

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Minutes of the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** held on Monday 10th April 2017 at 7.00pm in the Pump Rooms, Tenbury Wells.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr A. Penn MHDC, 2 members of the public, Town Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 11th April 2016 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 11th April 2016.

4. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor Cllr M. Willis opened the meeting by thanking those present for their attendance. The Mayor also thanked his fellow Councillors for attending the meeting.

5. MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

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

6. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

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

Cllr Penn commented that he fully supported the financial decisions made by the Council, which is a first-class Council.

A Member commented that it was not unexpected to lose the weekly waste collection service and the public do appear to have increased the amount they recycle.

Cllr Penn stated that the introduction of the fortnightly collection was not an easy decision however following a tendering exercise it continued to be cost effective to retain the service inhouse. There will be a weekly collection with waste collected one week and then recycling collected the following week. There will be no change to the service at present due to the procurement of the new wheelie bins for the waste collection. Cllr Penn commented that the District Council had not left any stone unturned in making this decision.

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Cllr Penn commented on the opening of the new Tesco store and felt it was important that the store is accepted as we move forward. Cllr Penn felt confident that the store will bring more people into the town.

A Member stated that he was surprised that road works were being undertaken at 5.30am and the public were not aware this was scheduled.

Cllr Penn stated that the works were Worcestershire County Council's responsibility.

A Member asked Cllr Penn whether there had been any prosecutions for fly-tipping.

Cllr Penn stated that there had been 3 incidents where Malvern Hills District Council had prosecuted. Two individuals had been fined for throwing cigarette ends out of car windows. There had also been a very good response on the public space protection order consultation and it is highly likely this will become law.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A report was not received from Cllr Pollock who represents Worcestershire County Council.

8. LOCAL POLICE REPORT

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

The Mayor read out the report and commented that how lucky we are to live in a Town with a very low crime rate and no substantive police present. However, it was noted that not every crime is reported to the police, which is an issue for all police authorities.

9. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A member of the public thanked the Council for its work.

The member of the public asked the following question:

Q: "What does the sign 'Tenbury Market Space' at the Tesco site mean?"

A: The Mayor stated that this space was provided for other organisations to hold stalls to sell goods.

Meeting closed at 7.28 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

MAYOR'S REPORT TO ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MONDAY 10th APRIL 2017

The 12 months since my last report have seen several changes at Town Council in particular the appointment of a new Town Clerk, Lesleyann Bruton, in September last year. Lesley has extensive experience of working in Local Government and having settled into the role very quickly has made many improvements particularly with our financial systems. Additionally, last year we appointed a new part time assistant to the Clerk. Susan and Lesley have already proved to be valuable members of the team.

Aside from the day to day issues affecting a Town Council there are several long-term issues to focus on in this report.

The preparation of a joint neighbourhood plan with Burford Parish Council stalled somewhat due to losing some key members of the Steering Group. However, the impetus has picked up again and soon the draft plan will be put together and ready for a second phase of public consultation. It promises to be an impressive and detailed document.

The new skate park on Palmers Meadow was completed last year and has been well received by the users who were involved in designing the layout of the equipment.

To accommodate the overflow car park on Palmers Meadow, which has also now been completed, the training area for Tenbury RFC has moved further up the meadow and the Club has installed new floodlighting. Regarding the new car park, we are just awaiting the grass to establish itself before it is opened for use. Whilst we do not envisage it being open for use on a permanent basis it will not only be opened for major events in the Town as may have been previously mentioned in the press. It will be open as and when demand dictates the need for its use.

Negotiations with the football teams as to the changing rooms are ongoing.

Resulting from the request for allotments from several Tenbury resident's potential sites for allotments are being looked at by the Council which has a statutory duty to provide them. This has become a major priority for the Council.

Last year saw the start of the construction of the Tesco development which opens later this month. Its construction has obviously caused some disruption to parking and traffic flow through the Town at times, a problem added to by the collapse of Eastham bridge and the subsequent diversions. I do thank the majority of residents and businesses who have shown patience and understanding whilst these works have been undertaken.

It is disappointing that the final phase of the Public Realm works will not commence until this Autumn. However, by then we will have the overflow car park available for use and County inform us that traffic lights will not be necessary. Also, the diversions resulting from the collapse of Eastham bridge should no longer be required.

You will be aware of our concerns regarding dog fouling in the Town. Since the issue has been raised the problem still remains but to a far lesser degree. I welcome Malvern Hills District Council's considerations as to the introduction of Public Space Protection Orders throughout the district. If these are introduced, then there would be far more legal powers to deal with the issue. In the meantime, I thank the vast majority of dog owners in the Town who are acting responsibly.

