

UNADOPTED

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE OPERATIONS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL
held remotely via Zoom on
Wednesday 10 June 2020 at 6.00 pm**

Participating

Councillors

S Charles (Chairman)
L Lambeth (Vice Chairman)
C Bovey
J Leibrandt
P Mewton
C Palmer
S Taylor
D Watkins

In attendance

Linda Blake - Town Clerk
Charles Porter – Operations Manager
Louise Wall - Minute Clerk
Clare Lawrence – Events Officer
N Morton – Mayor of Malvern

P Smith joined the meeting at 6.24 pm but was unable to participate due to technical difficulties

93. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

95. 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 Chairman in due course:

- Operations and Planning Committee meeting 12 February 2020

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation.

96. NEW BASKETBALL COURTS AT VICTORIA PARK

The Operations Manager gave a verbal update on the progress of the new basketball courts at Victoria Park. Inevitably, there have been delays in the project due to the Covid-19 crisis, which has meant difficulties in obtaining supplies and especially stone from the quarry for the groundworks. However, these will be starting shortly and it is hoped that the courts will be finished around late August/early September.

97. WORKS TO HALLWAY TO FLATS, REAR OF BELLE VUE TERRACE

Report OC01/20 was received and accepted,

The Operations Manager explained that works to the flats had progressed well and were nearing completion. It had become evident, however, that the entrance and

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stairway needed decorating and floor covering laid, to bring them up to the same standard and ensure a good rental return.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that a budget of £2,000 be agreed to carry out refurbishment works to the hallway and stairs leading up to the two flats at the rear of Belle Vue Terrace.

98. **REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S EVENTS FOR 2020/21 AND 2021/22**

Report OC02/20 was received and accepted.

The Town Clerk informed members that all Town Council events had been cancelled up until the middle of July. Members were asked to consider the possibility of putting on some events later on in the year, taking into account safety of staff, members of the public, exhibitors/performers and the ability to comply with social distancing guidelines.

The Events Officer felt that certain events could be possible, adapting to current guidelines where necessary, and that rather than the Mayor's Bonanza, this year could see a smaller event, which could be a celebration of being able to be out and about in the town once more. This could be a good way of boosting morale after many weeks of lockdown.

The majority of members agreed that if at all possible, the Town Council should put on events that would bring the community back together and bring business back to the town centre.

However, some members felt that it would not be possible to enforce social distancing and it would be better to cancel all events for this year to ensure the safety of all.

Others felt that all options should be investigated before making a decision to cancel this year's events.

Committee **AGREED** that all Town Council events would be cancelled until the end of July. Events from 1 August onwards would be reviewed again at the next Operations and Planning Committee meeting, by which time more Government guidelines would have been released which may have an impact on the possibility of putting on events in the town.

It was also **AGREED** that an alternative smaller event to replace the Mayor's Bonanza should be looked at for the bank holiday weekend at the end of August, rather than at the start of August, to allow more time for the possible lifting of social distancing measures.

99. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Operations Manager presented work programme OC03/20 and explained that projects were continuing but some had been delayed from the initial budget plans due to difficulties in obtaining prices and supplies whilst some businesses were still closed, or operating on a reduced basis.

100. **PLANNING CONSULTATIONS**

Report OC04/20 was received and noted.

Application 20/00660/FUL Land at (OS 7832 4674) Pickersleigh Grove, application for the proposed development of 21 dwellings including open space and associated infrastructure

It was **AGREED** that the Town Council submit an objection to this application based on the following:

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- i. The land for development has been identified as a Neighbourhood Open Space in Policy MG2 of Malvern’s Neighbourhood Plan. Malvern Town Council does not believe that the five criteria required to support proposals for development as stated in Policy MG2 have been met and therefore this application should be refused.
- ii. Malvern Town Council feels it is unnecessary to further erode this green space, designated as a Neighbourhood Open Space within the Neighbourhood Plan. If approved, this application would diminish the local network of green infrastructure and its connectivity with no improvement being made to the visual amenity or nature conservation value of this site or any nearby site.
- iii. The Town Council supports the need for affordable housing but not at the expense of a Neighbourhood Open Space which is important for the health and wellbeing of local residents and provides an important environment for wildlife and flora and the connectivity of the area’s green infrastructure.

Application 18/01865/FUL Land at (OS 7935 4694) North End Lane Malvern

Members raised concerns regarding this planning application including:

- i. The footpath has been obstructed with fencing and gates.
- ii. Wooded areas have been felled during the nesting season.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would write to the Enforcement Officer with these concerns.

It was also **AGREED** that the relevant ward councillors would raise these issues with the Enforcement Officer at MHDC.

Other matters

Members reported that the footpath across Hayslan Fields was very overgrown and virtually impassable.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would write to the relevant officer at Worcestershire County Council to ask for them to take action on this matter.

Complaints had been received from residents of vehicles speeding along Chase Lane and Guarlford Road and it was acknowledged that Malvern Link was another area that had problems with speeding. The Operations Manager said he would contact the Highways Officer at WCC to request some VAS signs to be put up around the town.

101. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of Operations and Planning Committee would be Wednesday 1 July 2020 at 6.00pm, to be held remotely via Zoom.

The meeting finished at 7.30 pm.

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(Chairman)