

UNADOPTED

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL

held remotely via Zoom on

Wednesday 3 March 2021 at 6.00 pm

Councillors

Present

N Morton (Chairman)
L Lambeth (Vice Chairman)
C Bovey
J Dallow
C Hooper
N Houghton
J Leibrandt
L Lowton
N Mills
J O'Donnell
C Palmer
J Satterthwaite
P Smith
S Taylor
P Tuthill
D Watkins

Absent

P Mewton
S Charles (apologies)
R McLaverty-Head
A Stitt

Also in attendance

L Blake - Town Clerk
L Wall – Minute Clerk

Cllr Kaleem Aksar (MHDC)
Cllr Natalie McVey (MHDC)
Cllr Dean Clarke (MHDC)

3-4 members of the public

287. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Samantha Charles were **NOTED**.

288. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

289. 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 3 March 2021.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ed Moseley spoke regarding item 10 Transfer of Land at Mill Lane. Mr Moseley is a British Cycling accredited coach and ride leader. He is a member of the Malvern Cyclesport Club which runs weekly sessions for under 16s throughout the summer, attracting over 50 children of all abilities. He would like to see more facilities in Malvern for cyclists, especially a pump track, which is similar to a skate park with jumps and ramps but is considered to be safer and more inclusive, whilst helping to improve fitness and skills. A pump track would enable the club to run alternative coaching sessions working on specific techniques. Mr Moseley said he had been in touch with officers at the Town Council regarding a suitable site for a pump track and that the land at Mill Lane had been identified as a possible location. Work has

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already been started on a bike pump track proposal and a Facebook petition has so far attracted 600 signatures from the WR postcode. Mr Moseley would like the pump track concept to be included in the consultation on the possible use of the land at Mill Lane.

290. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had attended the virtual launch of a Malvern-based charity set up to provide education to under privileged children, wherever they may live.

The day after the meeting, the Mayor was going to attend tree-planting at Greenfields Road as part of the Town Council's rewilding project.

291. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

County Reports

Cllr O'Donnell mentioned that funding had been secured for tree planting in his division, the Octagon Centre, Newtown Football Club and Malvern Rugby Club. Pavement repairs were ongoing whilst most of the roadworks taking place locally were due to utility repairs. He also reported that the vaccination centre at the Three Counties Showground would be opening very soon.

Cllr Smith asked about the progress of works to the roadway at the top of the 99 steps and expressed concern that the barriers blocking access to the steps were unsuitable. It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would write to the Chief Executive at Worcestershire County Council to express the Town Council's concerns.

Cllr Tuthill reported that the Fire Service Chief would retire very soon and that a replacement had been made from within the service. Vaccinations in the county were going well whilst there had been complaints made about the maternity services, which was disappointing considering they had previously been performing so well.

District Reports

Cllr Palmer reported that the travellers that were on the Priory Road car park were making a terrible mess but officers at MHDC had taken legal action to evict them the following day.

Cllr Aksar said there was a new consultation over land ownership at 124 Worcester Road. The street signage team were changing the signs on Gloucester Close, and there were three replacement oaks being planted in Somerfield Road. He would speak to the tree officer regarding complaints and concerns over the large tree in Summerfield Road.

Cllr Mills had spoken to the Town Clerk about a request for a litter bin at the end of Gloucester Road by Clarence Park. He and Cllr Aksar would liaise with the depot about emptying it if put in place.

Cllr McVey said that there were plans to hold an event to celebrate the end of lockdown using items that had been donated to the covid memory bank, and that

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staff would be returning to work on 21 June. She thanked colleagues on both town and district councils for their work on the Malvern Hills College task group.

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

Town Council Ward Reports

Cllr Lowton reported that the food bank continued to be very busy with existing and new customers, but was short of food donations, specifically sugar, jam, squash, washing powder and children's toiletries. Morrisons vouchers for fresh food will be distributed whilst most people will also receive a fuel top up voucher. Cllr Lowton also updated Councillors on progress with bike racks and that the Town Clerk had applied for new bike racks on behalf of Faun through the ParkThatBike scheme.

Cllr Palmer reminded everyone that the Malvern Hills Trust car park passes would be valid for an extra two months, until the end of May rather than the end of March.

Outside Bodies

Cllr Hooper had been to a CALC meeting the previous evening where community engagement was considered as well as discussion on what parish and town councils were doing regarding covid restrictions. It was hoped that a Town Council policy on community engagement can be considered by Policy and Resources Committee. There was also a presentation by the head of emergency planning and Cllr Hooper would forward the notes to the Town Clerk for distribution.

293. **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

There were no members' questions.