We have seen housing development in Tenbury and a major application is currently being considered by MHDC. With the adoption of the South Worcestershire Development Plan there may be other major planning applications forthcoming. Whilst this Council is only a consultee in the planning progress I am pleased to report that a much-improved relationship with planners at MHDC has been achieved and the Council, with its local knowledge, has been more involved at the pre-planning application stage and has had the opportunity to meet with developers and comment on possible proposals prior to formal application. This improved relationship has led to the Council being able to make informed comments at an early stage.

In setting this year's budget, and the subsequent precept request, Council took a realistic approach. General reserves were identified in last year's external audit and by the Town Clerk as being extremely low and steps were required to increase them. Other factors that had to be considered were, for example, a legal requirement to offer staff pensions, a potential substantial increase in business rates for the car park and a reduction in the council tax support grant from Malvern Hills DC.

It is crucial to bear in mind that Tenbury Town Council is responsible, unlike many other town councils, for a considerable number of assets. These require maintenance and refurbishment and costs of doing so increase year on year. This had to be considered in setting the budget. The extra cost to council tax payers in the Town is recognised but necessary. However, it is important to appreciate that should the number of households in the Town increase the precept will be shared amongst a larger base.

Once again, it has been both a privilege and an honour to have been this Town's Mayor over the last 12 months. I must pay tribute to the Council's staff, both present and past, for their commitment and hard work. I must also thank my fellow councillors for their support. Cllr. Mary Drummond and Cllr. Eric Hudson, my Deputy Mayors, have been particularly supportive and deserve special thanks.

One thing I must note is that over the last 12 months many people have been complimentary about this Town Council and what it has achieved and is seeking to achieve. As I always point out this is down to team work and staff and councillors who have the Town at heart and are apolitical at this level. Long may that continue.

A final thankyou to my wife, Jayne, for her support over the last year. Without it I would have found it difficult to continue as Mayor.

Cllr. Mark Willis

MHDC Report for Tenbury Town Council Annual Town Meeting

AWP-06/04/2017

There is no doubt that local government is going through an unprecedented period of challenge and change. Malvern Hills District Council is not immune from them. By 2020 we will have lost 60 per cent of our government funding – that's more than £4million – and we still have a financial black hole to fill totalling some £1.45million by 2020/21.

We haven't helped ourselves in our recent past. When Phil Grove took over as leader in 2015 we were, let's be frank, in a mess and close to a laughing stock. We had become a toxic brand with the public, with the media feasting each week on our latest self-inflicted wound. It was clear that we had to rebuild our reputation.

Maybe part of the reason for that toxicity was because, for many of us, it's a road on which we don't wish to travel. It's a road filled with difficult decisions and potential cuts to services. That's not something we came into politics to do, but while the Conservatives are the ruling party we are not going to allow the future of this district to be mortgaged - it means too much to all of us who call it home.

However, we haven't thrown our arms up in despair and given up. Difficult times can often be a blessing in disguise. They disrupt conventional thinking, they force us to be bold, to be imaginative, to do things differently. And that's exactly what we have been doing since May 2015. We've been holding up a mirror to ourselves and asking is this really it, or can we do better?

The answer, of course, is that we can do better, we have, and we will continue to do so. Let's just pause for a moment and look back on some of those difficult decisions we were brave enough to take and what we have achieved as a result.

We entered into a shared chief executive arrangement with neighbouring Wychavon. We were told we were sacrificing Malvern Hill's identity, that we'd lose all control, that we would reduce this council to a satellite authority. However, the doom mongers were wrong, just as we knew they would be.

We now have a first-class chief executive who is providing strong, effective leadership and helping to give this council a clear direction. A recent independent review by the Local Government Association found the new arrangement was delivering significant benefits for council taxpayers and improving efficiency and service delivery.

We've reduced our senior management team to cut costs and protected the frontline services on which people rely. Instead of cutting services to our residents when staffing shortages or budget cuts have hit home, we've looked to share them with neighbouring Wychavon. This means we can go on delivering rather than taking the easy option of saying 'we're sorry there's no money'. They're not just back room functions either!

For example, our housing team provides a valuable, but often hidden away, service. We are proud of the fact that since April 2012 we have prevented or relieved the threat of homelessness for more than 1,200 households in this district. We are determined this council will continue to protect and support the vulnerable and those in need, whatever the financial constraints under which we are working.

