

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

**in the Park View Meeting Room, Victoria Park Road, Malvern Link
held on Wednesday 12 February 2025 at 6pm**

Councillors

Present

D Mead (Chair)
D Watkins
J MacLusky
C Hooper
A Cherry
S Austin
I Dawson
K Newbigging

Absent

M Birks (apologies)
C Bovey (apologies)
L Lowton (apologies)
E Green (apologies)
C Fletcher (apologies)
J Green (apologies)
J Leibrandt (apologies)
R McLaverty-Head (apologies)
M Jones (apologies)
L Blake (apologies)

Also in attendance

C Porter – Operations Manager
J Winkworth – Minute Clerk

122. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from Cllrs Marilyn Birks, Caroline Bovey, Emma Green, Clive Fletcher, Lou Lowton, Jude Green, Josephine Leibrandt, Ronan McLaverty-Head, Mel Jones and also from Linda Blake were **NOTED**.

123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

124. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes noted below are approved and adopted as a correct record of the proceedings, to be signed by the Deputy Mayor:

- Full Council meeting 22 January 2025.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

125. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deputy Mayor David Mead informed the committee that he had attended the recent Chinese New Year celebrations in Malvern Link and how interesting the occasion had been. He is also due to attend an afternoon tea with the Mayor of Redditch later this week.

For information – Notice of Interests in the form of request and statement are welcome for the Staffing Committee. Cllr MacLusky queried whether the criteria for having a Personnel background still applied, which in turn led to further questions about selection criteria and whether these elements are essential or not.

126. UPDATE ON TOWN COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The Operations Manager updated the committee on recent completed works:

- 2 bus shelters have been repaired (Pound Bank Road and Poolbrook Road),
- 2 entrances on the Morgan side of Victoria Park have been upgraded with stone for improvement.
- Elgar Pictures have been put in place in the Rose Bank Gardens Bus Shelter
- Dead Oak Tree opposite entrance to Dyson Perrins School has been topped out,
- Reduction of tree has taken place in Great Malvern Cemetery, tidied up and thinned out following damage from recent storms,
- Tree Survey is ongoing,
- Victoria Park – repairs to pathway in the multi-use games area,
- Memorial testing will start soon,
- Bike Pump Track – delays due to Environmental reasons.

Cllr Hooper asked with regards to Trees/Landscaping – Is it correct that we consult the Landscape Officer only on trees within a conservation area? Do we have to submit a formal application? Is it an onerous process? The Operations Manager reassured the committee that the Officer is normally aware of problematic trees, dead, dying or decay – we put in an application and the Officer comes back within a timely period to enable us to continue with work required.

127. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

A report had been submitted by District Councillor Malcolm Victory in advance of the meeting and there was also one available from District Councillor Karen Hanks which will be emailed out on Thursday morning due to the late receipt.

Cllr Hooper wondered if these reports should also be available on the Town Council website for the public to read.

Cllr Watkins was disappointed that the District and County Councillors were not able to attend the Town Council meetings more regularly.

128. TOWN COUNCIL WARD REPORTS/REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Watkins was again disappointed that the outside bodies were not able to attend the Town Council meetings more regularly.

Cllr Cherry informed the committee that she is a Director and Trustee for Community Action (not specific to MTC, but personally) and they had a recent meeting to cover financial matters and are offering great services currently. Cllr Mead also noted that he was linked with Community Action but had been informed there were no meetings for him to attend.

Cllr Newbigging is also a member of Children and Youth Partnership and will report any matters when they are relevant.

Cllr Hooper informed the committee that CALC hadn't met recently, therefore nothing to report.

129. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

There were no members' questions.

130. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Report CL01/24 was received and accepted.

Cllr Sean Austin was appointed as new member of Community Engagement Task and Finish Group.

Cllr Newbigging informed him of his first meeting – 24 February 2025 at 2.30pm.

131. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO AIMS AND OBJECTIVES TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Report CL02/24 was accepted.

Cllr Clive Hooper was appointed as new member of Aims and Objectives Task and Finish Group.

132. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO COMMUNITY ACTION

Report CL03/24 was accepted.

Cllr Anne Cherry was appointed as Town Council representative to Community Action.

133. EXPENDITURE ON BASKETBALL EQUIPMENT FOR VICTORIA PARK

Report CL04/24 was accepted.

The committee were asked to consider the additional funding of £952.00 to enable the refurbishment to be completed. It was **RESOLVED** that the additional funding be awarded for the Basketball Equipment as it is in-keeping with the Town Council's values and encourages the continued use of the courts/sports area.

134. AUTHORITY OF CCLA INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS HELD BY MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL

Report CL05/24 was accepted.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following individuals were to be named as authorised persons for accounts held with the CCLA:

- Mrs Linda Blake
- Mr Charles Porter
- Mr David Mead
- Mrs Marilyn Birks

135. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

The Chair informed the Committee that the County Council elections were going to go ahead, if they weren't aware already.

The County Council now have a deadline to put in a proposal with regards to a Unitary Authority by 21 March 2025. Consultations will take place with District Council on 18 February and from what is known 2 options are in discussion – a new Unitary Authority the same as County Council (issues with numbers) which would add another layer to form a strategic authority which in turn would have a Mayor.

UNADOPTED

David will report after the district meeting on 18 February. A suggestion to read the Government Paper.

Cllr Austin said that the need for better understanding of impact on what level of services would come about.

Cllr Watkins felt that the need for both Town Councils and Parish Councils to come together and discuss more – again having the representation at the meetings as noted earlier.

Cllr Dawson wondered when the County Council would be submitting their proposals?

Cllr Hooper felt that the process would enhance roles for the District and Town Councils. Would it assist if we approached the District Council for a list of their assets?

Cllr Newbigging wondered if the District Council meeting next week was an open meeting?

Cllr Cherry felt that more understanding was needed, to fully understand the ramifications of all areas before jumping in for asset lists etc.

Cllr Mead felt there was plenty of time to discuss all these areas and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor plan to write to the Secretary of State to establish further explanations on the wording used by Government of 'rewiring of the relationship between the Parish Councils and the Unitary Authorities', which will hopefully gain everyone a better understanding.

The Operations Manager also asked for all levels of understanding to be known from bottom up as the implications to the whole team would be affected. Practicalities for everyone. Consider all elements.

Cllr Newbigging felt this agenda item should continue on at future meetings so that everyone is kept up to date of findings.

136. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OPERATIONS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Report CL06/24 was accepted.

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

137. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report CL07/24 was accepted.

Following a couple of questions from Cllr Hooper, the Chair of Policy and Resources **PROPOSED** that the Standing Orders should go back to the next meeting of P & R to discuss further.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Standing Orders would return to P & R Committee for further discussion.

Cllr Newbigging noted the wording requirements of sub-committees now rather than task and finish groups.

138. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be Wednesday 5 March 2025 at 6.00pm.

The meeting finished at 7pm.

.....(Chairman)

DRAFT