

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

**in the Park View Meeting Room, Victoria Park Road, Malvern Link
held on Wednesday 9 April 2025 at 6pm**

Councillors

Present

M Birks (Chair)
D Mead
D Watkins
C Fletcher
A Cherry
S Austin
K Newbigging
I Dawson
J MacLusky
M Jones

Absent

C Hooper (apologies)
J Leibrandt (apologies)
R McLaverty-Head (apologies)
E Green (apologies)
C Bovey (apologies)
L Lowton (apologies)
J Green (apologies)

Also in attendance

L Blake – Town Clerk
J Winkworth – Minute Clerk
M Stenson – Member of the Press
PCSO Kevin Tudge, Malvern Police
Station

156. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from Cllrs Clive Hooper, Ronan McLaverty-Head, Emma Green, Jude Green, Caroline Bovey, Josephine Leibrandt, Lou Lowton were **NOTED**.

157. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

158. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the meeting noted below are approved and adopted as a correct record of the proceedings:

- Full Council meeting 5 March 2025.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

159. REPORT FROM MALVERN POLICE

The Mayor was delighted to welcome PCSO Kevin Tudge to the meeting who read out a report written by Sergeant Jason Laydon from the Safer Neighbourhood Team, informing Full Council on the complex Policing Issues that have arisen during the last three months within the Malvern area. There have been 970 incidents reported by the police themselves during this period including:

UNADOPTED

- 26 shoplifting reports
- 9 residential burglaries
- 8 thefts of vehicles
- 96 reports of anti-social behaviour including personal, nuisance, environmental complaints often between persons known to each other such as in the case of neighbourhood disputes

PC Slaymaker is a dedicated retail crime officer who deals with the majority of shop lifting reports in the area. The Policing teams provide reassurance visits for burglaries and vehicle theft victims, and they work to address anti-social behaviour in the areas and in particular work with housing partners. They also target drug dealers and regularly conduct warrants to obstruct their offending.

Each month the team use their engagement van to reach out to the community in areas where there is large footfall. They also visit schools and clubs to help educate young people and talk about speeding and road safety in the community, along with conducting speed monitoring which targets areas raised by parish priorities. The team are aware of anti-social motorbiking in the Link area and are currently addressing this.

A useful contact information page set up in the past year is the Neighbourhood Matters website. It is a free information website and has proven to be very successful. West Mercia Police website will direct you to your local team by using your area postcode.

PCSO Tudge answered questions on the statistics he reported on and the on-going drug related crime in Malvern. He said drink-driving has now been overcome by drug-driving and therefore more training is being given to all officers to enable this to be combatted.

PCSO Tudge also reported on a consultation meeting for PCSO's earlier in April at Hindlip Headquarters. There is a proposal from the Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable to reduce the number of working hours for all PCSO's, proposing they work until 8pm rather than 10pm each shift. The PCSO's have until 17th April to reply to this consultation.

Councillors expressed a wish to submit a council view on this consultation by sending a holding letter and it was **NOTED** that this topic could be included on a future council agenda.

160. **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor expressed her disappointment that Councillors attendance had been poor at some meetings and that going forward it would be appreciated if all Councillors could make the scheduled council meetings as they are advertised well in advance or to let Officers know if they couldn't make it. With all meetings, if Councillors are unable to attend, please email the PA to the Town Clerk or message via the 'whats app' facility and give apologies in advance as this information can be monitored and the Town Clerk can advise if alternative arrangements for attendance need to be made, substitutions can also be made.

The Mayor also pointed out that on recent memos there has been a feature on the 'Community recognition scheme' and if anyone has anyone in the community they would like to nominate to email the Town Clerk, although time is running out for this year.

161. UPDATE ON TOWN COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The Town Clerk updated the Full Council on the following matters:

Bike Pump Track

The contractor, Clarke and Kent have erected a fence onsite ahead of works. It is anticipated that works will commence on 14 April 2025 which will continue for approximately 6 weeks, after which it is hoped that a special 'opening ceremony' can be held.

Toddler Play Area

The order has been placed and fencing works will begin in late April. Delivery of play equipment has been delayed slightly and will happen in May.

Elgar Avenue

The onsite hydraulic modelling survey has taken place and the Town Council are awaiting the report.

Councillor Vacancies

Following the adverts for vacancies on the Chase and Link ward, there have been no requests for by-elections, therefore the positions will be filled by co-option.

Music in the Park

A varied programme has been put together and following recent discussions on Councillors holding a 'surgery' at the Sunday afternoon concerts, a list was passed around for Councillors to sign up accordingly.

Town Councillor Emails

Following on from the recent multi factor authentication with Quintech for each Councillors device, it was noted that if Councillors haven't activated this they will not be receiving emails to the Town Council email addresses. Please carry this out urgently or speak to the Town Clerk's PA if there are any problems.

