

UNADOPTED

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL

held in the Council Chamber, Malvern Hills District Council, Avenue Road
on Thursday 4 August 2022, at 6.00 pm

Councillors

Present

N Houghton (Chairman)
C Hooper (Vice Chairman)
K Aksar
C Fletcher
L Lambeth
J Leibrandt
F Matthews-Jones
D Mead
C Palmer
P Smith
A Stitt
D Watkins

Absent

J Ashington-Carter (apologies)
C Bovey (apologies)
L Lowton (apologies)
N Mills (apologies)
J O'Donnell
R McLaverty-Head (apologies)
J Satterthwaite

Also, in attendance

L Blake – Town Clerk
L Wall – Minute Clerk
Cllr Natalie McVey, WCC

52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from Councillors Jack Ashington-Carter, Lou Lowton, Neville Mills, Ronan McLaverty-Head and Caroline Bovey were **NOTED**.

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

54. 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:

- Full Council meeting 23 June 2022.

55. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on recent events that had taken place in Malvern.

The Queen's Baton Relay had come through the town on Friday 22 July drawing a big crowd and attended by Harriett Baldwin, MP for West Worcestershire and John Michael, Leader of Malvern Hills District Council. The event was organised by the Town Council and MHDC working in partnership.

Malvern in Bloom judging took place on the same day and this was another example of partnership working, this time between MTC, MHDC and the Malvern Hills Trust. Feedback from the judges had been very positive.

Community Action 50th anniversary – the Mayor had attended the service at Malvern Priory. As well as dignitaries, including the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, there were many people there who use Community Action's services and spoke to the Mayor about how they were able to get out and about thanks to Community Action, thus avoiding loneliness.

UNADOPTED

Malvern Pride took place on Saturday 30 July in Priory Park, and the Mayor had been pleased to see how many people enjoyed the event, many of whom also went into the town centre and spent money in local shops. The Town Council had helped support this event by awarding a grant and a full report would be provided soon.

Malvern Buzzards had put on a running relay event in Rosebank Gardens with all entrance fees and donations being given to the Mayor's charity Guide Dogs. The event had raised a fantastic £330 and the Mayor presented prizes to the winning team. He thanked all those that had taken part.

DEC Ukrainian Appeal - £1942 had been raised for the appeal after the Mayor had requested that funds raised being from the Malvern Hills Challenge walk held last April be donated to this appeal rather than his charities. This was made up of £1140 in entrance fees and donations, plus a further £800 from the Just Giving page.

Charity Ball – the Mayor reminded councillors that the charity ball will take place on 2 September at the Worcestershire Golf Club and asked if people could buy their tickets via the Town Council website.

56. UPDATE ON TOWN COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The Town Clerk updated Council as follows:

Demolition of Victoria Park - this has now been completed with excess soil being used to level the ground off. The area will be left flat and open for the summer.

By-elections – two candidates will stand in the by-election being held in Chase Ward on Thursday 11 August.

Heart of England in Bloom - the Heart of England in Bloom judges visited the town on Friday 22 July and were given a tour of the town. Last year, the town's entry into Malvern in Bloom was judged on a portfolio only, as some covid restrictions continued. This year the judges were able to experience first-hand the results of everyone's hard work and mentioned that the portfolio was one of the best they had seen.

Mayor's Bonanza – Clare Lawrence is likely to be off work at the time of the bonanza, and help will be needed to man the stalls. The Town Clerk asked Councillors if they could each volunteer for a couple of hours to help out. The Mayor's Bonanza is the biggest fundraiser of the Town Council's events calendar.

The Town Clerk thanked the Operations Team for the continued hard work in keeping the town looking nice through the summer, watering plants and changing flags.

57. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Cynthia Palmer, District Councillor – had nothing to add to Cllr Nielsen's report which had been distributed prior to the meeting except to express a concern over the conversion of some street lighting from heritage lanterns to LEDs. This was thought to be down to cost issues.

UNADOPTED

Cllr Kaleem Aksar, District Councillor

MHDC had agreed to give £400,000 to help fund a new Malvern Hills Art and Community College.

Responses to the revised boundary commission review are due by 8 August.

