

UNADOPTED

**MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF
MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL**

**held in the Council Chamber, Malvern Hills District Council, Avenue Road
on Thursday 2 March 2023, at 6.00 pm**

Councillors

Present

N Houghton (Chairman)
K Aksar
C Fletcher
C Hooper
F Matthews-Jones
R McLaverty-Head
D Mead
N Mills
C Palmer
D Watkins
J Wilkinson

Absent

C Bovey (apologies)
L Lambeth
J Leibrandt (apologies)
L Lowton
J Satterthwaite
A Stitt (apologies)

Also in attendance

L Blake – Town Clerk
L Wall – Minute Clerk
C Porter – Operations Manager
Cllr Natalie McVey (WCC)
Four members of the public

150. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from Councillors Caroline Bovey, Josephine Leibrandt and Aidan Stitt were **NOTED**.

151. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

152. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous Full Council meeting held on 9 February 2023 had been issued prior to the meeting and councillors were asked to approve them as a correct record. However, Cllr Hooper spoke to say that he, along with Cllrs Palmer and Watkins felt that the minutes were inaccurate regarding minute 143 as follows:

Minute 143 Malvern Tourism Sign – as recorded in minutes 09/02/23

“Report CL03/23 was received and accepted.

The report set out the recommendation made by the Malvern Tourism Sign Task and Finish Group at its meeting on 13 December.

The Mayor explained that this item had been deferred from the previous Full Council meeting to allow councillors time to visit Rosebank Gardens and review the suggested location for the Malvern tourism sign. The debate was therefore to remain focussed on if the recommended location should be approved.

The report also noted that if the location for the new sign was agreed as behind the new wall created as part of the Jenny Lind fountain project, then the Jenny Lind sculpture would need to be moved – the suggested place was next to the commemorative plaque already installed near to the 99 steps.

UNADOPTED

A robust discussion followed. A vote was taken which resulted in an equality of votes. The Mayor chose to cast his casting vote to approve the recommendation.

*It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations from the Malvern Tourism Sign Task and Finish Group following the Full Council resolution to install a 'Malvern' sign in Rosebank Gardens and as detailed in the report."*

Cllr Hooper wished to propose two amendments to the minutes:

- 1) Delete paragraph four as follows

The report also noted that if the location for the new sign was agreed as behind the new wall created as part of the Jenny Lind fountain project, then the Jenny Lind sculpture would need to be moved – the suggested place was next to the commemorative plaque already installed near to the 99 steps.

- Relocating the Jenny Lind sculpture had not been discussed

- 2) Amend the resolution in the final paragraph to:

It was **RESOLVED** to approve recommendation i) from the Malvern Tourism Sign Task and Finish Group following the Full Council resolution to install a 'Malvern' sign in Rosebank Gardens and as detailed in the report.

- Cllr Hooper stated that he felt recommendation i) relating to the location of the sign had been voted on but items ii), iii) and iv) had still to be agreed.

Cllr Palmer seconded this proposal.

Cllr Hooper then requested a named vote on the proposed amendments.

For: Cllr Clive Hooper
Cllr Cynthia Palmer
Cllr David Watkins

Against: Cllr Neville Mills
Cllr David Mead
Cllr Clive Fletcher
Cllr Nick Houghton

Abstained: Cllr Freya Matthews-Jones
Cllr Kaleem Aksar
Cllr Josephine Wilkinson
Cllr Ronan McLaverty-Head

The proposed amendment therefore failed.

A named vote was then held on the accuracy of the minutes from the meeting held on 9 February 2023 as issued.

For: Cllr Freya Matthews-Jones
Cllr Kaleem Aksar
Cllr Clive Fletcher
Cllr Neville Mills
Cllr David Mead

UNADOPTED

Against: Cllr Nick Houghton
Cllr Clive Hooper
Cllr Cynthia Palmer
Cllr David Watkins

Abstained: Cllr Ronan McLaverty-Head
Cllr Josephine Wilkinson

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 9 February 2023

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Three members of the public attended the meeting to speak about the proposed 'MALVERN' sign. They felt Rosebank Gardens already had some lovely sculptures and the sign would not add to the beauty of Malvern, but be 'clutter' and a waste of money, as it would not attract people to visit Malvern. The sign was likened to other 'clutter' in the town such as bus stops that were no longer needed due to the termination of bus services. They felt that this is not Hollywood and therefore this sign is not suitable for Rosebank Gardens in Malvern.

153. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that since the last meeting:

- he has written to Dr Inga Lewenhaupt, former chair of the Jenny Lind Society in Stockholm to explain the relocation of the sculpture.
- he has been on a charity paraglide which had been a great success and enjoyable too, and suggested other councillors might like to try it!
- tickets for the Peaks Walk continued to sell and QinetiQ had provided funding for tickets available to their employees.

The Mayor also mentioned that the Deputy Mayor would be attending a reception at the weekend for the Mayor of Mariánské Lázně and two other delegates who were visiting Malvern to celebrate ten years of twinning partnership.

154. UPDATE ON TOWN COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The Town Clerk gave the following update on recent Town Council operations and activities:

- Precious Ruby bush roses have now been planted in the new raised bed at the entranceway bed at Rosebank Gardens
- Polycarbonate Georgian wired panes for the bus shelter outside Rosebank Gardens will be fitted next week
- A public consultation event on land at Mill Lane was held at Poolbrook Village Hall on Monday and was well attended with a steady stream of residents 3.30pm until 7pm. People can still pass on their ideas via a survey, accessed from the Town Council website. The Town Clerk thanked councillors who helped at the event and especially to Cllr Mead and Cllr Watkins who had delivered leaflets to local properties.

UNADOPTED

- A reception for the delegates from Mariánské Lázně that the Deputy Mayor is attending will be held at the Great Malvern Hotel from 12pm and there was space for three to four other councillors to attend if wished.
- The Czech flag is flying from the building at Belle Vue Terrace in recognition of the visit and was in accordance with the Town Council's flag flying policy.
- Vehicle Advisory Signs have been purchased by Worcestershire County Councillors Karen Hanks and Beverley Neilson. They will be installed as soon as locations have been finalised and agreed with the Highways Liaison Officer, first in Malvern Link and then Langland division. The existing rotation of locations will also be updated as required. These signs are managed under the Lengthsman scheme which allows the Town Council to claim money from Worcestershire County Council for the works.
- The Town Clerk and Operations Manager have been interviewing applicants for the grounds maintenance operative role, to hopefully start before the end of March.

155. **REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE**

County Councillors

Cllr Natalie McVey:

- West Malvern Road has again seen disruption to bus services as planned works started but could not be completed and therefore have been rescheduled.
- Any new lamp posts that are installed are of an increased height which has caused light pollution in places, and therefore filters have had to be installed.
- Libraries Unlocked is a new service from Worcestershire Libraries offering longer opening hours and more flexibility for customers and community groups to use their local library at times that are convenient to them. It will eventually operate from all libraries except The Hive. Although the scheme is designed to increase access to libraries for members, Cllr McVey is concerned that this could be at the detriment of staffing levels.

District Councillors

Cllr Cynthia Palmer notified the meeting that a thanksgiving service for Dr John Harcup will be held on Thursday 23 March.

Cllr Neville Mills reported increased littering at the Lower Howsell football pitches. The culvert wall at Oakfield Road has been made safe but repairs have not been completed.

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

Town Councillors

Cllr David Mead reported that he had received complaints from residents regarding Platform Housing, and will attend a meeting with Platform Housing representatives soon.

UNADOPTED

Cllr Nick Houghton has received a complaint from a resident in Avon Close regarding a hedge taken out by the previous house owner and has asked officers to investigate. Cllr Houghton will attend the funeral of an RAF veteran next week as representative of the Town Council.

Cllr Clive Hooper reported that a CALC area meeting is imminent and that he and Cllr Mead will be attending.

157. **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

There were no members' questions.

158. **NOTICE OF MOTION – SUPPORT FOR A RESIDENTS ONLY RESTRICTION IN REDLAND ROAD**

Report CL01/23 was received and accepted.

Cllr Watkins presented his notice of motion, explaining that Redland Road was used by many drivers outside the immediate area to leave their vehicles parked whilst they travelled to work by train during the day. The road was also full of parked cars during the evening and night time with many residents having to park in adjacent streets. He therefore proposed that Redland Road would have a 'residents only' parking restriction scheme implemented.

Councillors were generally supportive of the motion, but recognised that other areas also had similar problems with parking, and that any restrictions were only useful if enforced.

It was noted that in the future, as more people owned electric vehicles, there would be a more urgent need for space outside homes to allow for charging of cars.

