

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Minutes of the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** held on Monday 11th April 2016 at 7.00pm in the Pump Rooms, Tenbury Wells.

PRESENT: Mayor Cllr M. Willis, Deputy Mayor Cllr D. Ingram, Cllrs S. Bowkett, M. Davies, M. Drummond, A. Eachus, J. Fielder, E. Hudson, J. Morgan, D. Patrick, S Perry, C Rogers, E Weston

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr A. Penn MHDC, 6 members of the public, 1 member of the press, Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk

APOLOGIES: Cllr K. Pollock, WCC, Cllr P. Grove MHDC, Police Representative

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr K. Pollock, Cllr P. Grove, and the Police.

2. To receive the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th April 2015

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 20th April 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of proceedings.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. Mayors Opening Remarks

The Mayor Cllr M. Willis opened the meeting by thanking those present for their attendance.

5. Mayors' Annual Report

Attached [**Appendix A**].

6. District Councillors Report

Cllr Penn's report attached [**Appendix B**].

Cllr Penn added that the South Worcestershire Development Plan which was prepared jointly with Worcester City Council and Wychavon District Council was now adopted and carried legal weight to guide development in the area up to the year 2030. It will form part of the new Local Plan, together with the Travellers and Travelling Showpeople DPD, and replace the existing Local Plans of the three councils.

Cllr Penn stated that on behalf of MHDC he had granted financial support to Age UK, the Jazz Festival, Party in the Park and Freedom Leisure.

Cllr Penn also reported that he had countersigned a letter written by Harriett Baldwin MP to the Head of Tesco to establish what their intentions were with regard to Tesco coming to Tenbury.

7. County Councillors Report

Cllr Pollock's report attached [**Appendix C**].

Cllr Pollock had given his apologies and copies of his report were given to all those present at the meeting.

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8. Local Police Report

Police report attached [**Appendix D**].

The Police had given their apologies. The Mayor read out the report.

9. Questions from the Public

Mr Barry Matthews

Commented on the dog fouling in the town.

Q: "Why has no-one been prosecuted for dog fouling and how would this change?"

A: The Mayor confirmed that MHDC were the Authority who had the powers to prosecute. The Town Council had purchased their own cameras which would be put in areas where dog fouling was particularly a problem. The cameras would be checked on a regular basis to identify any offence that had occurred which would be passed onto MHDC. The Mayor stated that he had attended a Rugby match recently when the game had to be stopped 8 times due to dog fouling on the pitch. This was unacceptable and the Town Council were looking at applying to MHDC for Public Space Protection Orders which would stop dogs going onto these areas.

Cllr Alan Eachus

Commented on Public Realm work.

Cllr Eachus stated that the defects still evident were unacceptable. Some time ago representatives from both the Town Council and the WCC Maintenance Department had walked around the town highlighting the defect areas and the Town Council were assured this list would be worked through. It was "Disappointing that to date nothing has happened."

A: The Mayor agreed that this was disappointing and the Town Council asked Cllr Pollock to look at this list again and report back.

Cllr Janet Fielder

Commented that it was very difficult to report dog fouling to MHDC. She had reported an incident of dog fouling and the person she had spoken to had asked irrelevant questions, had given her a reference number but she was still unable to find out what had happened.

Q: "What was the point of reporting dog fouling incidents to MHDC?"

A: The Mayor stated that he would speak with MHDC regarding the reporting of dog fouling to report that the system did not seem to be working properly.

Q: "Had not heard before that there was to be a 20mph limit on Teme St or Market Street until 2 weeks ago."

A: The Mayor stated that Cllr Pollock had mentioned this 12 months ago. The Town Council had now got a better working relationship with both WCC and MHDC therefore communication would improve.

Cllr Tony Penn

Cllr Penn commented that Cllr Fielder had mentioned that the toilets in Market Street had not been cleaned properly but this had now been rectified.

Cllr Steve Bowkett

Q: "The businesses in the town are really affected by traffic lights in the town when work is carried out and the quality of the work is not always of a good standard – it would help the businesses in the town if the amount of time needed for the work could be reduced?"

A: Cllr Eachus commented that the reason the work carried out was not always of a good standard was that the work was not supervised properly.

