

UNADOPTED

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE OPERATIONS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL
held remotely via Zoom on
Tuesday 9 February 2021 at 6.00 pm

Participating

Councillors

S Charles (Chairman)
L Lambeth (Vice Chairman)
C Bovey
P Mewton (from 6.23 pm)
C Palmer
P Smith
S Taylor
D Watkins

Absent

J Leibrandt

Also in attendance

L Blake - Town Clerk
L Wall – Minute Clerk
C Porter – Operations Manager
Cllr N Morton (from 6.40 pm)

151. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

152. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

153. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the following meeting be approved and adopted as a correct record of the proceedings, to be signed by the Chairman in due course:

- Operations and Planning Committee meeting 25 November 2020.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

154. EARTH DAY 22 APRIL 2021

Report OC01/21 was received and discussed.

The Town Clerk explained that the events team had been looking at ways to hold some of the usual events this year, but in new formats to keep within the guidelines and restrictions relevant at the time of each event.

Officers felt that Earth Day could be held successfully and safely by inviting exhibitors to attend in specific timeslots at the Cube and the event being accessible to the public online, where they could watch demonstrations and participate in discussions.

It was **AGREED** that a live online event for Earth Day should be held on Thursday 22 April 2021, COVID-19 restrictions permitting.

155. HEALTH AND WELLBEING FAIR 2021

Report OC02/21 was received and accepted.

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The Health and Wellbeing Fair, usually held in Rosebank Gardens, was another event that Officers felt could be held successfully in an online format, again at Malvern Cube, with exhibitors safely spaced by using two rooms and adhering to timeslots.

It was **AGREED** that a live online Health and Wellbeing Fair for 2021 be held on Saturday 2 May 2021, COVID-19 restrictions permitting.

156. **HEART OF ENGLAND IN BLOOM 2021**

Report OC03/21 was received and accepted.

The Town Clerk explained that there were two parts to Heart of England in Bloom – the regional competition which this year would only require submission of a portfolio and the more local Malvern in Bloom which would include activities and be organised by the local steering committee.

The Operations Manager felt that entering the competition would be a good idea as it would keep levels of interest and enthusiasm high and help encourage the community to keep the town looking tidy. This in turn would be excellent for helping to keep morale high generally in these ongoing difficult times.

Members agreed that it would be good to enter and if an award were won, it would be validation to the hard work put in by the Operations Team throughout the year.

The Town Clerk explained that the steering committee is made up of representatives of many local organisations, but new members were welcomed.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Council would enter the Heart of England in Bloom Campaign Town category in 2021.

It was further **AGREED** that the Malvern in Bloom Steering Group would be re-formed with meetings held via zoom.

Cllr Pat Mewton joined the meeting at 6.23 pm

157. **OTHER TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS 2021**

Report OC04/21 was considered and discussed.

The Town Clerk presented the suggested events programme for 2021 included in the report. Officers had tried to take a proactive but cautious approach to the planned events timetable in view of the uncertainty of the current situation. Events have generally been delayed and/or reduced in scale.

Whilst it was acknowledged that it was impossible at this stage to make a definite decision on holding each event, members were in agreement that it would be good to think that at least some events could go ahead later in the year, and that Officers should therefore start to make enquiries into the logistics of holding these events with updates to be made at future meetings.

158. **PURCHASE OF TREES FOR REWILDING**

Report OC05/21 was received and discussed.

The Operations and Planning Committee has previously agreed that trees would be planted in Greenfields Road and Yates Hay Road areas, and the purpose of this report was to agree a budget for the purchase of 500 trees.

The Operations Manager explained that the trees would be a good mix of British native woodland trees and would be of a slightly larger size than those usually purchased to ensure quick and successful establishment of the trees.

Cllr Morton joined the meeting at 6.40 pm.

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A budget of £1,300 was **AGREED** for the purchase of trees for rewilding.

159. **STATION ROAD GARDENS LIGHTING**

Report OC06/21 was received and accepted.

It was **AGREED** that a budget of £3,000 be available for the upgrade of lighting at Station Road Gardens.

160. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Work programme OC07/21 was received and accepted.

In answer to members' questions, the Operations Manager explained the following:

- The repairs to the bus shelter in Barnards Green were subject to a listed building consent application and when submitted, it could be requested that the colour of the shelter is changed from black to white. However, the current black is as a deterrent to graffiti.
- Some paths in Rosebank Gardens are getting worn and will be dressed with scalplings later on in the year.

Cllr Palmer thanked the Operations Manager and his team for their hard work over the past few months under difficult circumstances.

161. **PLANNING CONSULTATIONS**

Report OC08/21 was received and accepted.

The following planning applications were raised by ward members:

20/01905/FUL – Northcot, Como Road, Malvern, WR14 2TH -Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 7 new residential apartments, and associated access, car parking and landscaping.

Members felt that the proposals represented an overdevelopment of the site, which is in a conservation area, and there would be a detrimental effect on the half of the semi-detached building that would be left standing.

It was **AGREED** that a comment to this effect would be submitted to MHDC.

20/00660/FUL – land at (OS 7832 4674) Pickersleigh Grove, Malvern – application for the proposed development of 21 dwellings including open space and associated infrastructure – planning appeal

It was **AGREED** that the Town Council should submit an objection to the Planning Inspectorate on the same basis as its objection to the application, namely:

- That there would be an unacceptable loss of green space that was identified in the Neighbourhood Plan as Neighbourhood Open Space, and which was highly valued by the local community. The exceptional circumstances needed to justify this loss of space have not been provided.
- The site is an important wildlife corridor between Link Common and green space to the south.
- There would be negative effects on the site's arboricultural assets, particularly nature and veteran trees.
- Additionally, the design of surrounding roads was insufficient in safety measure and layout.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would collate the relevant information and write to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Town Council.

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

UNADOPTED

It was noted and agreed that the date of the next meeting of Operations and Planning Committee would be Tuesday 9 March 2021 at 6.00pm, to be held remotely via Zoom.

The meeting finished at 7.09 pm.

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(Chairman)

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