

**MINUTES OF MALPAS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2024
IN MALPAS COMMUNITY CHURCH, MALPAS AT 7.00PM**

	PRESENT	
	<p>Cllrs Tina Barnett, Tony Dickenson, Julie James Collins, Oryan Lightning, Alan Moore, Dave Parry, Kirsty Parry, Susie Powell, Martin Shackleton, Michael Williams (Chairman). The Clerk. Two members of the public attended the meeting. Ward Cllr Rachel Williams.</p>	
147.	APOLOGIES	
	Cllrs Charles Higgle, Karen Meredith.	
148.	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
	<p>Cllr Williams declared a pecuniary interest in item 155 of the minutes as he is on the Jubilee Hall Committee. Cllr Moore declared a pecuniary interest in item 155 of the minutes as he is on the Jubilee Hall Committee and item 166 of the minutes as his wife is co-ordinating the work at Clayhole Croft. Cllr Lightning declared a pecuniary interest in item 155 of the minutes as he is on the Jubilee Hall Committee.</p>	
149.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES	
	<p><u>Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 3rd October 2024:-</u> Resolved:- The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council Business Meeting held on 3rd October 2024 as a true and proper record. Proposed by Cllr Moore and seconded by Cllr D Parry.</p>	
150.	OPEN FORUM	
	There was no consideration of this item.	
151.	CASUAL VACANCIES / ELECTIONS	
	<p>The Council has two vacancies. <u>Vacancy No 1:-</u> The Council can co-opt. <u>Vacancy No 2:-</u> CWaC has advised that they have received a request from 10 electors for an election to be held in respect of the vacant seat. The timetable of proceedings has been circulated; in the event of there being a contested election the poll will take place on Thursday 28th November 2024.</p>	
152.	POLICE REPORT	
	<p>The notes from the Local Meeting with the Police (including the Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable and Chief Inspector) held on Monday 21st October 2024 have been circulated. At the meeting it was agreed that the police will hold joint quarterly meetings with all the parish councils and parish meetings in Malpas ward. <i>Residents are urged to report all incidents of anti-social or criminal behaviour by calling 101.</i></p>	
153.	ACCOUNTS	
	<p>153.1 <u>To approve the following payments:-</u> The Council agreed to make the following online payments:-</p>	
	Payee	Statutory Power
	Parish Council payments	
	Running Costs	s.111
		£ 64.83

HMRC - PAYE mth 7	lga 112-119	£ 141.99
Malpas Community Church (31/10/24)	s.111	£ 32.00
Royal British Legion (chq 660)	s.137	£ 100.00

The Clerk's salary was paid by standing order.

Resolved:- The Council agreed to the above payments.

Proposed by Cllr Dickinson and seconded by Cllr K Parry.

153.2 Receipts Received as at 1st October 2024:-

None received.

153.3 Accounts and Bank Reconciliation:-

The summary of Receipts and Payments was previously circulated.

The reconciled balance in the current bank account as at 1st October 2024 was £276,901.55 The funds are allocated as follows:-

Parish Council - £50,260.68

New Homes Bonus - £23,265.78

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):- £203,541.17

Allotment Maintenance funds (ring fenced in accounts):- £87.83

Neighbourhood Plan:- (£2.78)

Christmas Tree (to be reimbursed) – (£51.08)

CCTV donations (to be reimbursed) – (£200.05)

153.4 Budget to Date:-

The Council received and noted the Budget to Date as at 30th September 2024.

154. INTERNAL PROCEDURES

The Council considered amending the current Grant Application Form.

The Clerk is to prepare a simplified version for consideration at the next meeting.

155. JUBILEE HALL GRANT

Cllrs Lightning, Moore and Williams left the room when this item was considered.

Resolved:- The Council appointed Cllr Barnett to Chair the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr K Parry and seconded by Cllr Shackleton.

In the 2024 – 25 financial year, the Jubilee Hall was awarded a grant of £2,000.00 towards a new sound and public address equipment. The actual purchase price of the equipment was £1,400.00 leaving £600.00 left over. Council considered the request to re-allocate the £600.00 towards new computer equipment.