Cllr Aksar proposed an amendment to the notice of motion to include three further roads as follows:

That Council notes the support of local residents for the implementation of a 'Residents Only' parking restriction on Redland Road, Merton Road, Hampden Road and Cromwell Road.

It was **RESOLVED** that Council notes the support of local residents for the implementation of a 'Residents Only' parking restriction on Redland Road, Merton Road, Hampden Road and Cromwell Road.

It was also recognised that it would be necessary to have the support of both the district and county councils for this scheme to be implemented.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the district council would be consulted by Worcestershire County Council as a matter of course but suggested that the Town Council could ask the district council for its support beforehand.

Councillors present felt that Malvern Hills District Council should be involved at an earlier stage and a further amendment was proposed.

That Council calls on Worcestershire County Council and Malvern Hills District Council to make and enforce a 'Residents Only' parking restriction on Redland Road, Merton Road, Hampden Road and Cromwell Road.

UNADOPTED

It was **RESOLVED** that Council calls on Worcestershire County Council and Malvern Hills District Council to make and enforce a 'Residents Only' parking restriction on Redland Road, Merton Road, Hampden Road and Cromwell Road.

159. **POLICY REVIEW TASK AND FINISH GROUP – ADDITIONAL MEMBER**

Report CL02/23 was received and accepted.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Cynthia Palmer to the Policy Review Task and Finish Group.

160. **CALENDAR OF TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS 2023/24**

Report CL03/23 was received and **NOTED**.

The report set out the events calendar for the period 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2024.

Councillors would be required to volunteer at some of the events, but a schedule would be distributed after the May elections.

161. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Report CL04/23 was received and accepted.

The Chair of Policy and Resources Committee, Cllr Clive Hooper, presented the recommendations from the meeting held on 21 February 2023.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the short term and long term aims and objectives as per appendix to Policy and Resources minutes from 21 February 2023.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the quarterly accounts for the third quarter ending 31 December 2022.

162. **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM VICTORIA PARK TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

Report CL05/23 was handed out at the meeting.

Cllr David Mead, Chairman of the Victoria Park Task and Finish Group explained that at the first meeting of the group held on 22 February, and in the light of current financial implications, members had looked at the proposals for a single storey building at Victoria Park.

The main points of the latest proposal are:

- The seating capacity of the meeting room will be almost twice that of the chamber at Belle Vue Terrace
- The design is future-proofed – a space for a stairwell and lift shaft is included in case a second floor is required in the future. Without making this provision now, the cost to add these retrospectively is proportionally much more
- The main entrance will be via the lobby, with a small seating area through one door for visitors to the Town Council, providing a welcoming and accessible area

Details of the building will be agreed at later meetings, to be proposed by the task and finish group at future meetings and agreed by Full Council.

UNADOPTED

However, it was suggested that delegations should be given to the Town Clerk and Operations Manager to make decisions on minor amendments to save time, and not have to keep referring back to the task and finish group.

Cllr Houghton proposed an amendment to Recommendation 2.2 as follows:

That, Victoria Park Task and Finish Group will determine a full set of requirements in conjunction with the Town Clerk and Operations Manager for recommendation to the next Full Council meeting. Town Council officers will then be delegated to work with Modulek as the chosen supplier, using the agreed set of requirements, to finalise the outline design of this single storey building ready for submission as a planning application.

It was **RESOLVED** that, due to changing financial circumstances, a single-storey building in line with the plans attached at Appendix A to the report and handed out at the meeting be built at Victoria Park. This to include a café, meeting room, public toilets, and lockers as well as the relocation of the Town Council offices. The cost for this building will be £975,000 with an amount of £209,000 to be borrowed using a Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loan, and with a loan period to be agreed.

It was further **RESOLVED** that Victoria Park Task and Finish Group will determine a full set of requirements in conjunction with the Town Clerk and Operations Manager for recommendation to the next Full Council meeting. Town Council officers will then be delegated to work with Modulek as the chosen supplier, using the agreed set of requirements, to finalise the outline design of this single storey building ready for submission as a planning application.

163. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be Thursday 13 April 2023 at 6.00 pm.

The chamber at Malvern Hills District Council is unavailable on that date, and because of difficulties with finding an alternative option, it was agreed that the meeting will be held in the Town Council chamber at Belle Vue Terrace.

The meeting finished at 7.27 pm.

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(Chairman)