We're also waging war on waste. Cutting down on unnecessary expenditure, transforming services so that they work more efficiently. We're making use of technology so we are more accessible to our residents while saving money. We are reducing the number of buildings we need. All of this has saved £5 million since 2010 and has helped us protect key front line services. In fact, only 1.5 per cent of our budget savings have come from service reductions, something, of which, all of us should be incredibly proud.

Residents are recognising this too. Sixty-seven per cent of them now say we are doing a very good or good job. This is the second highest in Worcestershire, and we have achieved our highest ever value for money score too. But it's not all about money. It's also about continuing to improve life for everyone that lives, works or visits our beautiful district, and on that score we are succeeding too.

We laid the foundations for all this with the creation of our Five-Year Plan. A blueprint for how we are going to tackle the huge challenges facing our district and setting out clear priorities as a commitment to our residents.

There are almost 30 actions in that plan and every one focuses our limited resources on those things that impact on every aspect of our lives, our communities, our health, our environment, the local economy and jobs. We believe we are the only council in the country that has a five-year plan like this and the benefits of this long-term planning are already paying off.

The plan is only 12 months old and already we have made huge progress. We've delivered another 64 affordable homes and are just 100 short of our target for building 400 by 2020.

Our leisure centres have received more than 340,000 visits and received substantial investment in new facilities as we strive to encourage more people to get active. We raised awareness of self-harm – a significant issue in parts of our district – to more than 1,300 young children through a theatre production. This has been shortlisted for a Local Government Association award. Even more rewarding is the fact that we know of at least one young person who was self-harming and who came forward as a result of this project and is now receiving support.

That's why we do what we do - that's the difference this council is making to real lives.

We've helped 114 businesses to survive and grow through start-up and business grant programmes and supported the creation of 12 apprenticeships to help our young people develop the skills they need to succeed in the future. We've launched a new series of walking routes in the Teme Valley and the revamped Visit the Malverns website will go live soon to help broaden our appeal as a visitor destination which is so important to towns like Tenbury.

That's on top of all the other day to day things for which we are responsible. In the last year alone we have offered advice and support to 635 rural and business crime victims, dealt with 657 planning applications, emptied more than 300 litter bins every week, secured more than £180,000 of investment in new open space and community facilities and investigated more than 260 environmental crimes such as littering and fly-tipping.

That's just a flavour of what we do. But what is clear is that every single one of those things makes a difference to the lives of our residents. If we stop doing them the district will be a poorer place in which to live.

And we're able to keep doing them because we took that difficult decision to start this journey. We refused to continue to lurch from crisis to crisis and we've looked ahead. We saw the challenges coming and brought the future into the present. We are dealing with them now rather than waiting until they get so great that we are left contemplating the unthinkable.

We know there's uncertainty regarding Brexit and that will filter down to us at local level. While full business rates retention offers us an opportunity, it will also bring with it financial risk and extra responsibility to be financially viable while the cuts keep coming. Changes to the New Homes Bonus scheme have already worsened our financial position by some £200,000 and the government has signalled more to come with austerity continuing into the next Parliament.

What does this mean for us? It means we have to keep looking ahead, to keep planning and being bold and brave enough to take difficult decisions. The only problem is those decisions will be even harder in future as we've done the easy ones.

We've already come face to face with one of those decisions in the form of the switch to fortnightly waste collections. We know residents value a weekly collection and we've done more than every other local authority in Worcestershire to protect them.

Unfortunately the figures no longer stack up and the choice we were presented with was clear. Protect weekly collections or adopt a slash and burn approach to every other service. That would jeopardise everything we have been building over the last two years. The price for keeping weekly collections would have been to have to turn round to people and say 'we're sorry, we can't keep your community clean and tidy', 'we're sorry we can't support business's to create jobs or invest in the future of young people'. It was too high a price, so that's why we took the decision we did.

Because we're on a journey our success is defined not only by where we end up, but by what we do along the way. How we transform this council, how we make it fit for the future is important. What we continue to deliver and how we rise to every challenge and leap every obstacle is critical. That determines our success and we won't allow cheap, political point scoring to derail us. Because that's where the danger lies. If we stop the journey, if we turn back and say this is all too hard – that's when things go wrong.

We know where we are going, we know what we want to achieve and we will get there, as long as we never lose the ability to hope, to dream and imagine a brighter future for Malvern Hills District and the huge area it represents.