Resolved:- The Council agreed for the Jubilee Hall to reallocate £600.00, the remaining balance of the grant that was awarded, towards new computer equipment for the Jubilee Hall.

Proposed by Cllr Dickinson and seconded by Cllr Barnett.

156. BUSINESS PRIORITIES AND PROJECTS - WORK PLAN 2025 / 2026

Cllrs discussed business priorities and projects for the next financial year 2025 / 2026. New suggestions included:-

- Village Security

157. PLANNING

157.1 Planning Applications:-

24/02759/FUL - Change of use of C3 dwelling house to 4 bed Children's home C2 at Woodhouse Grange Dymocks Mill Lane Oldcastle Malpas

The Council has been informed that this planning application is to be considered by the Planning Committee.

157.2 To consider any applications received after the agenda has been distributed:-

24/03046/FUL - Single storey side extension at 7 Penny Court Malpas

157.3 Recent decisions by CW&C:-

Approved:-

24/02300/TPO - Rear of 23 Hughes Lane Malpas

158.	<p>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP (NPSG) Cllr Shackleton updated the meeting regarding the process including the formal consultation process and referendum. The parish statement has been submitted to CWaC.</p>
159.	<p>MONTHLY SURGERY No residents attended the October surgery.</p>
160.	<p>THE MOSSLAND Charity Commission:- An email was sent to Cheshire Community Action (CCA) to explain the background to the Mossland; to make enquiries about the missing Trust Document and to ask the implications should the Council wish to de-register The Mossland with the Charity Commission. CCA has responded to advise:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ownership of the land has been settled with the registration of the land with the Land Registry. Therefore, what benefit would the Parish Council be seeking to get from having a new trust document drawn up. If there is no benefit, then the expense may not be worth it. - The law on the registration of charities has changed since the charity was registered in 1981 as then all charities had to register with the Charity Commission. Now charities only have to register if their annual income goes over £5,000.00. A charity can however register voluntarily if it's income has always been below £5,000.00 and, if registered voluntarily, has the right to deregister if it requests to do so. - CCA suggested that the Council could write and request that the Charity Commission deregister the charity on the basis that it has a very low income. A solicitor is not required to do this. With regards to the implications of deregistering, there doesn't appear to be any benefits at the moment from being registered. If that changes in the future it could be re-registered. The main implication for remaining registered with the Charity Commission is that the Parish Council will have to continue to file annual returns. <p>Resolved:- The Council agreed to contact the Charity Commission to enquire about de-registering The Mossland. Proposed by Cllr Shackleton and seconded by Cllr Barnett.</p>
161.	<p>SLOW DOWN FOR MALPAS Cllr D Parry updated the meeting of recent Speedwatch successful exercises carried out in the village; several people were caught speeding and the PCSO is to send letters to the offenders. The Council is to put out a request for volunteers to join Speedwatch on Facebook. Further to recent complaints, the police have visited outside the Bishop Heber High School and ticketed offenders. Cllrs expressed their frustration with the refusal of an ex parish councillor to return the speed gun that is jointly owned by the Council and neighbouring parish councils (No Mans Heath and Threapwood).</p>
162.	<p>MALPAS JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE (MJBC) This item was considered in a Part 2 due to contractual issues.</p>
163.	<p>MALPAS RECREATION GROUND Six parish councillors attended the recent meeting of the Recreation Ground Committee. Concerns were raised regarding the operation of the Trust and the Committee including the lack of transparency regarding financial investments.</p>
164.	<p>APPEARANCE OF MALPAS 164.1 <u>Street Furniture:-</u> Ongoing. 164.2 <u>Bench outside the Jubilee Hall:-</u></p>

