

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL**

**held in the Community Hub Meeting Room, Victoria Park
on Wednesday 26 March 2025 at 6pm**

Councillors

I Dawson (Chair)
C Hooper
C Fletcher
K Newbigging
R McLaverty-Head
L Lowton (6.05pm)

Absent

E Green (apologies)
M Jones

Also in attendance

Linda Blake - Town Clerk
Julia Winkworth – Minute Clerk
M Birks – Mayor of Malvern
D Mead – Deputy Mayor
Representatives from organisations
seeking a Town Council grant

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from Cllr Emma Green and were **NOTED**.

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Clive Hooper declared two declarations of interest with regards to St Richards Hospice (previous Mayoral Charity and continued interest) and Dame Laura Knight Society (member of the society) and confirmed he would not take part in any discussion or vote during these items.

Cllr Clive Fletcher declared two declarations of interest with regards to Malvern Coach House Theatres (Accountant) and with his work at St Richards Hospice.

Cllr Iain Dawson declared a previous interest with regards to 1st Malvern Scouts as secretary but is no longer involved.

47. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the following meeting be approved and adopted as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

- Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 5 February 2025

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Citizens Advice Bureau

The Chair invited Annie Robson, Chief Executive Officer for South Worcestershire Citizens Advice Bureau, Malvern to present a report. A statistics handout was given out to the Councillors as part of the discussion. The CAB provide a valuable service

for a wide community and the reasons for service users continuing to need advice have been based around:

- significant increase in homelessness
- continued cost of living crisis – more longer term nowadays
- more referrals for foodbanks and support networks in Malvern
- fuel poverty, particularly in Malvern
- large houses, low income and therefore individuals being asset rich, cash poor

The CAB work closely with partner organisations including the following groups, to maintain well established links for the community:

- Malvern Football Club Help Centre
- Resettlement Officer for Ukrainian Families and other refugee committees
- MHDC Liaison Officers

There has also been an increase in the number of face-to-face appointments as a result of individuals having problems accessing forms online.

The CAB is very reliant on local government funding. The year ahead will be challenging; the main focus is to keep well maintained links so that they can provide the best advice and support for everyone.

Small Grants

Friends of Dame Laua Knight Society

The group are seeking funding of £600 to implement a permanent commemoration of Dame Laura Knight, who lived in Malvern for over 30 years. A small group of members have been working on a sculpture, designed by a local artist Andrew Finley, to be situated in one of the new sections of Malvern Theatres.

Girlguiding Malvern

Mary Flynn informed committee that following the pandemic a lot of young people have had less social interaction than at other times. The Girlguiding group are holding a 'Jamboree' weekend of activities for members of all ages. As part of this, the idea is for young people to celebrate diversity and improve their confidence by holding drumming workshops and Bollywood dance workshops. A member of 5th Malvern Link Guides also spoke to the group about the importance of Project Jamboree to promote inclusivity, diversity and boost confidences. She explained to Councillors how Girlguiding have provided her with many experiences which have boosted her self-esteem and confidence.

Malvern Community Partnership

Mark Young explained that this application was for £500 to fund an official reception for Czech visitors and the Czech ambassador in June/July 2025.

The partnership are involved in running a two week festival featuring talks on technology, Artificial Intelligence and a children's talk in Malvern Priory amongst others. Events are being run for free or at very low cost and it is hoped that many parts of the Malvern Community can be brought together by this proposal.

Cllr Marilyn Birks arrived at 6.38pm

Large Grants

1st Malvern Scout Group

Jonathan Burton, Beaver Leader of 1st Malvern Scout Group outlined the project to provide an accessible toilet to improve the scout hut. They currently have 60 members, and this increases by 30 members each year as the young people progress into new sections of the scout group.

They have £8,000 of pledges so far but are still looking for a further £4,500 of funding.

Malvern Male Voice Choir

Two representatives explained to the group that they had been present in Malvern for 103 years and although mainly a group of volunteers they need professional musicians to help perform.

The grant of £2,000 is sought for new jackets and copies of music as well as assistance to fund concerts at Christchurch and Malvern Cube.

