

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL**

held on Wednesday 9 August 2017

Council Chamber, Malvern Town Council, Belle Vue Terrace, Malvern, at 7.00 pm

Councillors

Present

C Palmer (Chairman)
J Thomas (Vice-chairman)
C Bovey
J Campbell
M Fletcher
I Hopwood
L Lambeth
P Newton
S Nichols
J O'Donnell
C Smith

P Smith
P Tuthill
D Watkins
R Yates

Absent

J Cain (Apologies)
H Campbell
M Campbell (Apologies)
M Harvey (Apologies)
B Regimbeau (Apologies)

In attendance

Linda Blake – Town Clerk
Louise Wall – Minute Clerk

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Cain, M Campbell, M Harvey and B Regimbeau.

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Tuthill – Worcestershire County Council, Fire & Rescue Service

47. 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:

- 14 June 2017

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was **AGREED** to adjourn the meeting for public participation and the Mayor invited members of the public to present their questions, statements or petitions submitted under the Council's Public Participations Procedure.

PRESENTATION FROM MR ADAM CARTER, PROSPECTIVE TENANT FOR MIDDLE FLAT, REAR OF BELLE VUE BUILDING

Mr Adam Carter asked council for an explanation why, at the meeting of Policy and Resources committee on 1 August 2017, it was **RECOMMENDED** that the flat not be let for any term longer than six months, therefore resulting in his application to rent the flat for at least a year being refused. He feels he would make a good tenant for the council, having lived and worked in Malvern all of his life, and being happy to rent the flat in its present condition, with minor improvements being made

in the future. He explained it is difficult to find suitable rental properties in Malvern and he wishes to provide stability for his children.

Following public participation, it was **AGREED** to resume the Council meeting and Mr Carter left the meeting.

48. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported she has had a busy few weeks recently, judging two Malvern in Bloom competitions, two children's painting competitions, attending the Neighbourhood Plan consultation day and the Three Choirs Festival opening service, as well as meeting various Malvern community groups.

The Mayor thanked all councillors who had helped so far at Bands in the Park and Alternative Bands in the Park, helping to make these events a success. Thanks too went to all who had offered to help at the upcoming Mayor's Bonanza with a request for others to come along on the day if at all possible.

The Mayor consulted other councillors as to whether the date of the Annual Council meeting planned for Wednesday 23 May 2018 could be changed to the previous day, Tuesday 22 May. It was also requested that the Annual Town meeting be pushed back to a week later than currently scheduled. Councillors are asked to let the office know before next council meeting if these changes are agreeable.

49. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Science in the Park

The Town Clerk has received a letter from Dr Adrian Burden thanking council for the grant which helped make the Science in the Park event so successful. Councillors who had attended agreed that it was a very enjoyable day with many children taking part in the activities.

Members' Questions

Cllr Yates submitted a member's question at the last council meeting and this is still being dealt with.

DBS Checks

The Town Clerk met with officers at Worcestershire County Council recently regarding DBS checks for councillors. WCC made a policy change last year that means their councillors are no longer checked and County Council officers advised that it was unnecessary for any Town Councillor to be DBS checked as they would be extremely unlikely to come into unsupervised contact with children on a regular basis.

Malvern In Bloom

The Town Clerk thanked the Bloom committee, Lyndsey Davies, Charles Porter and the Operations team for their hard work in bringing this year's Malvern in Bloom to fruition, whilst noting that volunteers and the district council had been noticeably less involved this year. In 2017, the Council had entered the large town capacity which was very onerous on the operations team. Therefore, a review is needed before entering next year's competition.

Bands in the Park

Bands in the Park and Alternative Bands in the Park have both been well attended so far, with the Events Co-ordinator making good use of social media to promote the bands.

50. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr O'Donnell (Worcestershire County Council) reported that he is now on two Overview and Scrutiny committees – Economic Development and Communities. The main focus of WCC at present is children's services for which £20 million has been earmarked. Other committees are also involved, for instance Planning, which is looking at its sites used for children's services. Around 800 children are looked after within the county.

Cllr O'Donnell (Malvern Hills District Council) reported that MHDC are keen to work more closely with the Town Council to be more efficient and effective in providing services to the town.