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A: The Mayor stated that Cllr Pollock was aware of problems relating to roadworks and the concerns expressed regarding poor signage and the quality of the work carried out and has assured the Town Council these issues would be addressed.

Mr Gary Thompson

Q: "Regarding the Public Realm works – would there be any retention monies released at the end of the works due to poor performance?"

A: The Clerk said that WCC had not taken a separate contract for the works but had chosen to have it carried out under their pre-existing highways maintenance contract with Ringway. There was therefore no specific retention clause in place. Cllr Eachus stated that the Public Realm works should have been more strictly supervised to ensure that the work undertaken was of the highest quality and that he felt the works should have been put out to separate tender as was the case with the work recently carried out to remove the waste site from Palmers Meadow car park. The Town Clerk noted that the work carried out on the car park had been managed by Severn Waste not WCC.

Mr Ian Little

Commented that the Regal's commercial waste was now collected by a contractor and they had not missed a collection and considered that MHDC should advertise this.

Cllr Liz Weston

Q: "What was happening with regard to the hole in the Kyre Brook bank. The walkway had been taped off by the groundsman, and it had been reported to the Environment Agency by Ian Little but the hole was getting bigger?"

A: The Mayor stated that Cllr Pollock was aware of this as he had personally shown him the hole. Cllr Pollock had made a phone call to the Engineers at WCC but nothing had happened. This would be reported to the Environment Agency again and to Cllr Pollock.

Mrs Diann Dowell

Commented on the frustration in the room. She did have sympathy for Cllr Pollock as he was unable to please everyone in the town. She said at the end of the day everything did seem to come down to money and politics.

Q: How can we change the system and win the battles?"

A: The Mayor stated that Cllr Pollock and Cllrs Grove and Penn attend the Town Council Meeting held every month giving them an opportunity to update the Council on issues they needed to be aware of. The Town Council were able to contact Councillors at MHDC and WCC at any time and raise issues with them. Building relationships between the Town Council and WCC and MHDC will continue.

Q: Can the cameras brought by the Town Council be used for other things other than dog fouling for example fly-tipping?

A: The Mayor stated that there had been an article recently in the Advertiser regarding the Town Council purchasing cameras, saying that the Town Council would be spying on people within the Town. The Mayor confirmed that the Town Council would concentrate on trying to catch people allowing their dogs to foul Council owned property but did have the option of moving the cameras to other Council owned areas if they wished.

Cllr Mary Drummond

Q: Who will be responsible for checking the cameras as this will be a very time consuming task?

A: The Mayor said that he would look at the footage on a regular basis and try and identify any offenders to report to MHDC.

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Cllr Liz Weston

Q: There are Liaison Meetings held with MHDC where problems could be raised and discussed. Could regular informal meetings be held with WCC?

A: The Mayor stated that WCC covers a big area and that is why the District Councillor and County Councillor both attend the Town Council meeting once per month to update the Town Council and give Members the opportunity of raising any concerns/issues with them.

Cllr Darren Ingram

Q: There is 10 million pounds going to be invested in new open spaces, play areas and sports pitches across the district. Will Section 106 monies and other funds be available?

A: Cllr Penn stated that all the funding would be coming through and he was keen to make sure that Tenbury receives a fair proportion of it.

Mr Barry Matthews

Q: In relation to Tesco, they have said they wish to come to Tenbury but nothing has happened to date. Can the Town Council not take any legal action against them?

A: The Town Clerk stated that as Tesco own the site, the Town Council do not have any legal powers.

A: Cllr Penn confirmed that the MP Harriett Baldwin had written a letter to the Head of Tesco to establish their intentions with regarding to coming to Tenbury.

Cllr Steve Bowkett

Commented that Tesco can delay as long as they wish because they have the power to do so.

Mr Gary Thompson

Commented that Tenbury continue to go through a tough time and were having to meet the challenge by having unique shops.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

MAYOR'S REPORT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MONDAY 11TH APRIL 2016

Last May saw 5 new Councillors join Tenbury Town Council and the opportunity was taken to restructure some of the Council committees with a view to cutting down on the amount of meetings and to avoid a certain amount of duplication. The Facilities Committee and the Amenities Committee were merged into one committee namely "Facilities". Councillors on this committee have individually or jointly taken on lead roles in recommending improvements to Council facilities and taking the issues forward.

