

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Minutes of the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** held on Monday 9th April 2018 at 7.00pm in the Pump Rooms, Tenbury Wells.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr. K. Pollock WCC, Cllr A. Penn MHDC, 2 members of the press, 4 members of the public, the Town Clerk and the Assistant to the Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES

Members received apologies from Cllr. S. Perry, Cllr. D. Ingram and the Police representative.

2. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 10th April 2017 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 10th April 2017.

4. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor Cllr M. Willis opened the meeting by welcoming all those present.

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 also offered apologies for his fellow Councillor, Cllr. P. Grove.

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].

There were no questions.

8. LOCAL POLICE REPORT

Police report attached [Appendix D].

The police representative was unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments. The Mayor read the report in their absence. There were no questions.

Cllr. Weston left the meeting at 7:39pm.

9. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A member of the public addressed the meeting with regards the provision of allotments. The member of the public stated that a list of over 6 residents requesting an allotment had been submitted to the Council meaning that the Council had a duty to provide allotments, however after several years the member of public felt there had been no progress in this.

The member of the public asked the following question:

Q: "Was there any progress being made on the provision of allotments, or was it time to forget about it?"

A: The Mayor stated that although the project was taking time and the acquisition of land was proving difficult, the Town Council would not be abandoning the provision of allotments. The Mayor also stated that enquiries and discussions had been taking place, however these were of a confidential nature at this stage.

The Mayor closed the meeting by thanking Councillors, members of press and members of the public for their attendance

Meeting closed at 7.43 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

MAYOR'S REPORT TO ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MONDAY 9TH APRIL 2018

Since my report 12 months ago several changes have taken place in the Town. Most notably the Public Realm Works are all but completed and Tesco have opened and have been trading for nearly 12 months. It is evident that footfall has increased in the Town. Perhaps we now have a period of stability in which traders and tourism related businesses and attractions can make the most of this.

Aside from the day to day matters affecting Town Council I would describe the Council's thrust over the last 12 months as being one of consolidation. It's working procedures, policies and protocols have all been reviewed and new ones created where necessary. Challenges such as ensuring we comply with new Data Protection legislation still exist and will be met.

As I have often said before for a Parish Council, in comparison to other Councils in Worcestershire and indeed Herefordshire and Shropshire, we own many assets that we are responsible for. Obviously, this has not just financial implications but also implications on the workload of Officers and other staff of the Council. It is of note that, again in comparison to other Parish and Town Councils, we employ fewer Officers and staff. I commend our Council's Officers and staff for their hard work and commitment.

Recently a Council subcommittee, the Asset Working Group, has been formed to really focus on the way forward with our assets, how best to utilise and maintain them for the future. This group has already made certain recommendations to Full Council. This group's work is ongoing.

Our biggest and most valuable asset is obviously the Regal. As a venue, it becomes more popular year on year and is a notable success story. There has been much publicity as to how the Trust can build on that success and take the venue to the "next level". Town Council are working with the Trust to develop this vision.

The Pump Rooms are well utilised, not just as our Council office and meeting place. A popular venue for weddings, group meetings, clubs and societies to name a few.

Under the active guidance of the National Flood Forum a local Flood Group has been established this year. It is not a Council led group (though supported by the Council). Its members consist of residents and businesses and the aspiration is one of lobbying for better flood prevention measures and flood defences. Similar groups in other parts of the country have proved to be extremely successful.

Negotiations continue in respect of identifying suitable land for allotments and with the Towns football clubs to assist them in having better changing facilities.

Work continues on the joint Neighbourhood Plan with Burford. A very thorough and detailed approach is being taken and ultimately it will prove to be truly bespoke for the designated area.

Within the last year Public Space Protection Orders have been introduced throughout the Malvern Hills District to address the problem of dog fouling. Incidents of dog fouling and areas where dog fouling are occurring must be reported to Malvern Hills District Council so that action can be taken by them.

Can I pay tribute to the many volunteers in this Town who give considerable time and energy to organising events, working at the Regal, running our Museum and driving for Tenbury Transport

Trust to name but a few? There are many others and the list could go on and on. They help to make Tenbury the great place it is to live and work.

It has again been an honour and a privilege to serve as Mayor. Again, I pay tribute to all employees of the Council. My thanks and gratitude to my fellow Councillors for their support, commitment and hard work.

As usual a final thank you to my wife, Jayne.

MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

PG. AWP - 07/04/2018

It has been another busy year for Malvern Hills District Council and as is always the case in local government one of continual change. However, officers and councillors have worked hard together to ensure we continue to invest in the district, particularly those areas people tell us are priorities for them.

