

UNADOPTED

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL

Held in the Council Chamber, Belle Vue Terrace, Malvern on
Wednesday 7 December 2022 at 6.00 pm

Councillors

Present

C Palmer (Chairman)
K Aksar
L Lowton
D Mead
F Matthews-Jones
D Watkins

Absent

C Bovey
L Lambeth (apologies)
J Leibrandt (apologies)
P Smith (apologies)

Also in attendance

L Blake – Town Clerk
C Porter – Operations Manager
L Wall – Minute Clerk
Cllr N Houghton - Mayor

1 member of the public

49. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from Cllr Lynne Lambeth, Cllr Josephine Leibrandt and Cllr Peter Smith were noted.

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

51. 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, and these were signed by the Chairman:

- Operations and Planning Committee meeting 26 October 2022.

52. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jenny Cain from Barnards Green Post Office spoke on behalf of the local traders in support of agenda item 6, Christmas tree for Barnards Green.

Traders had requested that a Christmas tree be supplied and dressed in Barnards Green centre, to be funded by the Town Council. Whilst traders recognised that spending money on a Christmas tree might be seen as unnecessary during the current economic climate, they believed that it was important to provide some Christmas cheer for local residents and visitors to the shopping area.

The Chairman announced that under Standing Order 1a she would be altering the order of business so that agenda item 6 'Christmas Tree for Barnards Green' would be brought forward.

53. CHRISTMAS TREE FOR BARNARDS GREEN

Report OC02/22 was received and accepted.

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The Town Clerk explained that a grant of £1,000 awarded the 2022/23 financial year for a Christmas event in Barnards Green remained unused, and it was suggested that this could be carried forward to purchase the lights, as a one-off cost. There would then be a further one-off cost of around £400 to manufacture a permanent tree stand, and an annual cost of approximately £600 to buy the tree, and to pay the Council's contractor to dress and undress it.

Members felt that it would be a good idea if Barnards Green centre also had a Christmas tree each year, as one was already provided for Great Malvern and Malvern Link. They asked if the Town Council could be publicly thanked by the traders in Barnards Green in any future publicity.

It was **AGREED** that Malvern Town Council should fund a Christmas tree and lights each year in Barnards Green, similar to the arrangement in Malvern Link.

The Chairman then reverted to the original order of the agenda.

54. TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS 2022

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on Town Council events to the meeting as follows:

Remembrance Sunday: this event takes a lot of careful planning to coordinate the different aspects but all went well and attendance was high, with many taking part in the parade from the Priory to the library. There was a slight timing issue regarding the Priory, as their service starts at 11 o'clock, and therefore they require the Priory to be vacated slightly too early to fit in with a parade down to the library for 10.50am. Other venues will be investigated for next year.

Christmas Lights switch-on: another popular event and it was estimated that attendance was the highest for several years. Father Christmas's grotto was extremely busy, with some families waiting for an hour. Officers will investigate how waiting times can be reduced in the future. The Guide Dog stall took around £500 which is a fantastic boost to the Mayor's Charity target. Feedback on the event was very positive, and the Town Clerk thanked all those who had helped on the day.

55. BANDS IN THE PARK PROGRAMME 2023

Report OC01/22 was received and accepted.

The Town Clerk explained that feedback gathered from attendees at Bands in the Park over the summer had influenced the recommendation to the committee that a varied programme of bands be put on again during the summer of 2023. The most popular bands will be invited back but other, new bands will also be introduced, covering brass, rock and pop, and jazz, blues and country genres.

It was also suggested that other celebration events be incorporated into the programme, these being the coronation, Armed Forces Day, and Ukraine Independence Day.

It was noted that there would not be a performance in Priory Park on 2 July when Malvern Hills District Council hold their annual food festival, and on 27 August when the Mayor's Bonanza will take place in Victoria Park.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to continue the new Bands in the Park concert format as trialled in 2022, with a mixture of music types playing every Sunday afternoon in Priory Park from 7 May to 17 September 2023.

56. WORKS TO ENTRANCEWAY BED AT ROSEBANK GARDENS

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Report OC03/22 was received and accepted.

The Town Clerk outlined a suggestion from Officers to raise the front of the bed at the entranceway to Rosebank Gardens to improve the aesthetics and reduce the maintenance required to the bed. The Operations Manager then explained that the slope of the bed contributed to it drying out in hot weather, and the soil washing away in heavy rain. It was thought that by levelling up the bed with oak sleepers, more soil could be introduced and retained, enabling a good display of bush roses, appropriate to the name of the gardens – ‘Rosebank’.

Committee members discussed the possibility of relocating the Jubilee Obelisk as part of this project and it was **AGREED** that this would be reviewed again when the works had been completed.

The suggestion from officers to create a raised bed at the entranceway to Rosebank Gardens was **NOTED**, and it was **AGREED** to include funding of £1,150 for the project in the budget re-forecast for 2022/23.

57. **BEDDING TENDER 2023/24**

Report OC04/22 was received and accepted.

The Operations Manager explained that eight nurseries had been invited to tender for the supply of bedding plants. Two tenders were received by the deadline and it was suggested that the supply should be split between the two. One nursery is a community-focused horticultural centre offering educational and therapeutic services for local people, including those recovering from mental ill-health, whilst the other is a local company known to the council for supplying bedding plants in the past.

Members noted that the hanging baskets had not put on such a good display this year. The Operations Manager replied that this was not due to lack of water, but rather to the change to peat-free compost. Improvements to peat-free alternatives were being made all the time and it was hoped that within the next few years, the hanging baskets would be back to their former glory.

It was **AGREED** to award the contract for the supply of summer bedding plants for summer 2023 (delivery June 2023) to company B, (Link Nurseries, Powick).

It was **AGREED** to award the contract for the supply of bedding plants for spring 2024 (delivery October 2023) to company B, (Link Nurseries, Powick).

It was **AGREED** to award the contract for the supply of hanging baskets and plants for Belle Vue troughs (delivery June 2023) to company A, (Yard House Plants, Tewkesbury).

58. **WORK PROGRAMME AND OPERATIONS UPDATE**

Report OC05/22 was received and accepted.

The Operations Manager reported that some projects had been hampered this year by problems with supply of materials but it was expected that all projects would be back on track by the end of the year.

The works to the play area at Michaels Crescent had been completed but a DDA compliant swing was still awaited, and the bus shelter at Rosebank Gardens, which has now had the frame erected would shortly be having the guttering fitted.

The project to replace the trim trail at Victoria Park has been put on hold until it is known what will be happening with replacing the pavilion.

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59. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Report OC06/22 was received and noted.

The Operations Manager reported that it was too cold at present to plant the fruit trees at Greenfield Road so these would be planted early next year.

Cllr Lowton asked if a report could be issued detailing all the environmental improvements that had been made by the Town Council and it was noted that this would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

60. PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

Report OC07/22 was noted.

21/01513/FUL 41 Geraldine Road, Malvern

Cllr Aksar reported that this application had been refused at the SAPC meeting, but it was expected that the developers would reapply with a new scheme.

M/22/01366/FUL – Flat at 124 Worcester Road, Malvern

Cllr Aksar reported that this application had been refused.

Cllr Aksar notified members that the SAPC meeting scheduled for 14 December had been cancelled.

No other planning applications were raised at the meeting.

61. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **AGREED** the next meeting of the Operations and Planning Committee would be held on Wednesday 25 January 2023 at 6.00 pm.

The meeting finished at 7.10 pm.

.....(Chairman)