

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Minutes of the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** held on Monday 8th April 2019 at 7.00pm in the Pump Rooms, Tenbury Wells.

PRESENT: Mayor Cllr S. Perry, Deputy Mayor Cllr. E. Hudson, Cllrs S. Bowkett, M. Davies, J. Fielder, D. Ingram, N. McVey, J. Morgan, D. Patrick, C. Rogers.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr. K. Pollock WCC, Cllr A. Penn MHDC, Cllr. Bridget Thomas, P.C. Lea of the Safer Neighbourhood Team, 1 representative from The Regal, 2 representatives of The Grapevine Project, 1 representative of Shoot for the Stars, 2 representatives of the Scouts, 2 representatives of the Guides, 5 members of public, the Town Clerk and the Assistant to the Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES

Members received apologies from Cllr. M. Drummond, Cllr. A. Gould and Cllr. E. Weston.

2. MINUTES

Proposed by Cllr. Bowkett, seconded by Cllr. Patrick and unanimously

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 9th April 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of proceedings.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th April 2018.

4. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor Cllr S. Perry opened the meeting by welcoming all those present.

5. MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Mayor presented her report. Attached **[Appendix A]**.

6. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr Penn, representing Malvern Hills District Council presented his report. Attached **[Appendix B]** which had been circulated.

Cllr. Penn also introduced his new fellow Malvern Hills District Councillor, Cllr. Bridget Thomas.

There were no questions.

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7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Pollock, representing Worcestershire County Council presented his report. Attached [**Appendix C**].

Cllr. Pollock went on to state further to his report that 70% of the county's income was earmarked for children's services and adult social care (approximately 12,000 people), leaving 30% to provide all other services.

Cllr. Pollock also stated that Worcestershire Children First would be taking over all Children's Services and the County are hopeful to be removed from the special measures list soon.

There were no questions.

8. LOCAL POLICE REPORT

P.C. Chris Lea began by introducing himself as the new P.C.O. for the area. He thanked his two P.C.S.O.'s for their hard work and commitment, saying they were a fantastic team.

P.C. Lea stated that he was working in conjunction with the Town Council and had been consulting with the Town Clerk regularly and asked that all residents report any crimes through the proper channels to ensure the police are aware of them and can act on them accordingly.

P.C. Lea gave a run down on crimes reported in Tenbury over the last year which included, criminal damage, burglaries, thefts, anti-social behaviour and one case of reasonable disorder.

P.C. Lea stated that he has been working on licencing checks on the local public houses and was targeting speeding hot spots around town.

P. C . Lea stated that free property marking was available and that there is a Business and Rural Crime Liaison Officer who can attend local events for free to mark items.

The Mayor thanked P.C. Lea and asked that he passed on thanks to the two P.C.S.O.'s .

9. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No questions from the public were received.

10. MAYOR'S FUNDRAISING

The Mayor presented cheques to the recipients of her charitable fundraising monies which amounted to £4,500. Five local groups were chosen who work with the youth of Tenbury.

The Grapevine Project received £500.

The 1st Tenbury Scout Group received £1,000.

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The 2nd Tenbury Guides Group received £1,000.

The Regal Trust on behalf of the Regal Youth Theatre received £1,000 and

Shoot for the Stars received £1,000.

Meeting closed at 7.41 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

MAYOR'S REPORT TO ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MONDAY 8 April 2019

Firstly, t's been an honour and privilege to be Mayor of my Home Town, which I must say is looking lovely at the moment and a hive of activity. We are very lucky to live in a lovely community where we are fortunate enough not to have too many outside issues.

Last year the new rules on GDPR came into force, the Council have now put new Policies, emails etc. so we are now compliant.

Our Council have a lot assets etc. I feel we are doing the best job we can within our finances, with works starting on The Pump Rooms, The Regal and the changing rooms. Once these are done they will continue to provide good resources within the Town. These will then be a good legacy for generations to come.

Our largest asset is The Regal, which is going from strength to strength, with more shows and films, but more importantly local community events and especially within the local youth groups.

The local Flood Group is still active and continuing to work well together. The Council are still working to provide allotments although this is time consuming.

One thing I am most proud of is the addition of the Civic Garden, which is now widely used by residents and visitors. The local RBL have asked if they can use the garden to hold a service for Armed Forces day, what a tribute that is. Would also like to say a huge thank you to TAP for donating some of the Portas money for us to have such a lovely legacy.