Here are some highlights from the last year:

HOUSING

We are on track to deliver our new homes target. We were set a target of building 5,650 new homes by 2030 of which 45 per cent have already been built and 1,900 are in the pipeline.

We have delivered more than half of the 450 affordable homes set out in our Five Year Plan and this has been achieved in less than two years.

We've processed 672 planning applications during the course of the year including some major developments which have contributed to that target.

The housing team prevented 91 households from becoming homeless (as of December) and we have had no families in B&B accommodation for longer than six weeks, a significant achievement.

Looking forward we are preparing to do what we can to help people with the rollout of Universal Credit which is coming to most of the Malvern Hills District this coming September.

We are also committed, in our new Five Year Plan, to looking considering the creation of a new housing company to build more homes for the private rented sector in an effort to increase supply.

We've also launched an electronic system for those claiming certain benefits. This will make it easier for people to provide evidence to us and make their claim by phone, tablet or computer. This should allow us to further reduce the amount of time it takes to make a claim.

The district's first Neighbourhood Plans have also been approved following public referendums in Kempsey, Clifton upon Teme and Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham.

ECONOMY

We launched our Visitor Economy Action Plan which sets out how we intend to raise the profile of the Malvern Hills District and attempt to not only draw more visitors to the area but also to interest them in the whole district so that the focus is not just dominated by Malvern and the hills.

A 12 month PR and marketing campaign is currently being worked on but we have already successfully hosted a national press and tour operator visit to Upton.

This year also saw the launch of our first walking app with more than 7,000 downloads so far and Google trekker routes – virtual routes that allow you to walk the Malvern Hills online. These have already been viewed about 80,000.

We are currently also revamping the Elgar Trail and continue to add to our events programme.

We've kept parking charges on hold so they continue to remain the cheapest in Worcestershire and moved the evening charge two hours earlier to support the night time economy.

We're investing £500,000 into buying surplus land to support the expansion of Malvern Science Park to provide high quality jobs for the area in future.

We also continue to provide support and land to businesses to enable their growth including Blackmore Park and Tenbury Business Park. With regard to the latter, planning permission has now been granted to four separate companies who are expected to move onto the site during 2018.

95% broadband coverage now exists across the district with 84% superfast speeds.

We are also supporting the national testing of new 5G mobile technology at Malvern Science Park before the national rollout begins from 2020.

SKILLS

I'm pleased to report that Malvern Hills companies lead the way when it comes to taking on apprentices. Apprenticeship starts are up 11 per cent year on year and we invested £15,000 into grants to support companies taking on apprentices and graduates.

ENVIRONMENT

We made the big decision in February to move to Alternate Weekly Collections. The rollout has gone well. We engaged with more than 500 people on the issue at various roadshows throughout the year and our waste changes web page has been viewed more than 1,000 times.

A successful trial of the scheme was held between September and November last year and more than 87 per cent found there was enough space in the black bin for two weeks worth of rubbish and the system was easy to use.

We introduced a Public Space Protection Order on dog fouling, the first council in Worcestershire to do so. It's received widespread public support.

We've now launched our Green Walkers Dog Scheme to recruit volunteers to help be our eyes and ears on the ground to help us identify and target our enforcement activity more effectively.

Almost 360 environmental crimes were investigated during the year ranging from littering to dog fouling and a specific behaviour change campaign on litter is now under consideration.

COMMUNITY

We continue to try and strengthen the voice of our young people, launching our first youth newsletter this year called the Inbox which was distributed through schools.

Local Democracy Day was tremendously successful with more than 30 children from all five high schools taking part.

Our second community awards to recognise the work of our volunteers was held with 60 nominations received.

Some 360 residents have been involved in a programme of health related activities and there have been over 350,000 visits to the district's leisure centres.

£1.5million of investment for open spaces and community facilities has been secured through planning agreements.

Our rural door knocking scheme involved 477 households and 119 people were referred to a variety of agencies for support and advice.

COUNCIL

We successfully relocated all staff (except depot) onto one site in Avenue Road following a refurbishment of the Council House. Brunel House will now be sold delivering us a capital receipt and significant savings.

We have plans for a new £450,000 building which will allow us to provide a reception area at the Council House again and bring our telephone and face to face customers services back in-house. This will save us about £100,000 a year.

Financially, we continue to meet the funding gap we have to bridge without any detrimental impact on front line services. Since 2010, we have saved more than £4 million pounds but still need to save £1.45M by 2021. This leaves £950,000 still to be found while we continue to strive to maintain front line services of which we can be proud.

TENBURY TOWN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

09.04.18

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

1. County Council Affairs - personnel

March the 1st brought the dreadful and totally unexpected news of the death of our interim chief executive, Steve Stewart. He was only 64, and had made a huge contribution since starting last May, when our previous CE, Clare Marchant had left to run UCAS.