	<p>The Clerk has contacted CWaC to clarify whether the cost of the bench could be paid using s106 funding allocated towards the improvement of the bus stop. CWaC have refused. The Council is to contest this decision.</p> <p>164.3 <u>Village Pump:-</u> The Council is in the process of retrieving the village pump.</p> <p>164.4 <u>Planters:-</u> Walkers have quoted £63.50 plus VAT per planter (there are seven planters in total). Resolved:- The Council agreed to place an order with Walkers for seven planters to be refilled at a cost of £63.50 plus VAT per planter. Proposed by Cllr Shackleton and seconded by Cllr Barnett.</p> <p>164.5 <u>Village Entrance Signs:-</u> There was no consideration of this item.</p>
165.	<p>DOG FOULING Cllr James Collins informed the meeting of the winners of the competition to design a poster at the Alport Primary School. The posters are to be put on display on noticeboards and Facebook. The Council queried the removal of the dog waste bin on Love Lane; Ward Cllr Williams advised that the bin is to be relocated to a new site.</p>
166.	<p>CLAYHOLE CROFT Cllr Moore circulated a report to Cllrs to provide an update of the works required to be carried out at the site. The Clerk has made enquiries with CWaC as to whether any s106 funding can be used to carry out the works.</p>
167.	<p>THE CROSS Historic England has confirmed that the work to the lightning conductor will not require Scheduled Monument Consent. Cloud to Ground Ltd is in the process of sorting the permissions required to carry out works on Highways with CWaC. The Council thanked the Craft Club for decorating the Cross with poppies in time for Remembrance Day.</p>
168.	<p>EVENTS COMMITTEE – CHRISTMAS 168.1 <u>Christmas Street Lighting:-</u> Barlows have advised that the cost to put up and take down the lights have risen this year and they have agreed to cover the increase this year. Therefore they will keep the cost to £2,000.00 plus VAT. The Council is to write to the properties where the lighting is attached to ensure they are in agreement for the Christmas Lights to be attached to their property. Resolved:- The Council agreed to place an order with Barlows to put up and take down the Christmas Street Lighting at a cost of £2,000.00. Proposed by Cllr D Parry and seconded by Cllr Barnett.</p> <p>168.2 <u>Small Christmas Trees:-</u> Edge Christmas Trees advised that they were unable to supply the trees this year. Walkers have quoted £19.00 plus VAT per tree £19.00 each net of vat each, plus there would be a charge £3.10 for any that need trimming (n.b. the PC orders the trees on behalf of residents and businesses; they reimburse the PC for the cost of the tree).</p>
169.	<p>EVENTS COMMITTEE - SUMMER FAIR Work in progress to finalise the accounts</p>
170.	<p>FIRE SERVICE This item was deferred.</p>
171.	<p>CITIZEN AWARDS Cllr Lightning informed the meeting regarding the Citizen Award for Malpas which is to be presented at the Christmas Market and requested that the Council support the award next year.</p>

172.	CLERK'S REPORT		
	No.	Item	Update
	172.1	Bus Shelter Old Hall Street	No update; Clerk to follow up at November meeting with Highways.
	172.2	Chester Road Footpath	No update; Clerk to follow up at November meeting with Highways.
	172.3	VAS Old Hall Street	No update; Clerk to follow up at November meeting with Highways.
	172.4	30 mph speed limit to be implemented up to Chorlton Villas, Whitchurch Road, Malpas	No update; Clerk to follow up at November meeting with Highways.
	172.5	The Mossland: S106 & hedging	Work in progress.
	172.6	St Oswalds	Rev Dr Janine Arnott has replied to advise that she will attend the November meeting.
	172.7	Planning	Responded to CWAC local plan and submitted Malpas PC design code document.
	172.8	New Councillors	Declaration of Interest forms sent to CWaC.
	172.9	Neighbourhood Plan	Statement submitted to Gill Smith and Catherine Morgetroyd (CM confirmed receipt).
	172.10	2025 dates	Emailed bookings to Community Church.
173	EXTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE INCLUDING SUGGESTION BOX List previously circulated to Cllrs.		
174.	UPDATES FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVES There were no updates.		
175.	Part 2 PRESS AND PUBLIC Resolved:- To resolve to exclude the press and members of the public as the items to be discussed relate to contractual matters which are of a sensitive nature. Proposed by Cllr Shackleton and seconded by Cllr Moore.		

The meeting closed at 8.38 p.m.

NB copies of the attachments can be obtained from the Parish Clerk