

**MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

held on Wednesday 21 March 2018

Coach House Theatre, Grange Road, Malvern at 7.00 pm

Councillors

Present

C Palmer (Mayor, Chairman)
J Cain
S Charles
I Hopwood
N Mills
P Smith
J Thomas
P Tuthill

Apologies

M Campbell
D Watkins
M Harvey
B Regimbeau

In attendance

Charles Porter - Operations Manager
Louise Wall – Minute Clerk

Approximately 6 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 and thanked the Coach House Theatre for providing the venue and tea and biscuits free of charge.

2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD TUESDAY 14 MARCH 2017

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 14 March 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

3. THE MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017/18

The Mayor presented her annual report. Now in her second term of office, the Mayor has continued to raise money for her charities. Last year, nearly £7,000 was raised for Acorns and this year, ARCOS is set to benefit from ongoing fundraising events, with a total yet to be calculated.

Since being elected Mayor in May 2016, Cllr Palmer has been privileged to attend youth ceremonies, civic services, fundraising events, charity concerts, official openings, radio interviews, award and prize giving ceremonies to name a few. The past two years had been a very busy but enjoyable time and she has been honoured to have attended so many different events across Worcestershire.

Malvern Town Council Achievements 2017/18

- Refurbishment of memorial bench in commemoration of Private Norman Sayer, born in Malvern and killed in action during WWI.
- Consecration of final two acres of land in Great Malvern Cemetery by Assistant Bishop Rt Rev'd Michael Hooper
- Installation of new information sign boards in Great Malvern Cemetery, in conjunction with the Civic Society

UNADOPTED

- Installation of new Christmas lights in Malvern Link
- New lights purchased for the Christmas tree on Belle Vue island, illuminated at the very well attended Christmas lights switch on event
- New fencing installed at Dukes Meadow play area, multi-use games area and refurbishment of the hoops and goals
- Refurbishment of tennis courts at Victoria Park
- Maintenance of Rose Bank Gardens and other Town Council assets, contributing to a tenth gold award in Heart of England in Bloom competition. The Mayor thanked John Jordan, chairman of Malvern in Bloom for all his efforts and successes.
- New 'Lark Ascending' sculpture unveiled in Rose Bank Gardens with a poetry competition held among local primary schools
- New slide installed in Victoria Park
- Timer switches to be installed shortly at Goodwood Road and Knapp Way allotment sites
- Support of voluntary and community groups through the grants scheme which this year awarded over £18,000

Malvern Town Council Events 2017/18

- Civic Service held in Malvern Priory last year with great success and a wonderful performance by the Rock Choir will again be held in the Priory on 14 April, this year celebrating the work of the blue light services. All welcome to attend
- The Mayor's Garden Party in aid of ARCOS will be held in April
- Health and Wellbeing Fair which is attracting an increasing number of exhibitors and visitors, this year to be held on 5 May
- Bands in the Park – a free event held in Priory Park throughout the summer which helps raise money for the Mayor's charity
- Remembrance and Armistice Day parades will this year commemorate the 100 years since the end of WWI

Malvern Town Council Aims 2017/18

- To commission a new website that is more user friendly for the public, councillors and officers alike
- To streamline the Town Council's structure where necessary to ensure it offers an efficient and value for money service
- To hand over the Neighbourhood Plan to the District Council. The Mayor thanked NP consultant Peter Hamilton and Clare Lawrence of Malvern Town Council for all of their hard work in getting the plan to this stage
- To install new basketball courts in Victoria Park. This is a project that has been brought to fruition by Jon May and Tom Bennett of Malvern Hoops and the finished result will be a great asset to the Town
- To obtain outline planning permission for the former allotment site in Elgar Avenue
- Installation of new fencing around the play area in Victoria Park
- Works at Station Gardens and Lansdowne Crescent

The Mayor concluded by thanking the Town Clerk and staff at Malvern Town Council for all of their help, hard work and support over the past two years.

The Mayor said that during her term of office she had met many lovely people in Malvern, which is a wonderful place to live in, and she hoped that people felt she had achieved her aim of being a successful Mayor of Malvern.

4. **ARCOS**

Kay Coombes and Carlos de Souza from ARCOS attended the meeting to give a presentation on the works of the charity, which is based in Malvern. ARCOS depends on charitable grants and donations to maintain a high quality of service, improving life for children and adults who have communication, eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties. Using the latest advances in knowledge, understanding, skills and technology, clients of all ages benefit from treatment whilst their families also receive support and training.