Steve was just coming to the end of his service with us, before our new permanent Chief Executive, Paul Robinson started work in the middle of last month. He has been the Chief Executive of Derby City Council, where he has run a unitary authority with a large budget and staff, comparable to this county.

In the last month or so, we have recruited other senior members of the management team. They are the Chief Finance Officer is Michael Hudson, from Wiltshire, the Chief Commissioning Officer is Andrew Spice from Essex, and the Interim Director of Adult Social Care Services is Avril Wilson from West Sussex.

We wish the whole team well in getting started in post, and providing the vision and leadership needed for the large County council staff, and all those in the County that rely on the council for services and encouragement.

Some people have questioned why so many senior staff have left at this time. In each case they have gone on to bigger and better jobs, indicating we had originally chosen high flying people, and that their careers had been advanced by their service in the County Council.

2. County Council Affairs – council tax

In the middle of February, the full council approved a county council tax rise of 4.94%, comprising 1.94% for the main council tax and a 3% rise in funds for Adult Social Care, as prescribed by central government.

It is worth noting that while the Liberal Democrats and Green councillors wished us to raise the council tax by the maximum permitted, (an extra 1%), the Labour group wanted no increase at all, as with last year. This is strange in the context of their continual criticism of austerity, resulting in cuts in services.

Just as an aside, many people seem to be confused about the difference between deficit and debt. If we spend more in any period than we receive in income, the difference is a deficit. If we continue to do so, the deficits add up and are referred to as our debt.

In consequence, as long as we spend more than we receive, our debt will go up – as it has since 2010, now standing at around £2 trillion. As a consequence our interest payment on that debt is now around £50 billion a year, a similar sum to that we spend on defence.

3. Council County Affairs - expenditure

The County Council's budget runs to about £330 million pounds. The greater proportion of this sum is spent on Adult and Children's Services, where it must be noted that a small number of individuals attract most of the cost. Thus we have about 750 children in care, and, through past failings, are going to be required to set up a separate company to run the services needed by such children and various ancillary needs. This will result in an extra £10 million being spent on children's service in the coming year.

Adult services are for the elderly and vulnerable adults, again a total amounting to about 7,000 people. This from a population in the County of 560,000.

All other services are paid for out of the balance, including all money spent on roads and pavements, as well as libraries, education services, regulatory services, waste disposal and the like. Our roads are generally in good condition compared with our neighbours and we are in process of spending an extra £12 million on bringing them up to the top quartile of roads in the country.

Infrastructure spending can be paid for in part by government grants and monies levied from developers. In the past year, we have seen the opening of the new Eastham Bridge, and the approval of the dualling of the Carrington Bridge and the causeway to the Powick roundabout. We have also seen work starting on the new Worcestershire Parkway railway station at Norton that should be open by this time next year.

4. SWDP revisions

Following its publication in 2016, the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) has been the basis for deciding the pattern of house building across south Worcestershire. Recently, the three councils involved have been considering revising the plan in the light of the recent publication of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

While this concerns the County Council more from the infrastructure viewpoint, I have been keen to take part in the discussions. My impression is that while organic small scale growth of communities is desirable, it could be that larger new settlements may be necessary. Should one or two “new towns” of around 5,000 dwellings be required, the location of such developments is crucial. Any strong feelings on such plans would be welcomed by your local district councillors and the planning departments.

Under our newly revised Local Transport Plan, (LTP4), we would seek to encourage developments in places where there is excess capacity on our road and rail network. We also recognise the importance of facilities for walking and cycling, as part of our active travel strategy. In addition, we need to make provision for public transport, where possible and appropriate.

Recently Tenbury has seen a successful application to build around 70 houses opposite the High School. It is to be hoped that many of those buying such houses will have children that can then go to the local primary and secondary schools. In addition, it is unrealistic to suppose that homes should only be allowed close to where there is an unmet need for employees. Minimising travel distance to work is desirable, but often unrealistic, and could be seen as a reason for allowing rural areas to become depopulated.

In general, I suggest we should be prepared for organic growth of our villages and hamlets, as well as a growth in jobs in rural areas. Another aspect is the need for better broadband and I have to report steady, if slow, progress at reaching the last 5% or so of premises not yet served by Superfast Broadband. This becomes increasingly important as more people work from home and the internet is used for a greater amount of our social and educational needs.

5. Public Realm work

We are approaching the end of the long and drawn out process of improving the Public Realm in Tenbury. There is no need to rehearse here the detail of this project. Suffice to say that virtually all of the work to be conducted by the County council is now complete, with the new red tarmac in place on the raised tables.