The Council are working closely with the Swimming Pool and Freedom Leisure so they can have a redevelopment of the facilities which will only benefit the residents and visitors to our Town. Its important for the Council to work with other organisations. We have also formed links with the locals schools including St Michaels College, where they are now hiring the Tennis Courts for more active outside activities

As you all know my charity this year was the Youth of Tenbury, which we have many groups and organisations, five which are here this evening and I am happy to say these are well attended and it's all down to local volunteers who give up their time to look after and educate our Youths, giving them a safe place to be, while learning new skills. It's been a pleasure to help these groups and I hope they will continue to flourish. Without volunteers many organisations would not be able to exist, so I would like to personally thank them all. Tenbury is a great place to live and grow up, although we may not always think so.

We now have a new PCO to join our 2 PCSO's who continue to look after the Town, hopefully making people feel a little more safer by knowing we have a team who want a safer environment. It's important we as a Council along with local business and organisations work together with them to provide a safer Town for our residents.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow Councillors for their support over the last year, and to all the Council staff from our Town and Assistant Clerks, to Groundsmen who run the Council on a day to day basis. You all work so hard so thank you.

Thanks go to my family who have supported me over the last year , giving me the chance to give something back to my community.ue Perry

TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL: ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

8TH APRIL 2019

CLLR KEN POLLOCK

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

1. County Council Affairs - personnel

At this time last year, we were about to welcome our new team of senior officers, comprising the Chief Executive, Paul Robinson, the Chief Finance Officer, Michael Hudson, the Chief Commissioning Officer, Andrew Spice, and the Interim Director of Adult Social Care Services, Avril Wilson. In addition we have since confirmed Richard Taylor as Head of Human Resources.

They joined John Hobbs, director of Economy and Infrastructure, Francis Howie in charge of Public Health, and Catherine Driscoll, the director of Children's Services.

I can report that the new senior management have settled in well, working with the Cabinet to produce a viable range of services appropriate to the County's needs, and consistent with our income of around £330 million a year.

That is not to say that we have not faced substantial difficulties in balancing the budget, and Tenbury residents will be aware of some of the stress points that have been encountered during the year. Despite the controversy, I think we can be assured that the necessary range and depth of services will continue to be delivered as required.

2. County Council Affairs – council tax

Once again we find it necessary to increase Council Tax, this time by 3.99% overall. Within that sum, there is a 1% rise dedicated to Adult Social Care, as the government recognises the increasing burden of an ageing population, some of whom require council support. This overall increase is equivalent to £0.93p per week for a Band D property.

3. Council County Affairs – expenditure

Many people will be aware that our Children's Services have been judged as requiring improvement and as a result we have found it necessary to place the department into a wholly owned company, named Worcestershire Children First. This will formally come into operation in October, although it now exists in shadow form.

This new venture has to be seen in the context of two years of continuous improvement in Children's Services, as a result of concerted effort of all staff, under the leadership of Catherine Driscoll and her colleague Tina Russell. We are hopeful that the new company will assist in this continuous improvement, so that the whole department may be returned to the County Council in a short while.

The Government has promised a Green Paper on adult social care for some time, but its publication is still imminent. This is an area of increasing need, but there is the crucial matter of the boundary between County Council funded care and the National Health Service. Clearly both organisations should be working towards the same goal, but there are occasional conflicts about responsibilities and allocation of expenditure between the two organisations.

As I observed last year, all other services are paid from the residue of income after these two departments are financed. This has resulted in difficult decisions on funding for libraries, archives and the possible need to charge for parking. It should be emphasised that there are no plans to close any libraries, and the archive service is adequately funded to carry out its essential and valuable work.

That said, we are very keen to run an efficient and effective council, and this is resulting in a detailed examination of our ways of working, aimed at maintaining or improving the service with fewer personnel and resources.

We naturally hope that this endeavour will be supported by all residents, and I would encourage everyone to let me and the officers know of any deficiencies in our performance over the year.

4. Infrastructure

One of my Cabinet responsibilities concerns infrastructure, and, unlike my colleagues who are concerned with children and vulnerable adults, it means that I get to work on some exciting big physical projects.

In the last year we have doubled the width of the railway bridge on the Southern Link Road between Whittington and Norton. This manoeuvre has been recognised as a difficult project well executed by the receipt of two awards for excellence already.

We have also had confirmation of the Government's financial support for the 4th phase of the link road, so that is now steaming ahead, aiming for opening in 2021. This will involve dualling the road between the Ketch and the Powick roundabouts, including a second Carrington Bridge and the flood overflow viaduct, as well as the widened causeway for some 1.2 miles.

