

UNADOPTED

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL

held on Wednesday 6 March 2019

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

Councillors

Present

C Palmer (Chairman)

C Bovey

J Cain

H Campbell

S Charles

M Harvey

I Hopwood

L Lambeth

P Mewton

N Mills

N Morton

J O'Donnell

P Smith

J Thomas

D Watkins

Absent

M Campbell

P Tuthill (apologies)

In attendance

Linda Blake – Town Clerk

Charles Porter – Operations Manager

Louise Wall – Minute Clerk

One member of the Press

139. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were accepted from:

- Cllr Paul Tuthill - illness

140. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

141. 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 6 February 2019

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Reverend Phillip Johnson, PCC Malvern Link with Cowleigh, spoke in connection with item 11 on the agenda, and explained why they were applying for a special grant. The grant of £2,000 is to help launch a new community arts centre at St Peter's on Cowleigh Bank through an annual arts festival beginning in June 2019, followed by three seasons a year of programmed events. Specifically, the money would be used to fund the first of a three-phase project which involves setting up a website with ticket processing, Mailchimp, SEO and marketing systems and providing training for volunteers in event management.

All of the acts have been reserved for this year's festival, including Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy for the last day and Rev'd Johnson stated that if the grant was awarded, the money would be held in a restricted fund which could only be used

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for arts-related activities. £4,000 is required in total for the first phase, with £2,000 being funded by the PCC's own funds.

Under Standing Order 1a, the Chairman altered the order of business so that item 11 would follow Public Participation.

142. **NOTICE OF MOTION – SPECIAL GRANT TO PCC MALVERN LINK WITH COWLEIGH**

Cllr Hopwood presented his Notice of Motion and this was seconded by Cllr Thomas in Cllr Tuthill's absence.

Members of the council asked how funding would be provided for year 2 onwards and Rev'd Johnson replied that they had conservatively estimated attendance at 30%, at which level ticket sales would cover costs for next year. As attendance is expected to build each year, then going forwards costs would likewise be covered.

Members were supportive of the application and some had already enjoyed music events at St Peter's while others thought that it would be good for Malvern to have more events of this kind.

It was **RESOLVED** that Malvern Town Council supports a new community arts centre at St Peter's Church, Cowleigh Bank, by way of a special grant of £2,000 to fund stage 1 – the creation of a website, back office and marketing systems as well as volunteer training in event management.

143. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Quiz and Curry Night

There are a few tickets left for this charity evening on Tuesday 12 March. Cllr Morton will be Quiz Master and members were encouraged to attend if possible for what promises to be a great evening.

MHDC and MTC Liaison Meeting

This is being held next Thursday at the Town Council offices, the Mayor and the Town Clerk will attend.

Mayor's Civic Service

The Mayor reminded everyone that her Civic Service will be at Great Malvern Priory at 3.00 pm on Easter Saturday and it was hoped as many councillors as possible would be able to attend.

Annual Town Meeting

This will be at the Coach House Theatre at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 13 March. Again, the Mayor hoped that all councillors would try to attend, as although it is not a council meeting, it is good to have a strong representation at the meeting.

Mayor's Absence

The Mayor will be out of action for a couple of weeks from the end of March due to a hospital appointment.

144. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Council Tax

In December 2018, Council resolved to increase its precept from £650,000 to £663,000 which was an increase of 2%. At this time, the exact number of Band D equivalent households for the Town area had not been confirmed. However, recent information from MHDC has confirmed that Malvern Town Council's Band D Council Tax Charge for 2019/20 will be £63.19 which is an increase of 32 pence from 2018/19 or 0.5%.

Elections

Full Town Council elections are being held on Thursday 2 May. After attending an election training session, the Town Clerk had distributed some brief election notes for Councillors with their weekly pack and there were some hard copies of nomination packs available at the meeting for councillors to take away. The Town Clerk reported that the forms and guidance notes were at last available on the MHDC website.

