

MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Held on Wednesday 23 April 2025 at

Park View Meeting Room, Victoria Park Road, Malvern Link from 7pm

Present

Cllr Marilyn Birks (Mayor, Chair)
Cllr David Watkins
Cllr Emma Green
Cllr Karen Newbigging
Cllr Anne Cherry
Cllr Josie Leibrandt
Cllr Caroline Bovey
Charles Porter, Deputy Town Clerk
Jill Terry, Chair of Trustees at Cube Youth

Cllr David Mead
Cllr Jude Green
Cllr Sean Austin
Cllr Clive Hooper
Cllr Clive Fletcher
Cllr Iain Dawson
2 members of the public
Julia Winkworth, Minute Clerk

1. MAYOR'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Annual Town meeting giving a brief description of the meeting order, welcoming Jill Terry from Cube Youth and members of the public.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2024

The Mayor addressed the room asking if the minutes from the Annual Town meeting in April 2024 would accept them as an accurate record. Cllr Hooper informed the meeting that he considered the minutes not to be an accurate record that there were a number of omissions and that he had a concern of accuracy of notes taken from a member of the public.

Following a lengthy discussion, Cllr Hooper proposed an amendment to the minutes of the meeting on 18 April 2024 and for the following entries to be included:

- Event information to be added
- Written reports (looking to change in the future at P & R)
- Budget (precept)
- Accuracy of the questions from the member of the public

Further discussion took place and the minutes from the Annual Town meeting which took place on Wednesday 18 April 2024 including Cllr Hooper's amendments were accepted.

3. PRESENTATION FROM JILL TERRY, CHAIR OF TRUSTEES AT CUBE YOUTH

Dr Jill Terry gave a very informative report of the purpose of The Cube and Cube Youth Charity, which is one of the Mayor's charities and how they provide a supportive setting for the young people of Malvern, giving them opportunities that they wouldn't necessarily have the chance to be involved with.

Cube Youth caters for around 150 young people every week in Malvern. In the beginning there were six young people and two youth workers. They currently have a team of 12 Youth workers managing all of the young people along with their Youth Manager Jo Hine. Thursday is their busiest night of the week. There are many volunteers at the Youth club, and they fundraise and bring in monies to enable them to pay their manager, their rent and part time youth workers for the space they use at The Cube without any statutory provision. This provides a safe environment, with safe and trusted adults for the young people.

The charity feel they are successful down to the many events and activities that they offer, such as:

- Wellbeing Wednesdays – focussing on meditation, crafting, listening etc
- Environment – raised beds that the young people can garden
- Supplying of a meal – always provide a meal for all the young people on a Thursday at Youth Café (60-70 people attend)
- Trips to places – involving the local areas for e.g. walking over the Malvern Hills
- Local business support – visits, tours and talks from local employers and services
- Holiday Club provision

Dr Terry was then happy to answer any questions from the room.

4. MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024/25

The Mayor gave a short slide presentation of a summary of events and the charities she has supported during her Mayoral Year including many Malvern Town Council achievements, such as:

- Gold award in Heart of England in Bloom
- Start of construction on Adam Lee Pump Track
- Official opening of the Community Hub building in Victoria Park in August 2024
- Signing of official twinning agreement between Malvern and Korosten in Ukraine
- Launch of Happy to Chat tables in Great Malvern
- Defibrillator and bleed kit installations at Community Hub
- Restart a Heart day events held at the Community Hub
- Installation of new outdoor gym equipment and table tennis at Victoria Park
- Landscaping works, permanent planting and bike shelter around the new Community Hub in Victoria Park
- The installation has started for new toddler play equipment at Victoria Park
- Elgar painting reinstalled in the alcoves of the bus shelter outside Rose Bank Gardens
- Purchase of new Kubota Tractor
- Repairs and reglazing of bus shelters
- Precept increase for 2025/26

There were many events that also took place during the mayoral year 2024/25 including:

- Mayor's Bonanza - £2,300 raised
- Field of Remembrance
- Remembrance Day 2024

UNADOPTED

- 18-week Music in the Park programme including Brass, Jazz, Steel Band, Rock and Pop
- Christmas Lights Switch On 2024
- Carols around the Tree at the Park View Community Room
- Cube Youth Charity Quiz Night – raising over £550
- Talks and Tours for Heartstart Malvern including Gin tasting, Sourdough Masterclass and Malvern Water
- Mayor's Peak Challenge (coming soon)
- Civic Service and Community Celebration held in St. Matthias Church on 5 April

The Town Council have also supported many local community groups via their Small and Large Grants Scheme.

The Mayors initiatives were to bring the community together by also liaising with District Councils, introducing warm spaces and food provision. Community Action are keen to work with the Town Council and support transport further. Traffic has also been an issue during the Mayoral year. Aims and Objectives was also a passion of the Mayor. A task group was bought together and going forward there are Aims and Objectives in place for the Town Council going forward.

Mr Morton, member of the public, requested that the Town Council detail on the website information regarding the increase in precept.

5. **OPEN FORUM**

Mr Morton provided the minute clerk with a list of questions to avoid any ambiguity. Mr Morton addressed the room about his disappointment that there has been an extraordinary amount of time in getting answers to his questions addressed a year ago.

The Mayor confirmed that Mr Morton's complaint had been informally discussed with him at a meeting. The Mayor subsequently wrote to Mr Morton to confirm details discussed during that meeting and any future action. There had been no confirmed response at the time of the Annual Town meeting.

The Mayor established with the Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk that they would offer Mr Morton a meeting where the questions would be discussed in detail. Mr Morton felt that the information should be readily available in a written response, although he did subsequently agree to a meeting.

6. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

The next Annual Town meeting will be held on Wednesday 22 April 2026 at 7pm in the Park View meeting room at The Community Hub, Victoria Park Road, Malvern Link.

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(Mayor)