The new waste collections changes are coming into effect in the area soon.

Cllr Tuthill reported that he is now Chairman of the Health and Overview Scrutiny committee at WCC which includes representatives from each of the district councils and well as county members. He reported that at a recent meeting with the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, a new agreement had been presented by the Trust outlining a number of changes that have been made as part of a £21 million investment in Worcester Hospital to provide 84 more beds and 151 parking spaces.

Cllr Tuthill also reported that the Worcestershire Draft Rail Investment Strategy was available - if anyone is interested, he has details.

Nearly all the money allocated for North site has now been spent, including on improving footpaths and new lighting.

All parties within the county council agreed that they did not support the merger of the Police and Fire service with Shropshire but recognised that the final decision lies with the PFC.

Cllr Bovey asked that it be noted that the Town Council's presence at the recent Pickersleigh fun day had been very well received. Cllr Bovey thanked Lyndsey Davies for all of her hard work on the Town Council stand at the event.

Cllr Watkins, holder of district portfolio for healthier communities, reported that the recent OFSTED report for children's services was poor, with a follow-up report due in September.

51. TOWN COUNCIL WARD REPORTS/ REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Mewton stated that the recent article in the press regarding a temporary play area erected by local residents in Elgar Avenue had failed to mention that the reason residents had taken this decision was the antisocial behaviour of other youths who had been vandalising the permanent playground, leaving rubbish, alcohol containers and drug paraphernalia. Fortis, who own the play equipment and ground do not seem to maintain it adequately. It was **NOTED** that the Town Clerk will write to Fortis regarding the problem requesting that they improve the area and asking them if regular inspections are taking place.

Council **NOTED** the reports.

52. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

There were no Members' Questions received.

53. EVENTS COMMITTEE

As temporary chairman of the Events Committee, Cllr C Smith presented the minutes of the Events Committee.

Members of the Events Committee approved and adopted the Minutes of the following meeting:

- 27 July 2017

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 27 July 2017 be received and adopted.

There were no recommendations to consider.

54. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Cllr C Smith presented the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee.

Members of the Policy and Resources Committee approved and adopted the Minutes of the following meeting:

- 1 August 2017

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 6 June 2017 be received and adopted.

Minute 17 Quarterly Accounts – First Quarter

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- Council approve the Quarterly Accounts for the Quarter ending 30 June 2017.

Minute 19 Works to Middle Flat, Rear of Belle Vue Building

After discussion, Council voted on the recommendations of the Policy and Resources committee meeting held on 1 August 2017 as follows:

- That it was **RECOMMENDED** not to let the flat for any term longer than six months.
- That it was **RECOMMENDED** to continue with obtaining quotations for refurbishment works.

The recommendations were **NOT** adopted by Full Council.

It was then **RESOLVED** that the flat is rented to Adam Carter on a one-year rolling contract, to commence immediately. Any improvement works to the bathroom should be carried out in consultation with the tenant and while the tenant is in residence.

55. INSURANCE CONTRACT RENEWAL

The Town Clerk presented report CL01/17.

It was **RESOLVED** that Council accept the offer from its current insurers for an early renewal of the insurance contract, effectively turning the three-year agreement into a five-year agreement at the same price.

56. MEMBERSHIP OF STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk presented report CL02/17.

It was **RESOLVED** that Council increase the membership of the staffing committee to eight so that all qualifying councillors remain. The staffing committee will now be as follows:

Councillor J Thomas – as Deputy Mayor must be elected as Chairman of the staffing committee
Councillor J Cain
Councillor H Campbell
Councillor M Campbell
Councillor J Campbell
Councillor S Nichols
Councillor P Mewton
Councillor C Smith

57. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Town Clerk reported that the recent consultation event was well attended by members of stakeholders groups as well as members of the public. The summary document is proving more user-friendly, providing a brief outline of the policies. Around twenty questionnaires have been returned so far with overriding agreement of all policies and some constructive comments being received. These will be taken into account before the six-week statutory consultation is carried out by the Town Council.

58. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 6 September 2017 at 6.00 pm

The meeting finished at 8.25 pm.

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(Chairman)