By the end of this calendar year, Worcestershire Parkway Rail Station should be opened and fully operational. This will mean many trains to and from London stopping there, and some initial services on the Cross Country line also stopping. We are hopeful that more of the latter will join them, giving residents of the County the chance of joining trains to and from the south west and north east without leaving Worcestershire.

In addition, we are in process of a complete renewal of Kidderminster Station, as well as starting on the improvement of the A38 through Bromsgrove.

Meanwhile, there are exciting developments at our Game Changer sites at W6, Redditch Gateway and the Malvern Hills Science Park, all related to improving the economy of the County and increasing our business rate income and the number of good jobs available for our residents.

5. Divisional Fund

As I mentioned last year, I, along with all other councillors, have £10,000 to allocate to good causes within our Divisions. In the past 12 months, I have been able to grant small amounts of your council tax money to support the Poetry Festival, the Mistletoe Festival, one of the town bands, the Regal Theatre and many other good causes.

It is a privilege to be able to help some of these brilliant folk who give of their time and talents to run these sorts of events, and I would encourage anyone knowing of such a "good cause" to get in touch, to seek to ensure the money is put to the very best use.

Dr Ken Pollock
County Councillor, Tenbury Division
Worcestershire County Council
kpollcock2@worcestershire.gov.uk

Annual Report to Tenbury Town Council and Stoke Bliss, Kyre and Bockleton Parish Council April/May 2019

District Councillors: Tony Penn and Phil Grove

This has been another crucial year for Malvern Hills District Council, with further cuts from central government funding. We are pleased to report however, that unlike many councils across the country, Malvern Hills District Council has been able to continue to make savings, increase its services to residents, build on its reserves, work to a balanced budget at the same time maintain one of the lowest Council Tax rates in the country.

Tony Penn has played a key role throughout the year as Chairman of the Northern Area Planning Committee and as a member of the South Worcestershire Development Plan Joint Advisory Panel.

The following is a summary of the last year at Malvern Hills District Council

1. Our financial position is strong and stable. Despite having to make savings of £1.45 million between 2017/22, due to central government cuts, we are building our reserves, investing in land and property, which will not only deliver us appreciating assets but also an annual income return.
2. Council tax is increasing by just £5.00 on a band D property again this year (that's £5.00 for the whole year). Less than 10% of the amount you pay for your overall council tax stays with Malvern Hills District Council – the remaining 90%+ goes to the County Council, West Mercia Police, Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority and to Parish or Town Councils
3. The new extension to the Council House will open in May this year. We will be bringing all our telephony back in house and for the first time in over 10 years the Council House will have a reception to welcome residents and visitors to the Council. This will save the Council in excess of £100,000 each year.
4. Led by Malvern Hills District Council, the six District Councils in Worcestershire have secured a government Business Rates Retention pilot for one year. This will generate an estimated £4.9 million pounds which we are allocating to help the County Council's budget deficit. The money will be ring fenced for specific projects to help with Adult Social Care and Children's Services
5. Our 5 Year Strategic Plan and 5 Year Business Plans are now well established and enable Councillors, officers, residents, businesses and partner organisations to have a clear understanding of the Council's priorities for the five years ahead, at any one time.
6. We implemented the "Alternative Weekly Waste Collections" in April last year which seems to have been a huge success. With general waste being

collected one week and recycling waste the following week, we have seen the amount of general waste reduce and a substantial increase in recycling waste.

7. We all know that changes to our town centres and high streets are inevitable, with more and more people buying goods and services on line. The Council has just placed a multi million pound bid into central government and are commissioning future prospectuses for all of our town centres in the District to ensure we are at the very forefront of any developmental changes.
8. This year we have engaged with more residents, business, partners and schools than ever before, to help us ensure our priorities are the same priorities of the people we serve.
9. Planning is always a contentious subject and we all understand why. With the SWDP Review now happening, this will take us to 2041. We your local Councillors will do everything we can to protect the towns, villages and hamlets we serve whilst appreciating that new homes are needed, not least for the young residents in our community.
10. And there is so much more: We are delivering affordable homes, bringing empty homes back into use, working with partners to help those with mental health issues, loneliness and rough sleeping; provide £50,000 each year to help with Community Transport. We have set up a £30,000 fund to help with food banks; and are working closely with our schools, colleges and business to provide skills training, apprenticeships and creating job opportunities; promoting healthier communities for the young and not so young alike.