To assist these new Councillors the Town Clerk developed an in house training package which was delivered at the start of the Council year. This was a new innovation, not done before in Tenbury, which helped those Councillors (and existing ones) fully understand their roles and responsibilities and the rules and regulations that have to be followed.

May 2015 saw the start of a new reinvigorated and enthusiastic Council and I am pleased to report that this remains the case today.

There have been a number of developments over the last 12 months worthy of mention. I mention them in no order of priority.

Work has been completed to enhance the entrance to the Burgage and to minimise damage caused by vehicles when being allowed into the area.

The opening of the new HRC site off Bromyard Road has meant extra car parking bays reinstated on our Palmers Meadow car park. Additionally we now have a more welcoming and tidier first impression of the Town.

We have started our Anti Dog Fouling Campaign. There has been a general improvement but there remains much more that can be (and will be) done to improve the situation further. In the very near future Town Council owned cameras will be sited and evidence of irresponsible dog owners will be passed to Malvern Hills District Council to facilitate prosecution.

Also in the near future work will begin on resurfacing and extending the Skate Park on Palmers Meadow. Hopefully this work will be completed before the schools' summer holidays.

A major step forward has been the agreement between Burford Parish Council and Tenbury Town Council to develop a joint Neighbourhood Plan. This will be an opportunity for extensive public consultation resulting in a legal document outlining the future of our two parishes. The framework for this process is nearly complete and public consultation will begin very soon.

There remains much still to be done.

A new Pavilion, enhancement of the Civic Garden and the provision of new changing facilities for the football teams using Palmers Meadow. There is an ongoing review of all Council facilities and how best to make use of them. This includes looking at how the Town Council can help the Regal Trust make the most of our cinema/theatre which continues to go from success to success.

Jayne and I have again been proud to represent and promote Tenbury in other Towns at various Civic events. It has become more evident that other Councils do look at what we are doing in Tenbury with great interest.

It would be remiss of me not offer my thanks to the legion of volunteers in and around the Town who make so many things in Tenbury happen be it organising events or running services on a day to day basis.

Thank you to the Council staff, Dawn, Fiona, Dave, Josie and Stuart for their hard work this last year. All have been prepared and willing to put that extra effort in.

My thanks to my fellow Councillors for their support and contribution in particular to Darren Ingram who has been a supportive, industrious and conscientious Deputy Mayor.

Finally thanks to Jayne for her support and understanding over the year.

Cllr Mark Willis

MHDC April Report for Tenbury Town Council and Tenbury Joint Partnership

AWP- 31/03/2016

MHDC's FIVE YEAR BUSINESS PLAN

In accordance with Government policies we have produced our first ever business plan to ensure we are a sustainable organisation. This was approved at the last council meeting outlining our medium term financial planning in a open and transparent way. The Conservative administration have already delivered £3.3m savings. However, due to the revenue grant reducing very quickly year on year we need to find a further £1.9m over the next four and a half years.

The four key drivers in this business plan are as follows:

EFFICIENCIES

In association with Wychaven DC we have set up a joint management team which is delivering £140,000 savings for us each year.

In addition the setting up of joint legal services and joint housing services is producing a further £140,000. Under consideration too is the consolidation of our offices into one building producing further savings and allowing the sale or letting of surplus accommodation.

PARTNERSHIPS and SERVICES

Since May 2015 the council have signed up Freedom Leisure to run our leisure centres which is delivering a further £250,000 of savings each year.

A further scenario in terms of services would be the outsourcing of waste collections and our street scene services. We know that the private sector is very efficient at delivering these services for the benefit of our residents. As a consequence we are waiting to see if we have an acceptable business case in conjunction with Worcester City Council and Wychaven DC.

INVESTMENT and GROWTH

This area is where we see investment producing savings.

Investment in efficient lighting systems for the Malvern Theatres is delivering £20,000 whilst investment in Malvern Hills Science Park is producing a further £25,000.

INCOME GENERATION

MHDC are the first council in Worcestershire to roll out a commercial recycling service.

With 299 tonnes recycled already this has produced a further income of £33,000 per year.