Street Naming – Land at Lower Howsell Road

The task of suggesting three names for the new development of 110 properties on Land at Lower Howsell Road had been delegated to Link Ward Councillors and after much discussion several suggestions were made, mostly linked to the fact that this land used to be an allotment site. The Town Clerk had passed two possible naming solutions on to the street naming team who spoke to the developer and the three names chosen are:

- Wheelbarrow Way
- Harrow Close
- Twine Crescent

Free Tickets

Sight Concern have given the Town Council six free tickets to Dvorák's serenade for strings in Great Malvern Priory on Saturday at 7:30pm, normal price £20 and the Town Clerk offered these to anyone who was interested in attending.

145. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr James O'Donnell (District)

Council Tax

MHDC will increase their council tax this year by £5.00 for Band D properties but residents should note that only 10% of the total council tax bill is retained by MHDC, with the remainder going to County Council, the Policy and Fire services and the parish and town council precepts.

Rough Sleepers' Forum

This was a great success with agencies agreeing to work closely to help solve the problem of rough sleepers in the town. 'Homelessness and Rough Sleeping' will be on the agenda of the next meeting of the Worcestershire Leaders Board.

Route to the Hills

This has been shortlisted for the UK Heritage Awards in London on 25 March

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Priory Park

Following comments received from members of the public, the projected cost of £500,000 for Priory Park should be put into context – it would cost £200,000 to replace the existing play equipment as it is to bring it in line with current health and safety standards and £150,000 to fix the surface water problems. £150,000 will be obtained towards the cost from Section 106 monies.

Some members were concerned that plans for the park did not include clearing out the ponds and that without doing this Green Flag status could not be gained. Cllr O'Donnell stated that he would continue to press for the ponds to be dredged and cleaned.

Reception for MHDC

Concerns had also been raised about the cost of £500,000 for the new reception at the Council House. Councillor O'Donnell pointed out that the end of the Civica Hub contract would provide significant savings as well as meaning that there would be four full-time staff members to operate reception and one dedicated telephone line.

146. TOWN COUNCIL WARD REPORTS / REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

147. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

There were no Members' Questions.

148. NOTICE OF MOTION - VISIT TO MALVERN WATER WEEKEND BY THE MAYOR OF JESENİK

Cllr Palmer presented her Notice of Motion which was seconded by Cllr Cain.

The Mayor explained that the money requested would be to support a visit from the Mayor of Jesenik in the Czech Republic to visit Malvern over May bank holiday weekend, to coincide with the Health and Wellbeing Fair and the Water weekend, Jesenik being a spa town with a similar history to Malvern.

Some members agreed that visits such as this were important to the local economy and although the exact impact was hard to measure, it was felt that many benefits were to be gained, while others thought that exchange visits such as choirs and sports teams were a better way of encouraging links between Malvern and other towns and that the benefits to be gained were not just economic.

Many councillors felt that twinning relationships had to start somewhere and this was the first step in developing a possible link between the towns.

It was mentioned that although twinning has progressed a long way since its inception, it was now time to publicise the activities to get maximum benefit for Malvern.

It was **RESOLVED** to amend the proposed resolution to ensure the money was taken from the grant scheme rather than the Mayoral allowance.

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It was **RESOLVED** to 1) support a formal invitation from the Town Council to the Mayor of Jeseník in the Czech Republic to visit Malvern over the May bank holiday weekend to experience the water weekend events which are taking place and 2) support a return visit to Jeseník later in the summer. A grant of £1,200 would be provided towards these visits.

Cllr Charles left the meeting at 6.45 pm

149. **NOTICE OF MOTION - MARIÁNSKÉ LÁZNĚ COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

Cllr Hopwood presented his Notice of Motion, seconded by Cllr O'Donnell in Cllr Tuthill's absence.

The MLCP would like to celebrate Malvern's connection with Mariánské Lázně and the towns of Bagnères-de-Bigorre and Landrecies, in France, by inviting their Mayors to Malvern during Midsummer Malvern week in June. Representatives from Malvern had visited Mariánské Lázně over the past couple of years and had been shown great hospitality. It was hoped that Malvern could reciprocate and therefore further the links between all of the towns.