5. **HEARTSTART MALVERN**

Richard Vakis-Lowe, Chairman of Heartstart Malvern, explained the background to Heartstart Malvern, which was launched in January 2017 and was enabled with a grant from Malvern Town Council. Saving the life of someone suffering a cardiac arrest can be a four-fold process beginning with calling for 999 help, starting CPR immediately, using a defibrillator and receiving post-resuscitation care. Whilst it is not possible to save everyone who has a cardiac arrest, following these four steps can increase the survival rate from less than 10% to at least 25%.

Heartstart's aim is to install a total of 50 defibrillators in the Malvern area. Training sessions are free and only take 90 minutes, and many school-aged children have received training. There has been a lot of support from community and voluntary groups but local businesses have been slow to take up the offer of free training or to fundraise. Richard asked anyone with contacts in local businesses to please consider supporting Heartstart Malvern.

Cllr Tuthill asked if there were any plans to install signposting indicating the locations of defibrillators, as had been used in other towns. Richard said that all defibrillators will eventually be signposted and some are already indicated on various websites but if there was need of a defibrillator, the public should ring 999 and the ambulance service will inform them of the location and the code to access the unit.

It was suggested that the Malvern Gazette could be approached to ask if they would publish a list of all defibrillators in Malvern each week, thus reaching another sector of the public.

6. **TWINNING PARTNERSHIP**

Malvern-Bagnères-de-Bigorre Twinning Association (MBTA)

Gina Butler, Chairman of the Malvern-Bagnères-de-Bigorre Twinning Association, explained that twinning is an agreement to promote social, cultural and commercial ties between two or more towns. The earliest known example is between Paderborn in Germany and Le Mans, France in 836. The main growth of twinning was after the end of the Second World War and there are now over 750 English towns twinned with other towns throughout the world. For towns to be twinned, there is usually a similarity between them, either a resemblance of the towns' physical features, the culture, trade, solidarity, religion or a novelty aspect.

Bagnères-de-Bigorre is located near the French-Spanish border, close to Lourdes and was officially twinned with Malvern in April 2016. There are many similarities with Malvern such as the architecture, thermal spas, wellness centres, local hill walking, clubs and associations.

The MBTA is made up of 12 volunteers and it is their aim to maintain the good relations already established with Bagnères-de-Bigorre, whilst continuing to promote Malvern and forming links with other Worcestershire twinning associations.

Gina thanked Malvern Hills District Councillors John Raine and James O'Donnell and Worcestershire County Councillors Lucy Hodgson and Paul Tuthill who had contributed towards the cost of the new twinning signs, now in place at three entry points to Malvern.

Malvern-Mariánské Lázně Community Partnership (MMLCP)

Cllr Ian Hopwood and Mark Young from the MMLCP spoke about the community partnership between Malvern and Mariánské Lázně which was created five years ago, and the events that are planned in the future.

Also known as Marienbad, Mariánské Lázně is located to the west of the Czech Republic, close to the German border. It shares with Malvern a passion for music, churches, education, scenery and architecture. There are also commercial similarities such as water bottling, car production, brewing, spas and wellness tourism.

2018 an important year for Mariánské Lázně as it is the 200-year anniversary since it was founded as a spa town, 100 years since the founding of Czechoslovakia as an independent nation at the end of the First World War, and 50 years since the Prague Spring liberalisation programme, which resulted in the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

This year will see several events to celebrate the links between the two towns:

In Mariánské Lázně

- At the opening of the spa season in May the Mayor of Malvern and Cllr Hopwood will unveil a Black Worcester pear tree;
- the presentation of a framed jigsaw of Great Malvern Railway Station to the town library;
- a visit by The Hill Singers from Malvern to participate in a programme of concerts, hosted by The Fontana Choir.

In Malvern

- Dr Petr Somol will present a talk on "The history of printing, typography and design" on 27th June 2018 as part of Civic Week/Midsummer Malvern event.

It is hoped that these events will encourage reciprocal links and be of mutual commercial benefit. Cllr Hopwood finished by thanking Mark Young for all of his hard work and many visits made to the Czech Republic over the past few years

7. OPEN FORUM

A member of the public asked if the Town Council had any plans to provide more services for the youngsters of Malvern. Whilst there was a lot for very young children and older adults in Malvern, services for teenagers had dwindled over the years - the youth club had closed and The Cube tended to cater more for U3A.

Cllr Cain replied that her son was busy six days a week with sports and after-school clubs and that there was a lot for them to do if they wished to participate. She also said that the younger generation was always considered in council matters as it was important to find ways to keep the next generation in Malvern. It was agreed that the younger generation is very important when discussing wider issues such as affordable housing and other matters which will affect them when they are older.

A member of the audience commented that children often wanted to join clubs but had to wait due to too few adults volunteering to help manage these clubs. She also thought that what youngsters wanted now was different to in the past and they tend to want less-structured entertainment.

8. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 March 2019 at 7.00 pm.

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(Mayor)

DRAFT