

UNADOPTED

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL

held on Wednesday 3 October 2018

Council Chamber, Belle Vue Terrace, Malvern, at 6.00 pm

Councillors

Present

C Palmer (Chairman)
C Bovey
J Campbell
S Charles
M Harvey
I Hopwood
L Lambeth
P Newton
N Mills
N Morton
B Regimbeau
P Smith
J Thomas
P Tuthill
D Watkins

Absent

J Cain (apologies)
H Campbell (apologies)
M Campbell (apologies)
M Fletcher
J O'Donnell (apologies)

In attendance

Linda Blake – Town Clerk
Charles Porter – Operations Manager
Louise Wall – Minute Clerk

Three members of the public

79. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from:

- Councillor Jenny Cain – work commitments
- Councillor Hannah Campbell – work commitments
- Councillor Matt Campbell – work commitments
- Councillor James O'Donnell – illness

80. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Cllr Neville Mills – Allotments
- Cllr Brian Regimbeau – Community Action

81. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the following meeting be approved and adopted as a correct record of the proceedings and they were signed by the Mayor:

- Full Council meeting 12 September 2018

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Diana Stockford and Ruth Forecast gave a short presentation about the work of Malvern Welcomes as an organisation. Malvern Welcomes is a charity working under the Home Office's Community Sponsorship scheme, and whose aims are to provide housing in Malvern for a refugee family as well as helping them to integrate into life in the UK, access medical and social services and English language tuition, and support them towards employment and self-sufficiency. The scheme relies on donations from the local community. This is separate to the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme which receives government funding.

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Malvern Welcomes is already in the process of settling a family in Malvern. The two children attend a local school and the parents are learning English ahead of applying for jobs. Malvern residents had been very generous and welcoming so far but the special grant of £1,680 from the Town Council would help with the family's integration, by way of supplying the family with the means for travel in the region, to participate fully in school life and keep in touch with current events within Malvern.

82. NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Peter Smith presented his Notice of Motion and asked Councillors for their support.

Some Councillors felt that there were many other people in Malvern who also needed financial help and it would not be fair or a proper use of funds to support a single family.

Others felt that as the family in question had not come to Malvern simply to better themselves but were fleeing from a war-torn country in fear of their safety, Malvern Town Council should support them and by doing so would be a great example to other councils.

After discussion, Cllr Hopwood proposed that the resolution should be amended.

It was proposed that Malvern Town Council award a one-off grant of £1,200 to support the general costs of supporting a refugee family to re-settle in Malvern and integrate into the wider community.

This proposal was agreed by Cllr Peter Smith, the original proposer and therefore,

It was **RESOLVED** that Malvern Town Council supports a refugee family to re-settle in Malvern with a one-off grant of £1,200 to Malvern Welcomes.

83. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Great Malvern Cemetery

The Mayor congratulated the Operations Manager and his team for the gold award they received for Great Malvern Cemetery this week, at the Heart of England in Bloom awards ceremony. Very few gold awards had been given so this was a particularly special achievement.

Cllr Morton asked that the Operations Manager pass on the council's thanks to the team for all of their hard work and this was endorsed by the entire Council.

Sight Concern

The Mayor had taken part in the Worcester 10k walk in aid of Sight Concern and along the way had met Steve Cram. It had been a very enjoyable event.

Queen's Award for Enterprise

The Mayor attended a ceremony where the Duke of Gloucester presented an award to Metrasens, a local company, for its ground-breaking work in providing advanced screening capabilities, helping to make the world a safer place.

First World War Commemoration Events

Councillor Hopwood has kindly agreed to represent Malvern Town and the Council in Landrecies, France, in November when there will be a number of celebratory events held to commemorate the end of the First World War. The people of Malvern helped Landrecies during the war by sending post-war aid whilst soldiers from the Worcestershire Regiment were engaged in fighting around Landrecies during 1914 and 1918.

84. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Year End – External Audit

The Town Clerk reported that External Auditors had now completed their work and given the opinion that sections 1, 2 and 3 of the AGAR were in accordance with the proper practices, also that no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

Street naming request – land at Pickersleigh Grove

The Town Clerk had put forward the names suggested by the Pickersleigh ward councillors to the Street Naming Team and initial comments were that the names were acceptable under the criteria and would now be considered. The names suggested were Buzzard Crescent, Merlin Crescent, Kestral Close and Hen Harrier Close.

