

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

**held in the Council Chamber, Belle Vue Terrace, Malvern  
on Wednesday 6 September 2023, at 6.00 pm**

**Councillors**

Present

C Hooper (Chair)  
S Austin  
M Birks  
A Cherry  
I Dawson  
C Fletcher  
N Houghton  
M Jones  
C Lee  
L Lowton (from 6.06pm)  
F Matthews-Jones  
R McLaverty-Head  
D Mead  
K Newbigging  
D Watkins

**Absent**

C Bovey  
J Green (apologies)  
J Leibrandt (apologies)  
J MacLusky (apologies)  
S Meager (apologies)

**Also in attendance**

L Blake – Town Clerk  
L Wall – Minute Clerk  
Cllr J Raine, MHDC  
Cllr F Victory, MHDC  
Cllr B Nielsen, MHDC & WCC  
Cllr K Hanks, WCC  
A Member of the Press  
Four members of the public

**59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies from Councillors Jude Green, Josephine Leibrandt, Julie MacLusky and Simon Meager were **NOTED**.

**60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**61. 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 they were signed by the Mayor:

- Full Council meeting 9 August 2023.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public spoke of problems experienced in Pickersleigh Grove with speeding traffic and drug dealing. She was concerned that there were no signs indicating a school at the end of the road and cars often drove at excessive speeds, putting the safety of schoolchildren, residents and pedestrians at risk. Residents would like to see more signage, traffic calming measures, speed cameras and a reduction of the speed limit. These problems had been ongoing for around three years with little or no response from Worcestershire County Council.

***Cllr Lou Lowton joined the meeting at 6.06pm.***

District councillor John Raine spoke as a member of the public on behalf of residents in Hornyold Road, who were also experiencing problems with speeding traffic, made worse by cars parked along the length of the road. Cllr Raine hoped the Town Council would lend its support to an application for a reduction in the speed limit for this road. The Mayor noted that Cllr Neilsen's report later on the agenda also included reference to speeding traffic and there would be the opportunity for her to respond to the issues raised there.

**62. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had visited Windsor Court Care Home to take afternoon tea with the residents and talk to them and to staff.

He had also opened the conference of The Society of Teachers of Speech and Drama, held at the Music School of Malvern College and he gave a welcoming address.

Finally, the Mayor had attended the Dementia Meeting Centre Fete, where he was impressed by the admirable work carried out by staff and volunteers in helping those living with dementia.

**63. UPDATE ON TOWN COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

The Town Clerk reported on the following Town Council operations and activities:

Victoria Park pavilion - the Council's planning application for Victoria Park went live on 17 July and the deadline for comments was extended from 9 August until 6 September. Following comments from Worcestershire Highways, a transport statement had been commissioned and submitted to cover queries about access, parking, sustainable transport modes and trip generation.

Sale of Belle Vue Terrace – surveys are currently taking place.

Asset Tour - an asset tour had been planned for Thursday 14 September, aimed primarily at new councillors, but all councillors were welcome. Councillors were asked to contact the office if they wished to attend.

Cemetery Rules and Regulations Task and Finish Group - two meetings had been held with some very useful discussions around a number of important areas. The new draft rules would be presented to Operations and Planning Committee the following week for approval.

Operations Team - the Operations Team had spent the past month mowing and watering. Football pitches had also been prepared and marked out for the start of the football season.

Jamaica Crescent Play Area - tenders were currently being sought for the play area refurbishment at this location.

Music in the Park concerts – these continued to be very popular and the Town Clerk thanked all councillors who had acted as stewards at the weekly concerts.

Land at Adam Lee – a member of the public had attended the previous Full Council meeting to raise concerns about the entranceway and gate placement to the land at Adam Lee. The Town Clerk reported that she and the Operations Manager had discussed the points raised, and once the car park had been completed these concerns would be addressed when the access arrangements were made.

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

(Written reports had been submitted by Cllr Malcom Victory and Cllr Beverley Nielsen, and circulated to all Town Councillors prior to the meeting.)