294. **UPDATE ON TOWN COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update on town council operations and activities:

- The Operations Team is now working full time without being on a rota, and is now busier as mowing has started.
- All members of the office staff will be back in the office full time from the following Monday.
- Football fixtures will commence at the end of March and continue until the end of June. Staff will be able to cover these fixtures as Bands in the Park does not commence until late June this year.
- The advice from NALC and CALC is to continue meetings by zoom but the regulations that allow this are due to be reviewed on 7 May; an extension is expected. The Mayor has called a Special Full Council meeting to discuss the Victoria Park pavilion project and this will be on Monday 10 May.
- There has been a land slippage in Rosebank Gardens which has been investigated initially by a structural engineer and precautions have been taken to make the area safe. Further investigations and works will be required and the Town Council's insurers have been informed of the situation.
- Pickersleigh Grove: comments made by Operations and Planning Committee in response to the planning appeal have been submitted.

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- The vacancy for a Grounds Maintenance Operative has been advertised and interviews will take place in mid-March.
- Grants - there have not been many applications to the grants scheme so far. The closing date is 12 March 2021.
- Rules and protocol regarding purdah will come into force from 29 March and guidance on this matter will be circulated to all councillors in the coming weeks.

295. NOTICE OF MOTION – WORKS TO PATHWAYS IN ROSEBANK GARDENS

Report CL01/21 was received and accepted.

Cllr Peter Smith presented the notice of motion. Cllr Smith reminded members that the Town Council had an obligation to maintain Rosebank Gardens and emphasised that the funding requested would enable paths to be upgraded and repaired. It was made clear that the proposed path works would not be affected by the recent landslip as they were in different areas of the gardens. Cllr Smith requested that there be a programme of upgrading works to all paths in the gardens and this be considered in future budgets.

It was **RESOLVED** that expenditure of up to £7,000 be approved for works to improve pathways within Rosebank Gardens, including:

- i. upgrading and resurfacing the sloping path leading from the upper (south) gate on Foley Terrace/St Ann's Road, down to the level path on the upper terrace.
- ii. insertion of a French drain alongside the pathway adjacent to the skylark sculpture which leads upwards to the second level of the gardens.
- iii. use of grass protection mesh to reinforce certain grassed areas alongside pathways in the garden to prevent damage from Town Council vehicles.

296. TRANSFER OF LAND AT MILL LANE – PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON POSSIBLE USE OF RECREATIONAL LAND

Report CL01/21 was received and accepted.

It was noted that social media would be used to promote the details of the consultation to as wide an audience as possible. Councillors felt that this item should be discussed at the next meeting of Operations and Planning Committee to set out some ideas for the consultation. The need to take purdah into account was also noted.

It was **RESOLVED** that Officers would carry out a public consultation on possible uses of the recreational land at Mill Lane, due to be transferred to the Town Council, and that results from this consultation would be brought back to a council meeting later in the year for final decision.

297. MALVERN HILLS COLLEGE – PROGRESS REPORT FROM TASK GROUP

Report CL02/21 was received and noted.

Cllr Hooper had provided a full report at appendix A, and he thanked Cllr Palmer for her support at the task group. The task group had consisted of various interested

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parties such as Worcestershire County Council, Malvern Hills District Council, staff and students from the college, and charitable bodies.

The Town Council's application to make Malvern Hills College an Asset of Community Value had been accepted but Warwickshire Colleges had subsequently announced their intention to sell, meaning that there is now a period of six weeks for a community interest group to come forward as potential bidders before WCG are free to sell the asset.

A formal offer has been made by the Worcester Community Foundation to the Warwickshire Colleges Group to buy the building, and this is now being considered.

It was **AGREED** that delegations would be given to the Town Clerk alongside Cllr Hooper to write to the Education and Skills Funding Agency to ask them to support the need for a further education college in Malvern. A letter will be drafted and sent to all Town Councillors for comment before final dispatch on Friday.

298. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Report CL03/21 was received and accepted.

Minute 122 Review of Short Term and Long Term Objectives

An amendment to 2a) of the short term aims and objectives was suggested and agreed so that it would now read:

“to encourage the improvement and better maintenance of pavements, highways, footpaths and PROWs within the town through liaison with WCC and to encourage the public to report any issues to the Town Council so that these can be forwarded to the appropriate County or District Councillor for action to be taken”.

With this amendment, it was **RESOLVED** to accept the short and long term aims and objectives as prepared by the Aims and Objectives Task and Finish Group.

Minute 123 Town Council Training Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Training Policy for Town Councillors.

Minute 124 Review of Earmarked Reserves

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the details of Earmarked Reserves as summarised.

299. NOTES FROM ENVIRONMENTAL PANEL

Cllr Leibrandt reported on progress made by this group and that Cllr Morton was drafting an amended environmental policy ready for the next meeting of the panel on 25 March. This would then be presented to Full Council at its meeting on 14 April for approval and adoption.

300. APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBER(S) TO THE VICTORIA PARK PAVILION TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Report CL04/21 was received and accepted.

The Town Clerk explained that a new member was required due to the size and importance of the project, and members were asked to volunteer.

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Cllrs Palmer, Taylor and Mills were appointed to the Victoria Park Pavilion Task and Finish Group.

301. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of Full Council would be Wednesday 14 April 2021 at 6.00pm, to be held remotely via Zoom.

The meeting finished at 7.45 pm.

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(Chairman)

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