Heart of England in Bloom

The Town Clerk reiterated the Mayor's congratulations and reminded council that it would soon be time to consider next year's entry into the competition.

Section 106 funding – Malvern Hoops Campaign

The Town Clerk was pleased to report that the application had been made and was considered to be a very comprehensive application. It had now been passed on to the Section 106 sign-off group for a final decision.

Malvern Priory

A letter of support was sent to the Priory following last month's council meeting, and had been gratefully received.

Volunteers needed for Events

A sheet was made available for councillors to sign up to volunteer at the Remembrance and Christmas events and it was hoped to get as many names as possible.

85. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Jill Campbell (District)

Cllr Campbell reported that she and Cllr Tuthill had attended a briefing on the options and issues of the SWDP. She said it was very frustrating that after all of the time, effort and expense that had gone into producing the Neighbourhood Plan, the government was now asking for a review on the SWDP and this would have an impact on Malvern's NP. A briefing for Parish Councils is to be held on 6 November and the Town Clerk confirmed that she would be attending.

Cllr Paul Tuthill (County)

Cllr Tuthill had attended the unveiling by the Duke of Gloucester of a statue of the first Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, Stanley Baldwin. Cllr Tuthill repeated last month's report that the Chief Executive of the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, Michelle McKay, has resigned which is disappointing in terms of continuity especially as the Trust continues to be the worst performing in the Midlands.

Cllr Caroline Bovey (District)

Cllr Bovey wished to thank Town Council Officers Lyndsey Davies and Dilys Watson for their help at the Pickersleigh fun day which had been a great success and was enjoyed by all those who attended.

86. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

There were no Members' Questions.

UNADOPTED

87. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Report CL01.18 was received and accepted.

Cllr Thomas presented the recommendations from the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 26 September.

It was **RESOLVED** that the updated Standing Orders as circulated with last week's packs be approved and adopted.

88. **EMERGENCY DECISION MAKING GROUP**

The Town Clerk explained that a meeting of the Emergency Decision Making Group had taken place on 19 September after an issue had been raised relating to a forthcoming twinning visit by twenty-seven French students and three teachers.

Four members of the group had attended along with Gina Butler, Chairman of the Malvern-Bagnères Twinning Group. She had explained that the visit was due to take place from 9 October but that one of the host schools had dropped out, leaving ten students without accommodation. Cancellation of the trip was not viable due to costs that would be incurred. Therefore, the only option was to host the students through a local company at a cost of £1,000.

It had been **AGREED** that the Mayor would fund the cost from her Mayoral allowance in order that the visit could continue as planned.

However, members of Full Council felt that this was not what the Mayoral allowance should be used for and it was proposed that £1,000 be taken from another fund.

It was **RESOLVED** that £1,000 be used for payment of the costs of hosting the students, to be taken from the Council's contingency fund.

Cllr Peter Smith left the meeting at 7.15pm

89. **REMEMBRANCE OBSERVATIONS**

Report OC02/18 was received and noted.

The Town Clerk explained that there would be a number of events held to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One.

- 1) Field of Remembrance at Great Malvern Library from 8 November until 15 November. Opening ceremony on 8 November at 10.45am.
- 2) Festival of Remembrance concert in Great Malvern Priory – 3pm on 10 November.
- 3) Remembrance Sunday Parade and Church Service from 9am on 11 November.

Cllr Regimbeau will be deputising in the Mayor's absence.

90. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Neighbourhood Plan is still on track to be submitted by the end of October. Officers are in the process of selecting an examiner from four applicants, all of whom are very keen to work on Malvern's Neighbourhood Plan, as it is one of the largest plans in the country. The recent consultation evening was successful and very well attended, partly thanks to a prominent feature in the Malvern Gazette.

The Mayor thanked Clare Lawrence and Cllr Peter Smith for all of their hard work on the Neighbourhood Plan.

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

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of Full Council will be Wednesday 7 November at 6.00pm.

The meeting finished at 7.20 pm.

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(Chairman)

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