MHDC's PLANS for RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES and VISITORS

A 5 year corporate strategy has been produced which has 3 priorities which are:

Building stronger and healthier communities, driving economic growth/prosperity and making the most of our superb environment. There are 26 actions to be completed in the next 5 years.

The first priority includes delivering more affordable homes and bringing empty homes back into use to help the national housing shortage. Less active people are to be encouraged to become involved in physical activity and at least 10 sport/health related activities will be promoted in rural areas.

The second area involves supporting at least 300 businesses to survive or grow through start-up and expansion schemes and making land available at the science Park to create more than 200 jobs.

A further target is the creation of 50 new apprenticeships per year.

These ambitious goals involve lobbying to secure funding for a new Carrington Bridge and road through to the Powick roundabout.

These endeavours necessitate working with key employers including Morgan, the Three Counties and QinetiQ. Further activities involve the relocation of ESP to Blackmore Park to an environmentally sustainable building and opening up an important business park. Supporting the Malvern Festival of Innovation which attracted 2500 visitors helped the local economy.

Another important factor was the launch of a new graduate scheme offering businesses £1,000 to take on a post graduate student and providing funding to expand the Cyber Apprenticeship Development Scheme to sixth form pupils across the district.

Finally, investing up to £10m in new open spaces, play areas and sports pitches across the district is seen as an important part of the strategy. Alongside this goes the support and improvement of marketing to attract greater numbers of visitors to this whole area, one of the most beautiful in the whole country.

TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
04.04.16
COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

1. Speed limits

As I reported last month, it had always been my intention that there should be a 20mph limit on Teme Street and Market Street, to help slow traffic in general and make the raised table areas more likely to be shared by pedestrians and vehicles. I hope the publicity given in last Thursday's Advertiser will help to speed the process of getting an appropriate Transport Regulation Order in place.

It is worth noting that, across the County, some 95 of these are going through the system, while there are another 120 or so still to be processed.

With regard to St Michael's, I am glad to note that you have an agenda item later in this meeting to consider supporting the provision of village gates for St Michael's with some cash, to supplement a contribution from my Divisional Fund. So far, I have not received any estimate of the cost of a mirror to help drivers emerging from Berrington Road to see oncoming traffic.

It has also been suggested that the bands of yellow lines one finds before some roundabouts might be a useful addition. I am also still pursuing the 40 mph limit on the Herefordshire side of the village.

2. Household Recycling Centre

Cllr Morgan brought to light the problem of pedestrian access to the new HRC on the business park. For obvious safety reasons, pedestrians are prohibited from accessing the site. This is principally to avoid young children, who may be accompanying an adult, from running around in places where they may be at risk. It is a rule applied at virtually all other such facilities.

The solution that will be applied here is the provision of a bell for pedestrians to use to alert the operatives to their presence, so that all such materials that they bring may be taken to the relevant skip by the workers.

It is good to note that the old HRC site has been restored to a proper car park and there seem to be about 20-30 new spaces there, as originally hoped.

The access to Kyrewood Road is now in good shape and there should be no repeat of the scouring of the tarmac from drainage off the road to the car park.

3. Road repairs

Next Monday, the 11th April, Kyrewood Road will be closed for the day for joint sealing along the longitudinal centre line between the traffic lanes.

There has been a vigorous correspondence on the quality of the patching work in Oldwood Road, Cross Street and Kyrewood Road. Personally, I don't think it is of poor quality and it must be understood that it is preparatory to surface dressing later this year.

Since I circulated the relevant sections of the WCC website on surface dressing, there has been on response and I would be interested to hear of comments on the policy. As indicated there it is much cheaper than full reinstatement of a damaged road, while it must be accepted that aesthetically it is less attractive in the phase between patching and surface dressing.

It has been claimed that the pace of work on the highway is accelerated towards the end of the financial year, in order to use up all the remaining budget for the work. I would like to point out this is far from the truth. The WCC budgeting process does not work like this, although I have had experience of that sort of rushed spending when a university lecturer.

Work is scheduled throughout the year, while making due allowance for anticipated weather conditions. I receive programmes of work for the whole County for two weeks ahead (from which I know about the joint sealing on Kyrewood Road) and this week there is a mass of scheduled surface dressing, the first of the season.