It was **RESOLVED** that Malvern Town Council supports the Mariánské Lázně Community Partnership by way of a grant of £1,230 to Midsummer Malvern week activities involving dignitaries from Mariánské Lázně, Bagnères de Bigorre and Landrecies, with an official invitation to be sent from the Town Council to the Mayors of these three towns.

It was **NOTED** that the overall concept of twinning, its co-ordination and its benefits to the Town should be looked at and that this was a matter for the new council to consider in more detail.

150. **NOTICE OF MOTION – EARTH HOUR 2019**

Cllr Palmer presented her Notice of Motion, seconded by Cllr Lambeth.

She explained that after receiving a letter from a young resident of Malvern, she hoped that Councillors would participate in Earth Hour 2019 on 30 March as climate change is one of the biggest issues faced in this day and age.

Members were generally very supportive and agreed it was important to respond to correspondence from younger members of the community as they are often the ones who are overlooked and it was good to encourage their interaction.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members of this Council support and encourage friends, local residents and businesses to turn off electric lights and all other unnecessary electrical appliances for one hour from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm on 30 March 2019 in support of Earth Hour.

151. **NOTICE OF MOTION – CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FOR GREAT MALVERN**

Cllr Hannah Campbell presented her Notice of Motion which was seconded by Cllr Harvey.

Cllr Campbell explained that the Christmas lights in Great Malvern (apart from those for the Christmas tree and trees on Belle Vue Island) were reaching the end of their useful life and had been criticised as being too modern in their design.

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She was keen to see lights much more in keeping with Malvern's heritage and history, and which would link visually with the displays in Barnards Green and Malvern Link. Cllr Campbell and Cllr Harvey stated they would speak to all of the traders in Malvern to gain their support, both financially and in getting landlords' agreements to erect the lights.

Members of the council **AGREED** that it was vital to ensure the traders were fully behind the proposal and that they would contribute their time and efforts in making the arrangements necessary for the lights to be erected.

The Operations Manager said that it would take approximately three weeks to put all of the lights up as long as all permissions had been gained from the traders. As the cost of running the new lights is minimal, hopefully there was no reason for traders to object. The life of the lights of 8 – 9 years was based on existing lights at Link Top which were still working well, so the overall life could reasonably be expected to be much longer.

It was **RESOLVED** that the council would provide new LED permanent lighting for shop fronts in all areas of central Great Malvern in 2019.

It was further **RESOLVED** that the order should be placed as soon as possible in order that a price of £15,000 could be obtained.

152. **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

The Town Clerk presented the draft calendar of meetings and explained that it had been worked around the statutory obligations of the council, holidays and major events. Meetings had again been scheduled for Wednesdays.

Members **NOTED** the calendar of meetings for 2019/20.

153. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Report CL02/19 was received and accepted.

The Chairman of the Policy and Resources committee, Cllr Thomas presented the recommendations which were then taken individually as follows:

- 1) It was **RECOMMENDED** that Council approves the Quarterly Accounts for the third quarter, ending 31 December 2018 with thanks extended to the staff for the detailed and clear set of accounts.
- 2) It was **RECOMMENDED** that an amount of £10,000 be earmarked towards any initial costs for the redevelopment of the Victoria Park Pavilion such as professional fees required at the planning stage of the project.
- 3) It was **RECOMMENDED** that a Text Alert System through Twilio and linked to the Town Council website be put in place to remind councillors of meeting dates and/or event dates.
- 4) It was **RECOMMENDED** that the table of significant risks in achieving the Council's long term objectives be accepted.
- 5) It was **RECOMMENDED** that Malvern Town Council's Policy for Dealing with the Press/Media is adopted with no changes from the 2018 version required.

154. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The Town Clerk reported that following a consultation with the relevant portfolio holders and local ward members, the District Council have accepted the examiner's recommendations and decided that the Neighbourhood Plan will now go to referendum on 2 May, which is the same day as District and Town Council elections are being held. MHDC had asked the Town Clerk to pass on their thanks to all those who have been involved in the process of getting the plan to this stage.

155. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of Full Council will be Wednesday 3 April 2019 at 6.00 pm.

156. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** pursuant to section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public from the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The meeting finished at 7.40 pm.

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(Chairman)