

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 28 January 2026 at 6.00pm

Councillors

Present

D Mead (Chair)
A Cherry (Vice Chair)
S Austin
C Bovey
M Jones
K Newbigging
N Wanklin
D Watkins
W Whittaker

Absent

E Green (apologies)
J Leibrandt (apologies)
J MacLusky (apologies)

Also in attendance

L Blake - Town Clerk
C Porter – Operations Manager
J Winkworth – Minute Clerk
Cllr M Birks
Cllr C Hooper

73. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillors Emma Green, Josephine Leibrandt and Julie MacLusky. Councillors Mel Jones and Karen Newbigging, respectively, were substitutes for Councillors Green and Leibrandt.

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

75. 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 Wednesday 19 November 2025

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

76. BANDS IN THE PARK PROGRAMME

Report OC01/25 was received and accepted.

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The Town Clerk gave a brief outline following the success of last year's Bands in the Park.

It was **AGREED** that the Bands in the Park Programme will take place in Priory Park for a duration of 19 weeks over Summer 2026 between 10 May and 13 September. The programme will include the following genres of music: 6 brass bands, 2 jazz bands, 2 blues bands, 2 country/folk, 6 rock/pop and 1 steel band.

Councillor Clive Hooper arrived at 6.09pm.

77. **EVENTS 2026**

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update to the committee.

Taste of the Hills Event

The events team are currently planning this ticketed event in aid of the Mayor's charity, Malvern Special Families which will take place at Malvern Cube on Sunday 8 March 2026. There will be a selection of food vendors in place along with talks, demonstrations and tastings for public to attend.

Peaks Challenge

Planning is under way for the Mayor's Peaks Challenge will take place on Saturday 2 May 2026.

78. **REVIEW OF CONTRACTS OVER £10,000**

Report OC02/25 was received and accepted.

The review of contracts awarded over £10,000 for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 December 2025 was **NOTED**.

79. **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

Report OC03/25 was received and accepted.

Environmental Policy

The Committee were asked to discuss and review the Environmental Policy which was scheduled for review in January 2025 and to make any changes where necessary.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to agree the Environmental Policy with the following amendment to point 2.21 by adding the word 'fireworks' so it reads as follows:

'not permit the release of balloons, sky lanterns or fireworks on its land'

Environmental Achievements

Report OC04/25 was received and accepted.

The Committee **NOTED** the Environmental Achievements for 2025 as per the report.

There were no further environmental matters raised by Councillors present.

80. **WORK PROGRAMME AND OPERATIONS UPDATE**

Report OC05/25 was received and accepted.

The Operations Manager confirmed that the Play Area refurbishment works at Victoria Park are due to start by the end of March 2026.

The refurbishment of the Cemetery Lodge costings are due soon. All works for 2025 should be completed by the next meeting.

UNADOPTED

There is a slight delay on the arrival of the John Deere Mower which is due to be delivered at the beginning of February 2026.

The new Kawasaki buggy to replace the electric vehicle has arrived.

81. **SKATEPARK AT VICTORIA PARK**

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on the progress of this project.

A good response was received to the online survey asking users what features they would like to see within the new skatepark.

A draft design will now be produced ahead of an in-person Public Consultation meeting which will take place in the Park View Meeting Room on Tuesday 10 February from 5.30pm til 7pm for a drop-in session. Officers will be present for any questions.

82. **VICTORIA PARK PLAY AREA**

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on the progress of this project.

A public consultation was carried out, and the Town Council received many responses. The tender document went out taking consideration of the public's responses.

Following receipt of five tenders, a meeting took place earlier in the week to mark them. The panel included a trustee of Malvern Special Families.

Post tender negotiations are being collated at present following specific advice on equipment for children with sensory and other disability requirements with a plan to present to Full Council on 11 February.

To secure the funding, the ground works need to commence by 31 March 2026.

83. **NPPF CONSULTATIONS**

Report OC06/25 was received and accepted.

The Committee were asked to consider whether the council should submit a response on proposed changes to the NPPF.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Council formulate a response to Full Council on 4 March 2026 and a working party would meet to collate this.

The working party will consist of Cllrs David Mead, Clive Hooper, Marilyn Birks and David Watkins, who will meet in due course.

84. **PLANNING CONSULTATIONS**

Report OC07/25 was received and accepted.

Copper Beech House – M/26/00038/FUL

Cllr Birks wished to obtain reassurance from MHDC on this application that there would be no impact on the environment with regards to roof lanterns and new roof lights.

UNADOPTED

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk and Chair would investigate this application further to gain more understanding on the environmental impact of roof lanterns and roof lights, and a comment would be submitted as appropriate.

85. **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 11 March 2026 at 6.00 pm.

The meeting finished at 7:02pm.

.....(Chair)