

UNADOPTED

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE OPERATIONS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL**

held in the Park View Meeting Room, Community Hub, Victoria Park

Wednesday 20 August 2025 at 6.00pm

Councillors

Present

D Mead (Chair)
A Cherry (Vice Chair)
S Austin
C Bovey
J MacLusky
N Wanklin
J Leibrandt
M Jones

Absent

E Green (apologies)

Also in attendance

L Blake - Town Clerk
C Porter – Operations Manager
J Winkworth – Minute Clerk
Cllr Marilyn Birks, Mayor
Cllr Lou Lowton
Cllr Clive Hooper
Cllr Jude Green

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillors David Watkins and Emma Green. Cllr Mel Jones substituted for Cllr Emma Green.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Sean Austin declared an interest regarding a planning matter in Church Street under agenda item 11 as he trades within that area.

34. 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 Chair:

- Operations and Planning Committee meeting Thursday 24 July 2025

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Planning Application 7 The Lees, Malvern M/25/01087/CLE

Tom Wood spoke on behalf of a group of residents, who were also in attendance from The Lees, Malvern regarding the aforementioned planning application.

Malvern College have decided they would like to move The Downs Prep School, Colwall as a whole, to within a property at 7 The Lees, Malvern which has been used historically as a boarding house (not since 2009 as they had built a new property within their own grounds backing onto College Road) and occasionally

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used temporarily for exams, SEN work or outward-bound storage area along with Duke of Edinburgh work which is insignificant.

It had been brought to the residents' attention that the owners had recently placed a CLEUOD (Certificate of lawful existing use or development) for 7 The Lees, Malvern on the application, which says that the building has been used continuously over the last 10 years for educational purposes. They do not feel that this is correct.

There have been 18 objections registered online regarding this application and information regarding F1 status, prior to the deadline of 19 August.

Flag Policy

Alison Steven was in attendance to discuss the flying of the progress flag. She feels that the Rainbow Flag is wonderful and universally loved. It was taken up globally to represent LGBT movement and designed to be inclusive, celebratory, apolitical and representing everyone under one umbrella. For her personally she feels that the Progress Flag is homophobic and she does not want to visit the area.

She feels that the Councils should be flying the Rainbow Flag and objects to the flying of the Progress Flag.

A second resident, Peter Bradley also spoke about this item, he feels that the Progress/Pride Flag is very insulting to the gay community. There are members of the gay community who are speaking out about this. They don't wish to see the flag being used in a commercialised matter, being displayed on vehicles such as buses and ambulances. He would prefer to see the St Georges Flag or Union Flag being flown in the town.

A third speaker, a parent of an autistic 14-year-old child, who is attracted to girls, also spoke out about her concerns for her daughter. Seeing the flag on display, she feels it is a safeguarding risk and as a parent, she personally doesn't want to see this being flown in Malvern.

Under Standing Order 1A, the Chair moved agenda item 11 forward to be discussed.

35. PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

Report OC07/25 was received and accepted.

Planning Application 7 The Lees, Malvern M/25/01087/CLE

The deadline for this application was originally Tuesday 19 August but following a conversation between the Town Clerk and the Case Officer at MHDC, an extension was granted until Friday 22 August.

Cllrs Hooper and Leibrandt had met with local residents and were supportive of their views.

The Chair reminded Cllr Hooper that the Council had to focus on knowledge and documentation provided by the residents specifically related to the 10-year period.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Council would support the resident's view that the application was not lawful and that Cllr Hooper would send a report to the Town Clerk with supporting information to be emailed to the Case Officer at MHDC.

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Proposed Road Crossing on Church Street

The Chair asked for comments regarding the proposed siting of a zebra crossing at the top of Church Street.

Following discussions, it was **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Clerk write to Worcestershire County Council stating Town Council concerns that the crossing is in the wrong location, and that it should be located at the end of Church Walk or not put in place at all.

36. REVIEW OF FLAG FLYING POLICY

Report OC03/25 was received and accepted.

Cllr Hooper raised a point of order requesting to know why this agenda item was on the agenda for Operations and Planning and not being dealt with by Policy and Resources.

The Chair responded it was brought to OAP as it included an important planning issue and the interpretation of the planning requirements of what flags can be flown.

Following a lengthy discussion by the committee, the Chair proposed that this agenda item be deferred to a future full council meeting to be discussed by a separate task and finish group.

Cllr Bovey requested an amendment to the Chair's proposal as follows:

- Flag Policy is discussed by Full Council but,
- Committee should agree that the Progress Flag should not be included with the Flag Flying policy

Cllr Bovey's proposal was voted on and fell.

The chair referred back to his proposal and recommended that a separate task and finish group could go out to the public for further consultation.

This motion fell.

Following a proposal from Cllr Jones, it was **AGREED** that this agenda item be referred to Policy & Resources Committee.

Members of the public left the meeting at this point along with Cllrs Lou Lowton, Jude Green, Clive Hooper and Marilyn Birks.

37. BARRIERS AT ADAM LEE

Report OC01/25 was received and accepted.

The Operations Manager updated the committee on some reported issues with cars being driven along the emergency roadway adjacent to the pump track.

It was **AGREED** that the council purchase six water filled barriers to stop vehicles using the emergency road at Adam Lee.

38. SIGNAGE FOR THE COMMUNITY HUB

Report OC02/25 was received and accepted.

The Town Clerk and Operations Manager had investigated possible designs for the new signage at the Community Hub.

Following a short discussion, it was **RECOMMENDED** that the Council should proceed with Option 2 with an enhanced logo on (using larger font perhaps), a slightly larger sign still containing the Town Council logo and heading of Community

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Hub but with the additional details of Town Council Offices/Café, Park View Meeting Room and Public Toilets.

39. **WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PARISH SURVEY**

Report OC04/25 was received and accepted.

Following a short discussion, it was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk, Operations Manager, Chair and Vice-Chair of committee would meet to discuss the questions on the survey and then respond prior to the closing date of 26 October 2025.

40. **SKATEPARK AT VICTORIA PARK**

The Town Clerk updated the committee on the progress of the Skatepark.

The Focus Group had a good final meeting. There was a recommendation for a contractor to go forward to Full Council for final approval.

Funding would then need to be secured and appropriate planning permissions would be obtained.

41. **WORK PROGRAMME AND OPERATIONS UPDATE**

Report OC05/25 received and accepted.

The Operations Manager updated the committee on the work programme to date.

With regards to works at the Cemetery, the operations team are currently carrying out the levelling of old sunken graves within the cemetery at present and the areas look brown in colour. If residents ask, this work is being carried out to secure the areas and assist the team when mowing within the cemetery.

The chair asked for his thanks to be passed to the team for all their continued hard work.

42. **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

Report OC06/25 was received and accepted.

There were no environmental matters to note.

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

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and input, and it was **AGREED** the next meeting of the Operations and Planning Committee would be held on Wednesday 1 October 2025 at 6.00 pm.

The meeting finished at 7.48pm.

.....(Chairman)