The other complaint is about the quality of the signage. I have had a couple of detailed complaints on this matter and I am happy to accept that it is not always ideal. A number of points might be made. We do not always give enough information, although we now have to conform to Department of Transport rules that say you must not have more than one page of information on the electrical message signs. Sometimes signs get removed or blown over. Sometimes we do not repeat the message to reassure people of its significance. Sometimes there are conflicting reports on what signs actually say.

Clearly, any confusion is regrettable, and I am keen to have a meeting with our officers to see if we cannot devise a better method of information provision.

We also have received some unfortunate publicity as a result of one operative dancing in the street. While this is regrettable in itself, it must be appreciated that this does not necessarily suggest dereliction of duty.

The guy works for Headway who provide the traffic management, subcontracted by Ringway. He was at the bottom of Berrington Road, making sure that motorists did not have access to closed sections of Cross Street. This does not involve continuous communication with the public, and clearly at the times observed, there was no motorist needing advice.

It might be worth observing that this sort of job attracts a lot of criticism and abuse from the public, who do not appreciate finding their access restricted in this way. This is also regrettable.

I am aware of certain aspects of the snagging that are not yet complete. These will be fitted in as quickly as possible. They include the silencing of the noisy drain and manhole covers outside Caldicott's. In such circumstances, it would be good if problems like that were communicated as quickly as possible via the online reporting system, followed up by a complaint to me if the response is unsatisfactory.

4. Divisional Fund

I am very pleased to note that Café 27 will receive a substantial grant in the coming year to support its essential work in the youth community. At a time of declining budgets this is welcome. WCC is seeking savings in the region of £30 million for the financial year 2107/18 and such matters tend to dominate our planning.

You will know that each year I am allocated £10,000 of your money to dispense to worthy causes. This budget has been protected for the upcoming two years, and I am pleased to be able to report that I was able to allocate £1,000 to Café 27 in the current year.

Naturally, I am open to suggestions for spending in the coming year. All such allocations are detailed for me and all my colleagues on the WCC website, should you wish to see the sort of operations I have been able to support.

**Cllr Ken Pollock
Martley,
Worcester,
WR6 6QA**

04.04.16

Tenbury Town Council 12 Month Police Report.
Between 10/04/2015 – 10/04/2016

Please accept my apologies for tonight's meeting.

Burglary Other (shed or Outbuildings) x7

1. Shed broken into on Bromyard Rd, 2 crocodile clips taken, no tools – alarm went off so possibly scared them off.
2. Sheds and a garage broken into Oldwood Rd, several times at this property and as such 2 Trail Cameras have been put in and since then no further problems.
3. Workshop broken into on Rhyse Lane.
4. Berrington, construction site theft of batteries and a wacker plate – no CCTV or forensics left at scene.
5. 15 Car Batteries taken from new recycling centre.
6. Planter on the bridge taken.
7. Batteries taken from the recycling site Palmers Meadow

Burglary Dwellings x 2

Both properties were in Mount Orchard – we reported this at the last meeting.

Criminal Damage x 3

1. Plants taken from outside property in Church Street
2. Plant pots off several buildings have been broken
3. Gate to rear of property broken – Berrington Road.

Vehicle Damage x 1

1. Vehicle keyed down nearside rear wing panel – Tenbury Wells

Theft from Vehicle x 4

1. Insecure vehicles were entered and loose change taken – Bromyard Rd
2. Theft from van - tools taken from Kyreside.
3. Theft from vehicle-loose change taken, Dark Orchard.
4. 2 Further cars broken into on Dark Orchard.

Theft Other x 10

Several shops in Town have had shoplifters, 4 have been dealt with and the others CCTV stills have been circulated.

Drink Drivers x3

Reports of drink drivers, all were dealt with and have be banned.

Drugs

Drug warrants are still on going, 2 ladies were arrested and being dealt with. One young male was riding his moped while under the influence of drugs – he was arrested and bike seized.

Speeding along St Michaels Common x 2

We have carried out speed enforcement along St Michaels Common, 2 people were caught over the limit and are being dealt with.

This will be ongoing in this location and a few others identified.

Reports of Anti Social Behaviour on Palmers Meadow.

When we are on lates we will patrol Palmers Meadow and The Burgage.