Civic Service

Following on from the Mayors' Civic Service on Saturday 5 April, Town Council Events Officers, along with the Mayor, organised a well-attended community focussed event for all to enjoy. It was an entertaining afternoon with participants from the Mayor's charities and the local community. There has been some very positive feedback.

Operations Team

Due to the recent warm weather, the team are very busy covering the mowing and strimming of the green and open spaces and within the Cemetery the team have been busy clearing the Victorian section of the Cemetery, clearing the undergrowth. A new tap has recently been fitted in the Clock Tower in North Malvern to alleviate flow problems.

The Mayor explained that due to purdah there were no reports from District or County Councillors at the present meeting. She did want to make the Councillors aware of the following matters:

- An anticipated transfer of lease at Beauchamp Road Open Space from Platform to Malvern Community Forest Group
- Planning application for bungalow in Beauchamp Road

UNADOPTED

- SWDP is being examined currently (at least 2 years behind) – this in turn will mean that MTC's Neighbourhood plan will also need to be discussed/revised

162. **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

None.

163. **PLAY EQUIPMENT FOR ADAM LEE**

Report CL01/24 was received and accepted.

It was **RESOLVED** that Company A will be appointed to install the new play equipment at Adam Lee.

164. **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

Report CL02/24 was received and accepted.

Following a lengthy discussion on the Calendar of Meetings, Full Council **RESOLVED** to accept the meeting dates for 2025/26 commencing at 6pm (timings to be added to the meetings calendar).

It was **NOTED** that if there is a need for future meetings any committee or sub-committee can call an additional meeting or likewise cancel a meeting if not required.

Cllr Julie MacLusky left the meeting at 7.05pm.

165. **DEVOLUTION SUB-COMMITTEE**

Report CL03/24 was received and accepted.

Full Council **RESOLVED** to accept the following recommendations:

- Malvern Town Council notes the current proposals for devolution under Governments White Paper and agrees its commitment to work with both the County and District Councils to ensure that the views of the residents are heard and that the best possible outcome is secured for the Town
- A devolution sub-committee will be set up consisting of members of the Emergency decision-making panel (i.e. chairs and vice-chairs of council and committees). This sub-committee to work with officer and other partner organisations to ensure that the best possible outcome is secured for the Town and to report back to Full Council as necessary.

166. **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

Report CL04/24 was received and accepted.

Following a short overview from the Chair of Aims and Objectives Task and Finish Group regarding their recent meeting, Full Council **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the proposed aims and objectives.

167. **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OPERATIONS AND PLANNING**

Report CL05/24 was received and accepted.

Minute 66 – Review of Charges for Park View Community Room

Full Council **RESOLVED** to approve that the current charges should remain in place and a further review take place in six months time where more data will be available for analysis.

UNADOPTED

Mayors Charities – use of Parkview Room

Full Council agreed an amendment to point two of Minute 66 and it was **RESOLVED** that, every year the Mayor's charity or charities should be given free use of the room at the discretion of the Town Clerk.

Town Councillor Surgeries

Full Council **RESOLVED** to approve that a morning or afternoon would be set aside each week when Town Councillors would be able to book the room for relevant Town Council business.

Minute 68 – VE Day Celebrations

Full Council **RESOLVED** to approve an event to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day on Saturday 10 May in Victoria Park.

168. **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Report CL06/24 was received and accepted.

Following a short report from Chair of Policy and Resources Full Council considered the following:

Minute 48 Malvern Town Community Support Grant – Citizens Advice Bureau

Full Council **RESOLVED** that a grant of £19,000(an increase of £1,000 from 2024/25) be awarded to the Citizens Advice Bureau for 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28.

Minute 50 – Large Grant Scheme, 2nd Round 2024/25

Full Council **RESOLVED** to award the following large grants:

- 1st Malvern Scout Group - £2,500
- Malvern Community Kitchens - £954.97
- Malvern Cube - £1,475
- Malvern Spa Association - £2,500
- Barnards Green Cricket Club - £1,150
- Malvern Male Voice Choir - £2,000
- Coach House Theatre - £1,500

Minute 51 – Review of Earmarked Reserves

Full Council **RESOLVED** to approve the details of Earmarked Reserves as summarised in the Appendix A of Report CL06/24.

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

It was **AGREED** that an Extraordinary Council meeting would be scheduled for Tuesday 6 May 2025 at 6pm at the Hub, Park View Meeting room and then a reminder that the Annual Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 14 May at 7pm.

Cllr Anne Cherry left the meeting at 7.43pm.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC It was **AGREED** to resolve pursuant to Section 1 of the Public Bodies UNADOPTED (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public from the meeting on the grounds that

publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

170. **ROSEBANK GARDENS**

The Town Clerk updated the Full Council on the progress of Rosebank Gardens.

The meeting finished at 7.45pm

.....(Chairman)

DRAFT