

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF  
MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL  
held remotely via Zoom on  
Wednesday 14 October 2020 at 6.00 pm**

**Councillors**

Present

N Morton (Chairman)  
L Lambeth (Vice Chairman)  
C Bovey  
S Charles  
J Dallow  
C Hooper  
N Houghton  
J Leibrandt  
L Lowton  
R McLaverty-Head  
P Mewton  
N Mills  
J O'Donnell

C Palmer  
J Satterthwaite  
P Smith  
S Taylor  
P Tuthill  
D Watkins

**In attendance**

Linda Blake – Town Clerk  
Louise Wall – Minute Clerk  
  
Cllr Kaleem Aksar, Link Ward  
representative for MHDC  
  
Three members of the public

**228. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**229. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Neville Mills, item 4 – related to candidate and would not be taking part in the vote on this agenda item.

**230. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the following meeting be approved and adopted as a correct record of the proceedings, to be signed by the Mayor in due course:

- Full Council meeting 26 August 2020.

**231. VACANCY IN DYSON PERRINS WARD – CO-OPTION OF ONE MEMBER TO MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL**

Report CL01/20 was received and accepted.

The Town Clerk outlined the process for the co-option of a councillor to Dyson Perrins Ward and informed members that one candidate had withdrawn prior to the meeting. The vote would therefore be between two candidates with the successful candidate requiring more than 50% of the votes in order to be co-opted.

The candidates then addressed Full Council in turn for up to three minutes, and answered subsequent questions that had been submitted by councillors prior to the meeting. These were put to candidates via the chair.

A secret ballot was requested by Cllr Charles and Cllr Mewton. This followed, and votes were counted.

The Town Clerk announced that Aidan Stitt was the successful candidate and had been co-opted as Town Councillor for Dyson Perrins Ward.

**232. ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Because the meeting was being held by Zoom, the Town Clerk read out the declaration of acceptance of office and Aidan Stitt accepted it verbally.

It was **NOTED** that arrangements will be made for a signed copy to be returned to the office.

The Mayor welcomed Cllr Stitt to the meeting.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no Public Participation.

**233. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor described his frustration over the street naming at the former QinetiQ site on St Andrews Road. Although twelve out of thirteen suggestions had been accepted with some modifications, the one that had been discounted was 'Radar.' A number of suggestions have been put forward by MHDC for the final road name but the Mayor felt that it was very important to include 'Radar', bearing in mind the history of the site and not to accept the alternatives.

District members agreed that 'Radar' should be included and said that they had contacted the portfolio holder at MHDC regarding this, but had not received a response.

Other members also agreed that 'Radar' should be included, and it was suggested that the matter of road naming in the future was passed back to the district council.

**234. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

**Vandalism at Victoria Park**

Following the damage to play equipment at Victoria Park as well as a general rise in anti-social behaviour at this site, a meeting was held with the Police, Local Ward Councillors and Officers. A good discussion was held and a number of suggestions made for ways to mitigate the behaviour and Officers will be looking at options alongside costings with the aim for a report to be put to a future meeting of Operations and Planning Committee.

**Letter to Paul Robinson at Worcestershire County Council regarding Highways**

A response to the Council's queries about Highways matters has now been received but it was not felt to completely answer some of the issues raised. After discussions with Priory ward councillors, it is felt that the best way to progress this matter is to request an on-site meeting with officers from Worcestershire County Council and ward councillors. Whilst this will continue to be the long term aim, current local issues make it prudent for this to be put on hold.

**Basketball Courts**

All works have been completed as far as possible in preparation for the installation of the new basketball surfacing at Victoria Park. It is likely, given world events, that this delay will now be a significant one.

#### Rent Request

The Town Clerk reported that she had written to the Goldsmiths in the shop at Belle Vue Terrace requesting further financial information, following their request for help with the rent. However, to date, no reply had been received and therefore it was assumed that they did not wish to pursue this matter.

#### Belle Vue Terrace

The offices are still closed to visitors coming in from the street but visits can be made by appointment and all visitors must sign the book or scan the QR code in the entrance for track and trace purposes.

#### Budget Working Party

After discussion with the Chairman, it has been decided that only one budget working party meeting is really necessary and therefore next week's meeting has been cancelled. The proposal is to move the scheduled meeting from 18 November until 17 November subject to the agreement of all P and R members. Members were asked to let the office know if they could not attend.

#### Hayslan Fields

The Town Clerk read out the reply that had been received from Malvern St James with regard to Hayslan Fields: "The school and its governors are looking at all options for the land at Hayslan Fields that support the schools strategy and have no intention of selling it".