Malvern Cube

Karen Humphries, Chair of Trustees attended the meeting and outlined the application for £1,475. Malvern Cube is a community and dance centre, completely self-funded. Following the death of a valued member last year at The Cube they have set up a memorial garden where the community can come in and sponsor a raised bed and maintain it. The funding is for a bench to sit in the garden for all to enjoy, raise the existing raised beds to assist volunteers with their continued projects when they attend the community gardens and also a retractable hose to lessen the requirement of carrying watering cans.

Malvern Spa Association

Carly Tinkler, President of Malvern Spa Association explained to Committee that since the 1990's the MSA has been protecting and enhancing the water heritage of the Wells within Malvern. The MSA have around 800 volunteers that are involved with the well dressing. They would like assistance with funding for the first three Malvern Water projects:

- Water music for 21st Century – performed at the Midsummer festival – amount requested £500
- Drama workshops – amount requested £1,500
- Malvern Water Film – amount requested £500

Coach House Theatres

Chris Bassett, Executive Trustee of the theatre attended the meeting and informed the council of a festival they are planning in collaboration with a local artist to host local playwrights' projects (Ink and Curtain Festival) A private donor has donated two thirds of the funding, along with a possible grant to support marketing, maintenance (grade two listed building) and continued increase in costs to enable drama groups to come along and present their plays in a professional setting. The Town Council contribution of £1,500 would be to extend the festival for a week and an amount towards brochure and printing costs.

This completed the end of Public Participation.

48. **MALVERN TOWN COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT – CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

Report PR01/24 was received and accepted.

It was suggested that an amendment should be made to provide funding for a three-year period rather than an application needing to be submitted every year.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that a grant of £19,000 (an increase of £1,000 from 2024/25) be awarded to the Citizens Advice Bureau for 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28.

49. **SMALL GRANTS SCHEME 2ND ROUND 2024/2025**

Report PR02/24 was received and accepted.

St Richard's Hospice - £500

It was **AGREED** to award £500 to St Richard's Hospice.

Friends of Dame Laura Knight Society - £500

There were a few concerns from Councillors which were discussed, but further to those discussions, it was **AGREED** to award £500 to Friends of Dame Laura Knight Society.

Girlguiding Malvern - £500

It was **AGREED** to award £500 to Girlguiding Malvern.

Malvern Green Space - £380

It was **AGREED** to award £380 to Malvern Green Space.

Malvern Community Partnership - £500

It was **AGREED** to award £500 to Malvern Community Partnership.

50. **LARGE GRANTS SCHEME, 2ND ROUND 2024/25**

Report PR03/24 was received and accepted.

1st Malvern Scout Group - £2,500

It was **RECOMMENDED** that £2,500 be awarded to 1st Malvern Scout Group.

We Are Men United - £2,500

It was **AGREED** to defer this application to September 2025 and also invite the group or representative to attend the meeting and discuss the application further.

Malvern Community Kitchens - £954.97

It was **RECOMMENDED** that £954.97 be awarded to Malvern Community Kitchens.

Malvern Cube – £1,475

It was **RECOMMENDED** that £1,475 be awarded to Malvern Cube

Malvern Spa Association - £2,500

It was **RECOMMENDED** that £2,500 be awarded to Malvern Spa Association.

Barnards Green Cricket Club - £1,800

It was **RECOMMENDED** to award a part grant to Barnards Green Cricket Club of £1,150 for coaching and refreshments.

Malvern Male Voice Choir - £2,000

It was **RECOMMENDED** that £2,000 be awarded to Malvern Male Voice Choir.

Coach House Theatre - £1,500

It was **RECOMMENDED** that £1,500 be awarded to Coach House Theatre.

51. REVIEW OF EARMARKED RESERVES

Report PR04/24 was received and accepted.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to review and approve the details of Earmarked Reserves as summarised in the report.

52. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

Report PR05/24 was received and accepted.

Cllr Hooper had raised an issue with the “clear days” in the revised Standing Orders. An addendum was added but there was still some confusion over the wording. It was **AGREED** to defer this item to the next meeting as the matter needs more consideration.

53. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was **AGREED** that the date of the next meeting would be Wednesday 7 May 2025 at 6pm.

The meeting finished at 8pm.

.....(Chairman)