Councillors Phil Grove and Tony Penn

6th April 2017

TENBURY TOWN

- Tenbury transport Trust Van; Broken into by Scout Hut.
- BIKES stolen:4, three recovered; **SUSPECTS DEALT WITH**

MALT HOUSE MEWS

- Stolen motorbike
- Theft of fuel Victim

TEME STREET

- Break in power tools stolen

BROMYARD ROAD

- 3 van break in's tools taken
- Van broken into Tools taken : Same Van interfered with 2nd time
- 1 Van attempt break in

DARK ORCHARD AND WHEELER ORCHARD

- **3 breakin's and items stolen. Male arrested and charged.**
- shed break in WHEELER ORCHARD Bike taken
- Theft of Saved coins collection, doors not locked

PALMERS MEADOW

- Refuge Recycling Site- broken into 4 times each time batteries stolen
NOW STOPPED FOLLOWING INTRODUCTION OF CCTV

BERRINGTON ROAD

- Two cars damaged with scratched along the sides, late to overnight.
Nothing seen or heard no cctv

ST MARYS CHURCH

- Kids in church messing it up
- Kids in church messing around again and in the bell tower, smashed a window pane

BURGLARIES

- Attempt break in Oldwood Road.
- Attempt break in Terrills lane Nothing taken
- Two Oldwood Road properties broken into.

RHYSE LANE

- Business premises attacked and items stolen from vehicles parked within

ST MICHAELS

- Insecure vehicle had handbag stolen from within
- Caravan stolen
- St Michaels Church, Broken window pane

SUTTON

- Forest Wood Chipper stolen from a transit van in a lay by
- Farm theft of chain saws

PUBSBRIDGE HOTEL

- Alcohol fuelled fight , three males attempting to enter the Therapy lounge, fight
Arrests made

THE CROW

- Fight between two males causing window to be broken as male went through the window into the street.
- Fight between males who were being refused service. Bar stools smashed

SPAR

- Alarm wires cut, NOTICED AND PUT RIGHT

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

- Damage to shop window

CO OP

- Break in cigarettes stolen

TESCO'S

- Site gained and power tools taken- linked to Gate at Burgage – padlock damaged on forced entry / connected to Tesco's theft

ROWLANDS

- Theft of make up from chemist by unknown females.

**DRINK DRIVERS arrests 1 and DRUG DEALERS arrests 2
CARS REMOVED NO TAX ETC 4**

Report for Tenbury Town Council and St Michaels' Parish
2017

I have listed the last twelve months worth activity for Tenbury and St Michaels's Parish. All these reports have been shared with Neighbourhood Watch, and so I hope that most will be aware of the Crime trends. West Mercia Police Website is easily accessed, and anyone can then sign up to receive Neighbourhood Watch alerts, which arrive as an email to your phone, laptop, or computer. There are also very many Watch schemes available and you can join as many as you wish.

Crime trends have not really changed from the year before, but we are seeing increasingly vehicles being targeted for tools. Work vans taken to home addresses especially. Please remember to remove everything from the vehicle that you are able to do so, and alarm the vehicle.

Sheds, garages and outbuilding continue to be targets for thefts. Again it is important to ensure that you have adequate security in place on these buildings. Very often sheds are located far away from the main address, and with little or no security in place, but inside there is a treasure trove of very valuable items.

- Good padlock which are non bolt 'cropable',
- Alarmed style padlocks are great for outbuildings and sheds
- Door sensors and alarms inside the buildings are also favourable.
- Anything which is going to alert you to the fact that someone is in the building.
- Change screws for coach bolts.
- Mark all items with a visible deterrent marker.
- Register the property with : immobilise.com, or bikeregister.com.
- Make a note of make/model/serial numbers of tools and bikes
- Take photos, and keep in a secure place.
- Planting of prickly shrubs and bushes also deters would be thieves
- CCTV is good, but only if you are alerted at the time that someone is in the building, so that you can make the call to Police.

If anyone would like to receive any advice on security, there is a vast raft of information on the Police Website, and we are more than happy to come along and have a chat with you. Vigilance is key here. As Safer Neighbour Team, we receive lots of important information and intelligence from the Public which helps us plan where Police should patrol.

The 'eyes and ears' of the community are vital for the ongoing battle against criminality.

Rural Crime such as Poaching is also something police would like to tackle, so along with partner agencies we would urge anyone who has suffered from poaching on their land, or who has seen anything to please report this to 101

If anyone wishes to contact the team here please call 01905 725780 (Voicemail) or email mt.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Ness Snape
Police Community Support Officer 6336
Martley and Tenbury Safer Neighbourhood Team