***Cllr Lowton left the meeting.***

### **235. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE**

#### County Councillors

**Cllr Paul Tuthill:** reported that the Chief Fire Officer has announced his retirement and a replacement is currently being sought.

The ambulance service continues to perform well despite not being able to use student volunteers due to the Covid pandemic.

To help with pressure on the Accident and Emergency department, there is a campaign to encourage people to use the 111 number more often, which will hopefully lead to fewer people attending A & E unnecessarily.

The Acute Trust is now out of special measures but Cllr Tuthill will be able to report further following a meeting to be held in November.

Here2Help response to Coronavirus has worked well and is to be extended to offer help to businesses, including by way of grants and apprenticeship schemes. Further details will be circulated to members.

**Cllr James O'Donnell:** Highways works are ongoing and flooding issues resulting from blocked drains are being investigated. Members were urged to contact Cllr O'Donnell if they know of any such flooding issues.

District Councillors

**Cllr Samantha Charles** informed members that she had tried to report issues with the Highways Department at WCC but despite receiving acknowledgement of her report, no further response had been forthcoming, and this was frustrating for residents. She has also joined a community group to look at causes of deprivation in the area and to see what can be done to help. She asked any Town Councillors who were not also District Councillors to contact her if they were interested in being involved.

**Cllr Cynthia Palmer** reported that £8.9 million had been distributed to businesses in the Malvern Hills District. Some businesses were unaware that they could claim any money and so officers had been contacting businesses throughout the area to help them do so.

**Cllr Neville Mills** reported that works on Lower Howsell Road continue and unfortunately there will be another road closure from 21 October until the end of the month, although exact details had proved impossible to gain from WCC.

**Cllr Kaleem Aksar (MHDC)** reported that with regard to the development of 124 Worcester Road, enforcement works had failed and therefore a new planning application has been submitted to make it compliant, but there were concerns over the detail of making good the approaching road.

**236. TOWN COUNCIL WARD REPORTS/REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

**Cllr Pat Mewton** reported that works were ongoing on the land at North End Lane but he was concerned that a request had been submitted to cut off branches of a notable oak tree to allow access for construction lorries. He asked district councillors to look into this matter and Cllr Bovey agreed to contact the tree officer.

**237. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

There were no members' questions.

**238. REVIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANNING WHITE PAPER**

Report CL02/20 was received and accepted.

The Town Clerk explained that following his accident, the consultant was unable to assist with this consultation and this had delayed progress slightly.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to give delegation to the Planning White Paper Task and Finish group alongside the Town Clerk to submit a response to the consultation "Planning for the Future" on behalf of the Town Council. All Councillors will be sent a copy of the response and have a short period of time to make comments before final submission.

***Cllr Leibrandt left the meeting.***

**239. OPERATIONS AND PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Report CL03/20 was received and accepted. Cllr Charles, Chairman of the Operations and Planning Committee presented the recommendations for approval by Full Council from the meetings held as follows:

**Meeting held 2 September 2020**

- i. It was **RESOLVED** that as part of a larger project to review wilding areas across the town as a whole, Town Council ward councillors would be asked to identify other possible sites not in Town Council ownership but suitable for wilding and a small task and finish group set up to review these.
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** that a new five-year allotment tenancy (self-managed) be approved for the Monksfield Lane allotment site.

**Meeting held 7 October 2020**

- i. The Committee **RESOLVED** that the underspend from the Christmas Lights Switch-on event in 2020 should be used to fund a Christmas tree and lights in Malvern Link.
- ii. The Committee **RESOLVED** that Malvern Town Council purchases a new Kawasaki DX Pro under emergency expenditure, for operational/ gardening purposes.

***Cllr Leibrandt rejoined the meeting.***

**240. WILDING TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

Cllr Sharon Taylor, Chairman of the Wilding Task and Finish Group, gave a verbal update on the meeting held on 16 September and reminded members that if they had suggestions for further sites for wilding, that these should be submitted in time for the next meeting to be held on 3 November. Cllrs Stitt and Watkins requested a ward map.

**241. VICTORIA PARK PAVILION TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on this project, explaining that the task and finish group now felt that this project should not be put on hold any longer, in part because the current tenant had now given notice to vacate the premises and also because there had been some vandalism and it was felt that the new development would help lessen such damage, due to improved site lines. A formal proposal will be presented to Full Council by the end of the year.

The Chairman of the Task and Finish Group, Cllr David Watkins, reported that there was a lot of work going on within the group to draw up a satisfactory proposal and it was hoped to be able to present this at the November Full Council meeting.

**242. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of Full Council would be Wednesday 11 November 2020 at 6.00 pm, to be held remotely via Zoom.

The meeting finished at 7.55 pm.

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(Chairman)