

UNADOPTED

MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Held on Wednesday 22 April 2026 at

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

Present

Cllr Marilyn Birks (Mayor, Chair)
Cllr David Watkins
Cllr Sean Austin
Cllr Karen Newbigging
Cllr Anne Cherry
Cllr Josie Leibrandt
Linda Blake, Town Clerk
2 members of the public

Cllr David Mead
Cllr Emma Green
Cllr Clive Fletcher
Cllr Clive Hooper
Cllr Helen Clements
Cllr Ronan McLaverty-Head (7.02pm)
Julia Winkworth, Minute Clerk

1. MAYOR'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Annual Town meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2026

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 23 April 2025 were approved and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Cllr Ronan McLaverty-Head arrived at 7.02pm.

3. THE MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025/26

The Mayor gave a short slide presentation of a summary of events and achievements during her Mayoral Year 2025-26. These included:

- GOLD award in Heart of England in Bloom and finalist in the Britain in Bloom finals taking place July/August 2026
- Purchase of a low emission diesel vehicle
- Celebrating one year since the Community Hub Building was opened
- New sign & noticeboard at the Community Hub Building
- New play equipment at Adam Lee
- New Year Cheer Bags
- Adam Lee Pump Tracking Opening
- Installation of bike racks at Victoria Park
- VE Day celebrations
- VJ Day commemorations, Music in the Parks special performance & talk at remembrance day
- Mayor's Bonanza
- Music in the Park
- Remembrance commemorations including Remembrance Sunday and Armistice

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- Christmas Lights Switch On in Great Malvern
- Mayor's Peaks Challenge
- Cemetery Tours
- Monies raised for Malvern Special Families
- Support of many local community groups via their Small and Large Grants Scheme

The Mayor concluded her presentation with a list of mayoral engagement highlights, as below:

- High Sheriff Awards
- Chinese New Year celebrations
- White Ribbon Discussion panel – Cross organisational
- Mid-summer Malvern
- Attending Help Centre with Baroness Jacqui Smith
- President's Lunch at Royal Three Countries Showground
- Malvern Hills Lions 50th Charter celebration dinner
- Ukrainian School Remembrance Day event
- Evensong event at Malvern Priory
- Dementia workshop at Hasting Care Home
- Free Community Meals
- Sherrard's Green Project
- Supporting the Town of Culture application
- Supporting Men Carrying the Weight of MIND charity hike

4. **OPERATIONAL PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES FOR 2026**

Cllr David Mead, Chair of Operations and Planning Committee for Malvern Town Council gave a presentation regarding ongoing projects, day to day operations and additions to the many assets that are owned by the Town Council, these included:

- Planned £200,000 refurbishment of the Play Area at Victoria Park
- New Skatepark at Victoria Park
- Entry into the National Britain in Bloom Competition
- Additional signage/Noticeboards at the Community Hub
- Additional lighting and Gym Equipment in Victoria Park
- New Operational Machinery
- Ongoing Operational Works at the Town Council owned sites including allotments, parks and play areas, sports pitches, benches, bus shelters and litter bins, Clocks, Gas Lamps, Water Courses and Great Malvern Cemetery

5. **WORK OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllrs Karen Newbigging and Emma Green, Chair and Vice-chair of Community Engagement Committee gave a joint presentation highlighting the role of the committee over the past year including:

- White Ribbon Day along with other awareness days throughout the year
- Town Councillor Surgeries at Bands in the Park
- Ukrainian Twinning
- Implementation of a Community Development Officer
- Working to enhance Sherrards Green Area
- Junior Park Run potential for 2026/27

6. OPEN FORUM

The Mayor invited the members of the public to ask any questions they may have regarding the presentations or any Town Council related matters.

There were two members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

Mrs Green was puzzled by the lack of attendees from the Malvern communities at the Annual Town meeting and wondered if more advertisement should be carried out in advance of the meeting.

The Mayor and Town Clerk had attended many meetings over the years and felt that unless there was a contentious issue to be raised/discussed, that the public's attendance was usually very low.

Cllr Newbigging wondered whether the Town Council should reinstate the production of an Annual Report. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council used to produce an Annual Report but in recent times, a newsletter was sent out periodically instead. It was noted that the compilation of an Annual Report could be investigated if Full Council feel it would be of benefit.

Cllr Emma Green left the room at 8.10pm and returned at 8.13pm.

The second member of the public thanked the Town Council for the park facilities that her grandchildren enjoyed using.

7. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

The next Annual Town meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 April 2027 at 7pm in the Park View meeting room at The Community Hub, Victoria Park Road, Malvern Link.

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(Mayor)