Cllr Beverley Nielsen, WCC councillor, Malvern Langland Division and MHDC councillor for Great Malvern ward - Cllr Nielsen asked if there were any questions arising from her report. She then responded to the public participation matter of speeding in the town, saying that she had been inundated with highways requests from members of the public and whilst the highways officers at county council were very good, it was not always easy to get things done. She would be meeting with

Cllr Hooper, Cllr Cynthia Palmer and WCC Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways & Transport in mid-October when they would walk around the town and discuss matters. She would like to see more crossing points and traffic calming measures, and a 20mph zones on Worcester Road, which traders were in favour of.

Cllr Karen Hanks, WCC councillor Malvern Link Division - Cllr Hanks reported that following site visits with Malvern Link traders, improved signage would be installed in Malvern Link by January 2024, to include finger post signage directing people from Malvern Link station to the hills and shops, from car parks to shops and restaurants, and from shops to car parks.

The VAS unit Cllr Hanks funded is now in circulation although she had been questioned about its placement in Summerfield Road.

Cllr Hanks had supported a request for double yellow lines on the junction of Landsdown Road and Highfield Road, consistent with the positioning of other double yellow lines in the area.

Expenditure from divisional budget:

- A wooden gazebo to provide shelter for supporters and players during training and matches at Malvern Rugby Club
- A waterproof shed to be used as a second-hand uniform shop at St Matthias school, which will open on Monday evenings.

A response from WCC to the recent boundary review had been itemised on the agenda for the Full Council meeting on 14 September, this was also available to view on the WCC website.

Cllr Fran Victory, MHDC councillor for Malvern Link - Cllr Victory reported that she had been working with Cllr Nielsen to raise the profile of the area, and she had also been contacted by many residents about speeding vehicles. The people responsible for recent fly tipping in Duke of Edinburgh Way had been caught.

Cllr David Mead, MHDC councillor for Barnards Green ward - highlighted traffic issues in Court Road caused by the recent closure of Poolbrook Road for emergency highways works. Signage for diversions had been incorrect which had exacerbated traffic jams, and he felt that this should be addressed in the future.

He had also been working with the nursery at the Sunshine Children's Centre who would need new premises once the proposed free school for children with autism was built. WCC had not been able to help with relocation plans.

## **65. TOWN COUNCIL WARD REPORTS/REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr David Watkins, Malvern Link – in his capacity as Deputy Mayor, Cllr Watkins had represented the Council at the ARCOS fete. ARCOS had received a large grant from the Town Council but were unable to use it immediately because of the covid pandemic. Works to improve the outdoor play area had now been completed and Cllr Watkins was pleased to see how much had been achieved. He felt ARCOS was a very worthy local charity.

## **66. MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

None.

## **67. FOUNTAIN IN ROSEBANK GARDENS**

Report CL01/23 was received and accepted.

The Town Clerk explained the history of the project to install a fountain in Rosebank Gardens, which had stalled because of various problems, including the covid pandemic and the discovery of an underground chamber.

A robust discussion followed, and members considered the five options listed in the report to bring the project to a conclusion.

It was **RESOLVED** that nothing further was required in the area, and that no further works should take place. Wording on the commemorative plaque would be changed to reflect this.

**68. REVIEW OF QUORUM FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Report CL02/23 was received and accepted.

It was **RESOLVED** to revert to the previous rule that quorum at any committee meeting should be more than 50%. Quorum would therefore be as follows:

	Membership	Quorum
Operations and Planning Committee	10	6
Policy and Resources Committee	9	5
Audit Committee	5	3

**69. MEMBERSHIP OF POOLBROOK VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE**

Report CL03/23 was received and accepted.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Iain Dawson to the Poolbrook Village Hall Committee.

**70. LEASE OF DUKES MEADOW PAVILION – MALVERN YOUTH AND JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB**

Report CL04/23 was received and accepted.

The Town Clerk explained that the Malvern Youth and Junior Football Club had requested a five-year lease on Dukes Meadow Pavilion, following an initial lease of twelve months, which had recently expired.

Members discussed the length of lease, quarterly rental and who would be responsible for repairs and insurance.

The Town Clerk confirmed that prior to the start of the lease, officers would conduct a survey of the building.

It was **RESOLVED** to grant a five-year, full-repairing lease on Dukes Meadow Sports Pavilion to Malvern Youth and Junior Football Club at a quarterly rental of £50. This to be subject to the provision of a reasonable development plan that can be monitored by the Town Council.

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

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be Wednesday 11 October 2023 at 6.00 pm.

The meeting finished at 7.35 pm.

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(Chairman)