

MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

held on Tuesday 14 March 2017

Coach House Theatre, Grange Road, Malvern at 7.00 pm

Councillors

Present

C Palmer (Mayor, Chairman)
H Campbell
J Cain
J Campbell
M Campbell
I Hopwood

L Lambeth
C Smith
P Smith
P Tuthill

Apologies

J O'Donnell, B Regimbeau

In attendance

Linda Blake – Town Clerk
Louise Wall – Minute Clerk

Approximately 7 members of the public

1. MAYOR'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor, Cllr Cynthia Palmer, welcomed everyone to Malvern Town Council's Annual Town Meeting.

2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2016

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 15 March 2016 were approved and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

3. THE MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016/17

The Mayor reported that Malvern Town Council had enjoyed another successful year with a number of projects and events having taken place, some for the first time. By the end of March 2017, the Mayor will have completed 100 engagements in the town and across Worcestershire including youth ceremonies, civic services, charity fundraising events, as well as carrying out radio interviews and presenting many awards and prizes. She told the meeting she has found the people of Malvern to be extremely kind and welcoming. The Mayor then spoke about the following items:

New Events

For the first time in 2016 the Health & Wellbeing event was held in Rose Bank Gardens; also Alternative Bands in the Park to showcase local talented groups and the Christmas Charity Concert with the Malvern Hills Brass Band.

Charities and Community Groups

A number of local organisations have benefitted from the Town Council's scheme for Large and Small Grants with over £13,700 awarded. Over £4,000 has been raised to date for the Mayor's chosen charity, Acorns Children's

Hospice, with an overall target of £5,000 hopefully being reached by the end of her term in office.

Barnards Green Traders

Barnards Green Traders received support for their events from the Town Council and some new Christmas lights have been installed.

Heart of England in Bloom

The town was awarded its 9th Gold medal by Heart of England in Bloom. The Mayor thanked John Jordan and the Operations team for all their hard work. During the autumn further work was carried out in Rose Bank Gardens including the planting of shrubs, laurels and bulbs.

Twinning

The Town was officially twinned with Bagnères-de-Bigorre in south-west France and more twinning visits are being arranged.

Battle of the Somme and Remembrance Day Parade

There was tremendous public support for these two events.

Christmas Lights Switch-on

Church Street was full of people who came to watch the Christmas Lights switched on by lead actors from the Pantomime following a full day of entertainment all around the town.

Aims and Objectives 2017/2018

There is an exciting programme of events planned for 2017, and the council's website is due to be improved and expanded. The council will purchase new lights for Malvern Link this Christmas and also hopes to complete the Neighbourhood Plan by June 2018. It will continue to be a democratic voice for the people of Malvern by addressing important issues as and when they arise.

The Mayor finished by thanking the Town Clerk and her staff for their hard work, dedication and support.

4. **MALVERN'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Peter Hamilton of Cass Associates, appointed Neighbourhood Plan Consultants, gave a presentation to the meeting explaining the work carried out so far on the Malvern Neighbourhood Plan. He explained various policies which have been drawn up following research and results of questionnaires sent out in the Town Council area. Following questions from the floor, Peter assured the meeting that mistakes made in previous developments had been used in policies for the future but that the Town Council is limited in what it can stipulate with regard to land use matters. The Town Council can comment on the provision of infrastructure for developments but the specific provision of a school is the decision of the County Council.

5. **MALVERN HILLS FOOD BANK**

Cathy Jackson-Read, Chairman of the Malvern Food Bank, gave a presentation on the history and workings of the food bank, which the Town Council has supported with a three-year grant, part of which has covered rent on the premises in Spring Lane.. The food bank is run entirely by volunteers but is well supported by the people of Malvern who give generously in terms of money and goods.

Food donations are collected in various places throughout Malvern and then checked, dated and put into nutritionally balanced packs ready for collection. Partner

agencies refer people to the food bank and provide them with a voucher to redeem. This system works well, ensuring that those most in need receive prompt help. It also shows that two thirds of users only ever redeem one voucher, which infers that it is a very useful stopgap in times of crisis. The food bank can also provide packs for people ready for when they are discharged from hospital to an empty house with no means of buying food; bus vouchers and Christmas boxes. Overall, in 2016, 592 vouchers were redeemed, covering around 1500 food parcels and which provided food for 590 children.

6. **LOCAL POLICING IN MALVERN**

Sergeant Alex Denny, who recently took charge of the Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team for Malvern, introduced himself to those present at the meeting and gave a brief résumé of his career to date which began in 2006 and includes the Ministry of Defence Police, Home Office Police Service and West Midlands Police. He has been an officer in West Mercia since 2011.

Sergeant Denny explained that he has been encouraging his officers to patrol on foot more, rather than in cars to get to know what is happening in the community and hopefully therefore make Malvern a safer place.

Questions from the floor included whether the police could do anything about cars parked on pavements in Malvern, which often means pedestrians have to walk in the road to get past, including parents with prams and those using mobility scooters. Sergeant Denny is aware of this problem, not least from his own experiences.

Sergeant Denny was also asked what he thought was his biggest challenge in Malvern. He said that although there were many longstanding community issues there were also different challenges on a day-to-day basis, so it was difficult to pick one thing. However, he highlighted that human trafficking was a very real problem in the area with many underage labourers being brought in from cities for seasonal work and this is something that he is very keen to eradicate.

7. **OPEN FORUM**

There were no questions raised.

8. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 March 2018 at 7.00 pm

.....
(Mayor)