

**UNADOPTED
MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF EXTRA SPECIAL MEETING
in the Park View Meeting Room, Victoria Park Road, Malvern Link
held on Wednesday 24 September 2025 at 6pm**

Councillors

Present

M Birks (Chair)
D Watkins
A Cherry
S Austin
C Hooper
L Lowton
J MacLusky
J Leibrandt
K Newbigging
D Mead
J Green
E Green
N Wanklin
M Jones (6.03pm)
R McLaverty-Head (6.03pm)

Absent

I Dawson (Apologies)
C Fletcher (Apologies)
C Bovey (Apologies)

Also in attendance

L Blake, Town Clerk
J Winkworth, Minute Clerk
Four Applicants for Co-option
Member of the public

79. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from Councillors Iain Dawson, Clive Fletcher, Caroline Bovey and Ronan McLaverty-Head were **NOTED** and Councillor Mel Jones informed us that she would be arriving a little late.

Councillors Mel Jones and Ronan McLaverty-Head arrived at 6.03pm, therefore the apologies from Cllr McLaverty-Head are withdrawn.

80. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Colin, a resident from Malvern Link thanked the Town Council for all the work they do within the Malvern area.

He was attending the meeting to discuss a couple of concerns that he and other residents have regarding the travellers who have been camped out on the Link Common ground owned by Malvern Hills Trust.

Colin didn't feel that there was a proper process in place for the Police to move the travellers on in an appropriate way. The mess being left behind, including human waste, is dreadful especially when the public, young children are accessing these areas.

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Colin also wanted to address the speeding issues in and around Malvern Link and he gave examples of recent events that had taken place.

The Mayor and Town Clerk reassured Colin that the Town Council are extremely concerned about illegal encampments and are in communications with the Police with regards to this. The Mayor also confirmed that speeding issues are a constant concern to the Town Council but are in fact the responsibility of the County Council.

Colin left the meeting at 6.09pm.

81. **CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS TO FILL VACANCIES ON MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL – LINK WARD (1) AND POUND BANK WARD (1)**

Report CL01/25 was received and accepted.

The Mayor welcomed the candidates to the meeting and thanked them for their interest.

The Mayor and Town Clerk clarified the process that would take place during this agenda item, and it was agreed that applicants would sit in the reception area whilst each presentation took place to ensure fairness.

It was **AGREED** that a secret ballot would take place for the co-option of members to fill the two vacancies.

There were four candidates present:

- Maria Knight – Pound Bank
- Cynthia Palmer – Link
- Wayne Whittaker – Link
- Deborah Ward - Link

Each Candidate was given the opportunity to give a short presentation and were informed that this should last no longer than 3 minutes.

The vacancy for Malvern Link was considered first.

Following presentations from Deborah Ward, Cynthia Palmer, Wayne Whittaker and Maria Knight, questions were asked of the four candidates by Councillors present.

Following a secret ballot, it was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Deborah Ward as a Councillor representing Link Ward.

Two further votes took place for the Pound Bank vacancy and following two secret ballots it was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Wayne Whittaker as a Councillor representing Pound Bank Ward.

Cllr Wayne Whittaker joined the Council meeting after signing his Declaration of office.

Cynthia Palmer, Maria Knight and Deborah Ward left the meeting.

82. **ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENTS/TRESPASSING ON TOWN COUNCIL LAND**

The Mayor updated the Councillors regarding the recent illegal encampment on the car park at Victoria Park.

The staff had felt more threatened and uncomfortable this time round as the illegal encampment was camped outside the front of the building on the car park area. The café also had a difficult time.

UNADOPTED

It was felt that there could have been better communication from the Police, and the Mayor has written to Inspector Dave Wise of Malvern Police again to request a meeting to discuss the matter further.

Local businesses such as, Morgan and Three Counties have also experienced difficulties and suffered considerably as a result of previous illegal encampments and it is hoped to convene a collective meeting with the Police and any organisations in the area that have been through similar experiences.

Councillors had many questions, and a discussion took place as to which areas should take priority and what types of barriers could be put in place in terms of safeguarding/securing Town Council sites.

Cllr Wanklin left the meeting at 7.30pm

Most Councillors felt that Victoria Park should be a priority because that is where the Community Hub is located and Council staff are based.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk and Operations Manager should carry out an assessment of which Town Council land would be the priority to secure against illegal encampments and how this could be done.

A copy of the draft Illegal Encampments Actions Flow Chart was distributed and all Councillors were asked to send any comments via email to the Town Clerk.

Cllr Whittaker left the meeting at 7.40pm.

83. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of Full Council would take place on Wednesday 15 October at 6.00pm in the Park View meeting room.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve pursuant to Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public from the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

84. ROSE BANK GARDENS UPDATE

The Mayor recommended that this agenda item was deferred to a meeting of the Emergency Decision-Making Group and any decisions from that meeting will come back to a future meeting of the Full Council.

The meeting finished at 7.49pm.

.....(Chair)