

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 29 November 2023 at 6.00 pm

Councillors

Present

D Mead (Chair)
F Matthews-Jones (Vice-chair)
S Austin
C Bovey
A Cherry (from 6.02pm)
J Leibrandt (from 6.04pm)
L Lowton
S Meager (from 6.04pm)
D Watkins

Absent

J Green (apologies)

Also in attendance

L Blake - Town Clerk
C Porter – Operations Manager
L Wall – Minute Clerk
Four members of the public

52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were **NOTED** from Councillor Jude Green and for lateness from Councillor Anne Cherry.

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, and these were signed by the Chairman:

- Operations and Planning Committee meeting 18 October 2023

Cllr Anne Cherry joined the meeting.

55. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Four members of public attended the meeting and Mrs Harris spoke on their behalf as chair of the local residents' group of Guarlford Road, Hall Green and Hastings Road area of Malvern, regarding planning application M/22/01823/FUL 'Land at (OS 8072 4527) Guarlford Road, change of use of land to accommodate three self-build Passivhaus Class 3 dwelling places'.

Cllrs Josie Leibrandt and Simon Meager joined the meeting.

The group had concerns that when the application was discussed in January 2023 the then-chair had not disclosed an interest despite also being vice-chair of Malvern Hills Trust. The group also felt that several of the terms of reference for the Operations and Planning Committee had not been upheld and that the committee should have made a comment as the matter affected the town of Malvern. Mrs Harris said that residents of the area local to the site were worried that the eastern approach to Malvern could be threatened by further development if this application was approved. Furthermore, they could not understand why the committee had

UNADOPTED

chosen not to comment and urged committee to reconsider and submit a comment to the planning authority.

56. **SUGGESTIONS FOR MUSIC IN THE PARK 2024**

Report OC01/23 was received and accepted.

Following a previous Operations and Planning Committee meeting, officers had researched details of steel bands and choirs which could be included in the 2024 Music in the Park programme.

The Town Clerk explained that as the programme ran over eighteen weeks during the summer, officers tried to vary the music styles and last year there were six brass bands, six alternative bands, with the remainder being a mix of jazz, blues and country.

Some councillors raised concerns about the costs of steel bands and gospel choirs compared to more traditional brass bands, and that there was no need to change a successful programme for the sake of it, but others thought that this would be a way of introducing cultural and ethnic diversity into the programme.

Some councillors felt that the introduction of one new music style should be the first step, particularly as another music genre would need to be removed. However, several councillors wished to see both a steel band and gospel choir in the 2024 programme.

It was **AGREED** that one new music style should be incorporated into the 2024 programme and that steel band C should be booked to take the place of a brass band.

57. **UKRAINE INDEPENDENCE EVENT**

This item was withdrawn until more information could be obtained.

58. **BEDDING TENDER 2024/25**

Report OC03/23 was received and accepted.

The Operations Manager explained that four nurseries had been invited to tender for the supply of bedding plants. However, despite attempts being made by officers to obtain four quotations, only two had been returned for bedding 2024/25 and one for hanging baskets and troughs.

It was **AGREED** to award the contract for the supply of summer bedding plants for summer 2024 (delivery June 2024) and bedding plants for spring 2025 (delivery October 2024) to Company A (Yard House Plants, Tewkesbury).

It was **AGREED** to award the contract for the supply of hanging baskets and plants for Belle Vue troughs (delivery June 2024) to company A (Yard House Plants, Tewkesbury).

The exception to Financial Regulations was **NOTED** as only one quotation had been received for hanging baskets and troughs.

59. **VICTORIA PARK SKATEBOARD PARK REFURBISHMENT AND CONSULTATION**

Report OC04/23 was received.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that it would be necessary to hold a public consultation regarding the refurbishment of the skateboard park as a requirement

UNADOPTED

of receiving section 106 monies, and also to ensure that the public had an input into future skateboarding facilities within the park.

The consultation would take a similar approach as that for the pump track, and include at least two face-to-face sessions where the public could drop in, surveys, and advertising on social media. Members of the public would get a chance to say what they would like included in the design and suggest locations for re-siting the skate park.

Members made the following observations and suggestions:

- A timeline of events should be published so that people knew when the current skateboard park was going to be closed and when the new one would open.
- Notices around the site should be displayed giving information about the project and how they could contact the council.
- A face-to-face consultation could be held on site, to attract those already using the park.
- It was important to involve school aged children, and this could be done by going into assemblies and dropping questionnaires off at local schools.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to approve a public consultation for the future of the skateboard park in Victoria Park, to be carried out in February/March 2024.

The new pavilion building will encroach onto the site of the current skate park and therefore it would be necessary to close off the skate park when building works commence.

It was **NOTED** that the skateboard park would be closed from 12 February 2024 due to the commencement of onsite works for the new community hub building at Victoria Park.

60. **LAND AT ADAM LEE**

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on the development of land at Adam Lee. The new pump track project was progressing well, with input from user groups into the final design.

Although this type of project was expected to be allowed under permitted development, the Town Clerk had been informed that due to workloads at the planning department, it was not currently possible to make an application. The Town Clerk had contacted the district council to clarify the situation.

61. **LEASE OF DUKES MEADOW PAVILION**

Report OC06/23 was received and noted.

The Town Clerk reminded members that a five-year, full repairing lease had been awarded in September to Malvern Youth and Junior Football Club for the use of Dukes Meadow Sports Pavilion. The lease was subject to the provision of a reasonable development plan, and as this had not been provided, members were now asked to review the decision. Furthermore, the club had some outstanding bills with the Town Council.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the offer of a five-year lease should be removed. The football club would be asked to pay all outstanding bills and to submit a development plan ahead of a review date in August 2024 when a lease would be reconsidered.

In the meantime, the football club would be able to continue to use the football pitches subject to payment of the fees for the second half of the season and subject

UNADOPTED

to the settlement of outstanding invoices. The club could also hire the changing rooms subject to all payments being made in advance.

62. WORK PROGRAMME AND OPERATIONS UPDATE

The Operations Manager presented the work programme, noting that projects were on schedule and the new electric vehicle was expected for delivery the following week.

63. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Report OC08/23 was received and noted.

64. PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

Report OC09/23 was noted.

No planning matters were raised.

65. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was **AGREED** the next meeting of the Operations and Planning Committee would be held on Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 6.00 pm.

The meeting finished at 7.13 pm.

.....(Chairman)

DRAFT