

UNADOPTED

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE OPERATIONS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL
held remotely via Zoom on
Wednesday 25 November 2020 at 6.00 pm

Participating

Councillors

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

Absent

P Mewton

Also in attendance

L Blake - Town Clerk
L Wall – Minute Clerk
Cllr L Lowton
Cllr N Morton
Cllr C Hooper
2 members of the public

140. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

141. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

142. 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 7 October 2020.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

John Howes is a resident of Malvern and a keen cyclist and wished to speak in support of item 6 on the agenda, the provision of bike racks. John is a member of the Facebook group “Cycle Malvern” whose aims are to improve facilities for bike users, and to encourage more people, from young to old, from fit to the rather inactive to give cycling a try.

John said that the group agreed with the locations proposed in the report as they were in well-lit and visible sites, and therefore more likely to be used. The group felt that cycling should be encouraged as it helps to reduce pollution and improves fitness and health.

The Chairman announced that she would be altering the order of business so that agenda item 6, Provision of Bike Racks could be taken first.

143. PROVISION OF BIKE RACKS

Report OC02/20 was received and accepted.

Cllr Lowton spoke in support of the proposal to provide more bike racks and explained that she felt encouraging people to cycle more was very important, not only for their fitness but also in bringing people back into the town centres – which

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they were more likely to do by bike if they could be sure of a secure place to lock up their bike whilst shopping. It may also encourage tourism through cyclists who come to visit Malvern. Cllr Lowton thanked John Howes for providing a map of all the existing bike racks in Malvern and said that some of these were in very unsuitable areas where there was poor lighting and security, and therefore unlikely to be used. The proposals for bike rack locations were all in visible locations at all edges of shopping areas, so that access is easily gained from all directions.

Members were generally in favour of providing more bike racks and felt that this would be a positive step in revitalising the shopping areas and would be in line with the declaration of climate emergency made by Full Council. It was noted that whilst planning permission was not needed as the bike racks would be on pavements or hardstanding, the permission of the landowner was necessary and more work was required to get these permissions granted. Some members expressed caution in buying more bike racks when they felt that the existing ones were not greatly used.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council supports and facilitates the provision of bike racks within the Town to support and encourage cycling as well as supporting the Council's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019, with funding of £3,000.

Cllr Lowton left the meeting at 6.20 pm.

The meeting then reverted to the order of the agenda from item 4.

144. CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2020

The Town Clerk updated members on Christmas events. All Christmas lights had now been put up across Malvern. There were two Christmas trees this year that had been erected, one on Belle Vue island and a new tree in Malvern Link on the site of the old fountain. Both were dressed with lights and these would be switched on by the Mayor and Father Christmas on Thursday evening. This had not been publicised to avoid crowds gathering but would be filmed and made available on the Town Council's Facebook page.

The Christmas window trail had been expanded this year to encourage more people to visit local shops and had so far received a great response from 51 traders wishing to enter.

The Festive Cheer Box project was proving to be popular and had been well supported so far with funds coming in from County Councillors and local supermarkets. Councillors and members of the public could donate towards these boxes via the Town Council website.

The Committee wished to pass on their congratulations and thanks to the Operations Team for their hard work and success in making the town look so festive.

145. 20 MPH SPEED LIMITS FOR MALVERN

Report OC01/20 was received and accepted.

Committee considered the areas listed in the report as being suitable for a 20 mph speed limit appraisal. They noted that the issue of 20 mph zones in town had been raised in the past with WCC, and whilst it was agreed that lower speed limits would be desirable, the provision of speed humps was to be avoided.

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It was also agreed that it may be better to concentrate on just a couple of stretches of road to start with, as this would give a better chance of proper consideration from Worcestershire Highways.

Therefore, it was agreed to amend the recommendation to reduce the number of the areas to be appraised to the A449 between the town boundaries, and Longridge Road.

It was **AGREED** that the following locations be examined for the possible introduction of 20 mph speed limits by Worcestershire County Council:

- i. Worcester Road (A449) from the town boundary at Newland to the town boundary at Malvern Common (where 40 mph starts).
- ii. Longridge Road between the two blind bends and where the road meets Peachfield Road.

146. **LITTER BINS**

Report OC03/20 was received and accepted.

The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council provides over 100 bins throughout the town which are used for litter and dog waste; most of these are emptied by MHDC. A stock of bins is kept so that if a resident requests a new bin for a suitable site, or an existing bin is damaged, a quick response can be made. The stock of litter bins now needs replenishing. For a new bin to be positioned, it must be in an area that can be accessed by the District Council's lorries for emptying, and must comply with DDA requirements.

Some members pointed out that the environmental panel had agreed that the Town Council should provide recycling bins within the town. However, this had not been implemented as at present there was no provision for emptying them separately.

Cllr Taylor reported that Cllr John Raine of MHDC had informed her that the District Council was going to trial four Derby recycling bins near to litter bins in Priory Park. They would not be side by side to try to reduce contamination.

Members agreed that operational requirements would mean that single use bins would always be required and therefore some litter bins should be purchased now to meet demand, and the environmental panel should meet again to progress the siting of recycling bins for a trial period, in a similar manner to the District Council.

It was **AGREED** that:

- i. Six new Derby litter bins be purchased using the underspend from the current financial year
- ii. The Emissions and Waste group of the Environmental Panel should meet to discuss and research recycling bins and present a report of their findings – including costings - to the Operations and Planning Committee meeting on 10 March 2021.
- iii. Contact should be made with Officers and Councillors at MHDC to find out how the trial in Priory Park is going and what plans could be put in place for emptying recycling bins around the town.

147. **WILDING TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

Cllr Taylor reported that the Wilding Task and Finish Group had met on 13 November and discussed the sites identified for rewilding and these would be planted in the spring. Further areas that had been suggested by some Town Councillors would now be investigated for suitability and contact made with the

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landowners. The task and finish group were also keen to see the development of wetland areas.

Cllr Taylor also reported that she had met with District Councillor John Raine and a representative of Platform Housing to discuss the possibility of rewilding and planting on the new development at Pickersleigh Grove, and there was enthusiasm for joint working on this project. It is also hoped to hold a meeting with Duncan Bridges in the New Year to discuss possible Malvern Hills Trust-owned sites for wilding. The next meeting is scheduled for 2 February 2021.

148. WORK PROGRAMME

Chart OC04/20 was received and accepted.

The projects are generally on schedule with new equipment having been installed at the Victoria Park, Dukes Meadow and Townsend Way play areas. The bus shelter refurbishment at Barnards Green and the wall at Rosebank Gardens will both start in early 2021 and the basketball courts are still on hold at the moment, waiting for the court surface to be released and installed.

Works to the bus shelter by Rosebank Gardens will be undertaken in the next financial year, if agreed by Council as part of next year's budget.

Cllr Taylor left the meeting at 7.15 pm

149. PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

Report OC05/20 was received and accepted.

The following planning applications were raised by ward members:

Pickersleigh Close – Cllr Watkins requested that District Councillors update the committee at its next meeting. Cllr Charles agreed that she would make enquiries on this.

150. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of Operations and Planning Committee would be Wednesday 10 February 2021 at 6.00pm, to be held remotely via Zoom.

The meeting finished at 7.21 pm.

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(Chairman)