor Morton asked if anyone had any comments and a couple of word changes were suggested.

It was **RESOLVED** that the notes, including the suggested amendments, of the following meeting be approved and adopted:

- Task and Finish Group – Tuesday 29 January 2019

**138. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of Full Council will be Wednesday 6 March 2019 at 6.00 pm.

The meeting finished at 7.30 pm.

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(Chairman)