

UNADOPTED

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE OPERATIONS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL**

held in the Park View Meeting Room, Community Hub, Victoria Park

Wednesday 29 January 2025 at 6.00pm

Councillors

Present

D Mead (Chair)
F Matthews-Jones
S Austin
C Bovey
A Cherry
D Watkins
J Green
J Leibrandt (from 6.05pm)

Absent

S Meager
J MacLusky

Also in attendance

L Blake - Town Clerk
C Porter – Operations Manager
J Winkworth – Minute Clerk
Cllr Marilyn Birks, Mayor (from 6.02pm)

49. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

51. 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, and these were signed by the Chairman:

- Operations and Planning Committee meeting 23 October 2024.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

52. REVIEW OF NEW CONTRACTS AWARDED OVER £10,000

Report OC01/24 was received and accepted.

Two projects had been completed which were over £10,000 in value.

JAMAICA CRESCENT PLAY AREA

51 out of 60 had been awarded for this contract. The new equipment had been well received but marks had been deducted due to delays in completing the project, albeit some were weather related.

JOHN DEERE MOWER

The purchase of the John Deere Mower was very successful. The Operations Team were used to the consistency of the controls and handling of John Deere vehicles.

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They are very reliable, and the brand continues to hold a good resale value. Problems are rare and there are low repair costs.

53. LIGHTING AT VICTORIA PARK

Report OC02/24 was received and accepted.

The Town Clerk explained the reasons behind the recommendation as the area at the front of the new hub can be quite dark and not user friendly at night. It was felt that more spotlights were required to improve the public experience of the building. The Operations Manager reassured the committee that the lighting would be controlled by MTC and would not remain on during the night.

It was **AGREED** to install 5 lampposts to light the pathway from Pickersleigh Road Car Park to the new Community Hub.

Cllr Leibrandt arrived at 6.05pm

54. REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Report OC03/24 was received and accepted.

The Committee were asked to discuss and review the Environmental Policy as per the report and to make any changes where necessary.

Committee members felt there were no major changes needed to the policy.

The Chair pointed out that section 2.1 regarding the annual report based on MTC's Carbon footprint should be delayed until November so that the footprint to the building, data wise, is based on a full year for audit purposes.

It was **AGREED** that an annual report would be submitted to Operations and Planning Committee in November based on Council's activities in reducing Carbon Emissions.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to approve and adopt the Environmental Policy in its current format with no changes being required.

55. MUSIC IN THE PARK PROGRAMME 2025/26

Report OC04/24 was received and accepted.

Committee discussed the format for the 2025 Summer programme. Members suggested that instead of one rock/pop band that another steel band or gospel choir could be included. A suggestion of a calypso style band was also made.

Officers would investigate costs and feasibility of these music styles and report back to the next meeting.

Cllr Austin wondered if Malvern Theatres had been in touch regarding the Sunday dates during the year in relation to their building project. The Operations Manager reassured the committee that our dates were secure and the building works would commence after the Bands in the Park Events had finished.

56. HEART OF ENGLAND IN BLOOM COMPETITION 2025

Report OC05/24 was received and noted.

Cllr Watkins wanted to express his thanks to Lyndsey Davies for the huge amount of work involved with preparing the portfolio which accompanies the Bloom entry.

Councillors felt that more sponsorship could be investigated and that local businesses could be approached for this.

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Committee **AGREED** that Malvern would enter the Heart of England in Bloom competition in 2025 under the category 'Town'.

57. WORK PROGRAMME AND OPERATIONS UPDATE

Report OC06/24 was received and noted.

- The Operations Manager informed the committee that the team were very happy with the new Tractor.
- Work is still to progress on the Bike Pump Track – awaiting decision from MHDC which is due on 4 February 25.
- Cllr Bovey asked about the slabbing outside at the rear of the hub. The Operations Manager advised that there is the requirement for more slabbing in that area which would give a wider area of pathway but leave a small patch of grass for mowing.
- Cllr Watkins asked about the equipment from Modulek. Four pieces of fitness equipment has been put in by the trim trail along with a table tennis table.
- Cllr Birks asked about the topping up of graves and wet pour elements from the programme of works. The topping up of graves is ongoing and the Wetpour renewal is continuing. For reference, this is the surface matting under the play equipment – safety matting.
- The Skatepark Focus and Task Group has a meeting scheduled for 13 March where the tender specification will be discussed.
- The Chair asked for thanks to be passed onto the Operations Team for all their hard work.

58. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Report OC07/24 was received and accepted.

There were no Environmental matters to discuss.

59. PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

Report OC08/24 was received and accepted.

There were no discussions relating to the list included in the Appendix, but Cllr Leibrandt had been contacted by a resident about an issue with Planning Application M/24/01731/FUL at 61 Abbey Road. Cllr Leibrandt updated the Councillors with the planning application information and the resident's concerns regarding drainage, environmental and parking issues.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would draw up an objection based on the drainage issues and the build not being in-keeping with the character of the area.

60. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was **AGREED** the next meeting of the Operations and Planning Committee would be held on Wednesday 12 March 2025 at 6.00 pm.

The meeting finished at 7.05 pm.

.....(Chairman)