Natalie McVey, County Councillor:

- Works to resurface roads and repair pavements continues.
- Has attended a meeting with Highways and residents regarding the crossroads of Cowleigh Road and Old Hollow, to discuss improvements such as cutting back of vegetation and replacement of mirror to avoid accidents at this dangerous junction.
- Has been dealing with issues surrounding water leaks on Lamb Bank and West Malvern Road.
- A bid has been submitted to Warwickshire Colleges Group regarding Malvern Hills College.
- 280 visas have now been granted to Ukrainian refugees and 218 guests have arrived so far, with more expected soon. Two Ukraine-speaking liaison officers have been appointed to help the families settle in.
- A bid submitted to the Shared Prosperity Fund was successful and would provide support in three key areas.
- Cllr McVey also congratulated those involved with the Pride event as it was a wonderful day in Priory Park.

58. TOWN COUNCIL WARD REPORTS/REPRESENTATIONS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Clive Hooper:

- CALC – had attended the meeting of Malvern Hills CALC on 28 June. Mike Brookes had been elected chairman and there had been a presentation from Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.
- An update from the Malvern Hills College SOS Taskforce is that funding has been secured from MHDC and WCC. The Bransford Trust had agreed £600,000 which should meet the target of £1.2 million plus £200,000 for start up elements. The anticipated opening would be August 2023.

59. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

There were no members' questions.

60. NOTICE OF MOTION – 20's PLENTY CAMPAIGN

Cllr Hooper presented his notice of motion which asked the Town Council to support the 20's Plenty for Worcestershire campaign and asked the county council to implement 20mph speed restrictions in Malvern. The campaign has demonstrated that lower speed limits in areas similar to Malvern save lives and reduce pollution.

UNADOPTED

Cllr Palmer seconded the notice of motion and explained that it already worked well in Pershore and therefore she was sure it would work just as well in Malvern.

It was **RESOLVED** that Malvern Town Council

- i. supports the 20's Plenty for Worcestershire campaign;
- ii. calls on Worcestershire County Council to implement 20mph in Malvern; and
- iii. will write to Worcestershire County Council to request 20mph speed limits on streets throughout Worcestershire where people live, work, shop, play or learn, with 30mph as the exception on those roads, where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit.

61. **APPOINTMENT OF NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILLORS TO COMMITTEES**

Report CL01/22 was received and accepted.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Freya Matthews-Jones and Cllr Kaleem Aksar be appointed to the Operations and Planning Committee.

62. **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO POLICY REVIEW TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

Report CL02/22 was received and accepted.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Lynne Lambeth be appointed to the Policy Review Task and Finish Group.

63. **OPERATIONS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Report CL03/22 was received and accepted and the Chairman of Operations and Planning Committee, Cllr Cynthia Palmer, presented the recommendations from the meeting held on 7 July 2022.

Minute 15 Health and Wellbeing Fair and Mayor's Peaks Challenge 2023

- i. It was **RESOLVED** that the Health and Wellbeing Fair and The Mayor's Peaks Challenge are held on Saturday 29 April 2023 as part of the well-dressing and water festival weekend.
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** that the Health and Wellbeing Fair should be held in Priory Park alongside the registration and finish point for the Mayor's Peaks Challenge.

Minute 20 Environmental Matters – Review of Environmental Policy and Environmental Strategy

- iii. It was **RESOLVED** that a task and finish group be set up to review the Environmental Policy and Environmental Strategy, consisting of the following councillors:
 - Cllr Lou Lowton
 - Cllr Josephine Leibrandt
 - Cllr David Mead

64. **EMERGENCY DECISION MAKING GROUP**

Report CL04/22 was received and noted.

UNADOPTED

The decision made by the Emergency Decision Making Group to continue issuing polling cards for by-elections in August 2022 was **NOTED**.

65. INSURANCE CONTRACT RENEWAL

Report CL05/22 was received and noted.

It was **NOTED** that the insurance contract was renewed on 1 August 2022, for the third and final year of the contract as agreed in July 2020.

66. REPORT FROM ARCOS – DELAYED LARGE GRANT

Councillors **NOTED** the report from ARCOS showing how the grant awarded by the Town Council in 2019 had been spent. The project had been delayed by covid but had now been completed.

67. PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

Report CL07/22 was received.

No planning applications were raised.

Exclusion of the Press and Public

It was **AGREED** to resolve 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.

Report CL08/22 was handed round at the meeting and the Chair reminded members that this report was confidential and information contained within it should not be discussed outside of the meeting, due to its commercially sensitive detail.

Councillors were given time to read the report and then a discussion, question and answer session followed.

A named vote was held and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation as detailed on report CL08/22.

68. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be Wednesday 7 September 2022 at 6.00 pm in Malvern Hills District Council Chamber.

The meeting finished at 7.55 pm.

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(Chairman)