

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 19 July 2023 at 6.00 pm

Councillors

Present

S Austin
A Cherry
J Green
F Matthews-Jones (Vice-chair)
D Mead (Chair)
D Watkins

Absent

C Bovey (apologies)
J Leibrandt (apologies)

Also in attendance

L Blake – Town Clerk
C Porter – Operations Manager
L Wall – Minute Clerk
Cllr C Hooper, Mayor (until 6.20pm)

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from Cllrs Bovey and Leibrandt were **NOTED**.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

17. 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 31 May 2023

18. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

19. SWING AT MICHAEL'S CRESCENT PLAY AREA

Report OC01/23 was received and accepted.

The Town Clerk explained that the provision of DDA equipment at Michael's Crescent had been raised by a local resident following the recent refurbishment of this park. The suggested basket swing would be usable by all ages and abilities, and was thought to be a more-inclusive option than the harness-style swing seats. Although there was no provision in the budget for this item, funding could be taken from general reserves.

The Operations Manager explained that the installation would necessitate taking out a small set of existing toddler swings, but toddlers could use the new basket swing and there were further swings just outside the play area which would have a flat seat replaced with a toddler seat.

Members of the committee agreed that provision of DDA equipment wherever possible throughout the town council's play areas was important, whilst noting that not every play area would be suitable due to various factors.

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It was **AGREED** to supply and install a basket swing in Michael's Crescent play area at an approximate cost of £7,500 including extension of the safety surface.

20. **WORK PROGRAMME AND OPERATIONS UPDATE**

Report OC02/23 was received and accepted.

The Operations Manager explained that projects within the programme were underway, noting the following:

- Refurbishment of Jamaica Crescent play area would be considered at the September meeting of Operations and Planning committee, and if agreed, works would commence in October/November.
- The order for a new pump track at Adam Lee had been placed but before works commenced, there would be a user consultation event on 8 August, a chance for users to discuss the design with the contractors.

Members of the committee congratulated the operations team on the success of the hanging baskets and rose bed at Rosebank Gardens.

21. **TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS**

The Town Clerk updated the meeting on the following town council events:

- Heart of England in Bloom: the portfolio had been printed and once again was a colourful and informative booklet. The town was also looking good thanks to the efforts of the operations team and partner organisations, and was now ready for the judges arrival the following day.
- Bands in the Park: concerts continued to be popular and the upcoming performance by Cinderford Brass Band would include a collection for St Richard's Hospice, the mayoral charity for 2023/24.
- The Mayor's Bonanza had been cancelled and one of the bands previously booked to play at the event would now play in Priory Park on 28 August. On the same day, the basketball players would hold a free training event on the courts at Victoria Park, and the Town Clerk suggested that the town council could contribute a small amount of funding towards this.

Cllr Hooper left the meeting at 6.20pm

Ideas for future town council events

The Town Clerk explained that the events programme was in need of refreshing as some events held previously such as the Health and Wellbeing Fair had run their course and would not be held again in 2023/24. It was also thought that The Mayor's Peaks Challenge would not be held in 2024 as it would be in aid of St Richard's Hospice, who already have their own event planned on a similar date.

Members commented as follows:

- The co-operation of MHDC was required to ensure that events were spread throughout the year.
- The carnival was a hugely popular event in years gone by but was a very large event to organise and possibly was no longer suitable due to health and safety requirements for floats etc.
- Malvern Link and Barnards Green did not have as many events as Great Malvern and this disparity should be addressed.

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- The proposed extension of Malvern Theatres into Priory Park would negatively affect the available area of the park for events, and organisers of some events would probably be looking at alternative venues.

It was **AGREED** that the agenda for the next meeting of Operations and Planning Committee will include an item to consider possible new events for future years and members were encouraged to bring any ideas for this to the meeting.

22. **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

Report OC03/23 was received and noted.

The Chair explained that this was now a regular item on the Operations and Planning Committee agenda, giving members the opportunity to raise any environmental matters.

Mound in Victoria Park – a resident had asked if this could be sown with wildflowers. The Operations Manager explained that it had now been mown following complaints about the overgrowth, but it was not considered a suitable area for wildflower planting.

23. **PLANNING CONSULTATIONS**

Report OC04/23 was noted.

41 Geraldine Road, Malvern, Planning ref: 21/01513/FUL

The appeal against refusal of planning permission had been dismissed. On behalf of the residents' group, Cllr David Mead thanked the council for its support in objecting to this application, but reminded councillors that there was second application still pending.

24. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was **AGREED** the next meeting of the Operations and Planning Committee would be held on Wednesday 13 September 2023 at 6.00 pm.

The meeting finished at 6.50 pm.

.....(Chairman)