There has been general approval for the new paving slabs on the footways, and the 20 mph limit on the central shopping area. What remains is some work that was to be paid for by Tesco's under a section 278 agreement. That is the reason for the raised table outside their entrance not having been completed yet, and also for the absence of a couple of items of street furniture in their section.

While the overall development has been very satisfactory, it is disappointing that this last commitment has been shirked, leading to the need for legal action, to recover the cost from the Tesco bond lodged at the start of the process.

I can only hope that trade will pick up over the coming months, particularly attracting holiday visitors to what is now even more a very attractive rural town, with great retailers, services and public spaces.

6. Divisional Fund

It is a privilege to be able to allocate some £10,000 of council taxpayers' money to good causes across the division. In the past year, Tenbury residents have been able to benefit from small sums given to the Music Festival, the Party in the Park, the swimming pool, the NILS scheme and the Open for Business agenda. Other monies have helped organisations and good causes across the division.

I am always keen to hear of new good destinations for this small amount of money that can nevertheless make a big difference to the organisations so favoured. It is your money and it can be spent for the benefit of the community as a whole.

**Cllr Ken Pollock
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire,
GL50 2BZ
09.04.18**

Sent: 05 April 2018 16:39
Subject: Data for Meetings 2018.xls
Attachments: Data for Meetings 2018.xls

Appendix D

Dear all,

In case I am not able to attend the Parish AGM's I am sending the reports now. I have enclosed a table for all for all collated crime statistics for the whole area. Some of these figures will relate to serious assaults, domestic assaults and crime and or sexual assaults. Obviously these types of crime are not reported via NHW or Parish reports and so the figures may 'read' higher than you may expect.

As a summary for the year end, shed, garage and outbuildings break ins have slowed down, but have not gone away. I would urge everyone to check that items in these types of buildings are overtly marked, buildings are alarmed and doors made as secure as possible. Items within the homes are marked with a uva product such as Smartwater, and are listed on www1mmobilise.com.- This is a free service and greatly improves the chance of getting back items lost (eg phone) or stolen. Many Parish's have taken up the offer of the 'bulk buy' purchase of Smartwater to enable all their parishioners to be Smartwater households, making the Parish 'Smartwatered', with appropriate signage to match.

We are still a team of three, having now been joined by PC [REDACTED] who [REDACTED] and I are hopeful will be a permanent addition to the team! With the addition of Smart phones, and laptops we are now even more mobile than before, and are able to access our 'workload' as it arrives via the phone. So if you do see us on the phone, we are working! We have been holding surgeries across the area at 4 different locations and have received good feedback from these. Presently these are at Wichenford, Hallow, Martley and Tenbury. Lastly we are looking to carry out more horse tack marking, property marking and also quad and trailers marking events too in the near future, with the next property marking event at Hanley Parish Hall 10 – 1 on April 28th

As ever we are only ever a call or email away:

	2018 feb	2018 jan	2018 dec	2017 nov	2017 oct	2017 sep	2017 aug	2017 jly	2017 jun	2017 may	2017 apr	2017 mar	2017 feb
Parish	2	1	12	11	10	9	8	7	3	5	4	3	2
Abberley	5	3	15	3	5	5	4	2			4		2
Astley & Dunley	4	7	2	5	4	6	9	7	19	4	3	8	4
Bayton	2	1	2		0	4	2	1			1	3	1
Clifton	1	2	4	2	2		3	4	6	2	3	4	1
Eastham	1		3		1	1		2	1	2	1	1	
Great Withey	1	2	2	5	4	5	7		8		3	5	4
Grimley	2			3	3	3				7			2
Hallow	3	3		5	2	1	3	2	6	2	4	4	7
Hanley		1	2					1			2	1	
Holt Heath	2	4	2	7	1	3	3	9	9	4	8	4	3
Knighton On Teme	1	3	1	3	3	2		2	2	5	1	2	3
Lindridge	4	1	3	5	4	5		2	2	6	1		1
Little Withey	3		1	1		1			3	3	2		
Lower Sapey			1	1	2	1							
Mamble	1	1	3	2			3	1	2	2	2	2	2
Martley	2	12	13	6	6	10	2	5	7	8	6	9	9
Pensax		1				2	4	1	1				1
Rochford	1		1	2			2						1
Sheisleys								2		1		3	5
Shrawley	1				2	1	1	2	4	1	1		
Stanford /Orleton	1		1	8	1	2	3	1		3		2	3
Stockton	2					1		3		2			
Stoke Bliss, Kyre, Boccleton	2	1	2		2	2			3		2	2	1
Tenbury	15	13	20	14	26	13	16	24	20	20	14	23	17
Wichenford & Kenswick	1	2	4	4	5	1	7	8	3	2	5		4
	54	57	80	75	75	69	69	79	96	78	59	73	71