

Malvern Hills District Council

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Organisation Name: Malvern Hills District Council

Comment text:

On 22 February 2022, a full meeting of Malvern Hills District Council resolved the following with 24 votes for and 4 abstentions: "That the Council agrees that the Chief Executive be asked to respond to the consultation on behalf of the Council on the following basis: • That councillors are surprised and disappointed that a visit to the area by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England was not conducted in line with the Commission's guidance prior to the draft recommendations being published and hope that a visit can be made prior to final recommendations being made. • That the proposal for the Martley and Teme Valley 2-member ward would create a ward that would be too large, including unrelated communities, and 2 single member wards is preferred. • That the proposals for Tenbury and Lindridge wards are supported. • That there is no support for splitting parish councils across wards unless absolutely essential and with good justification." The minutes of the meeting have been uploaded to this submission.

Uploaded Documents:

https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1646848183_Public+minutes+22022022+1800+Council.pdf

Council

Tuesday, 22 February 2022

Minutes

Present:	Councillors: K. Aksar, B. Behan, L. Bruton, D. Chambers, K.H. Chan, D. Clarke, P. Cumming, P.L. Cumming, M. Davies, M. Dyde, J. Gallagher, D. Godwin, D. Harrison, B. Jones-Williams, N. McVey, J. Michael, A. Morgan, B. Nielsen, J. Owenson, C. Palethorpe, C. Palmer (Chairman), J. Raine, S. Rouse, D. Walton, K. Wells, T. Wells, P. Whatley and J. Wood
Not in attendance:	Councillor J O'Donnell
Apologies:	Councillors: M. Allen, C. Baldwin, P. Bennett, C. Bovey, S. Charles, N. Mills, C. Reed, B. Thomas and R. Whitehead
53. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Disclosable Interests	None
54. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting	The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2022, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.
55. Chairman's Announcements	<p>The Chairman made the following announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Parliamentary Boundary review was underway but would not effect West Worcestershire. • Even though the restrictions around Covid-19 were being relaxed the Chairman encouraged members to continue wearing face masks if they felt they wanted to. • The Chairman would be holding a joint Civic Service to celebrate friendship with the Mayor of Malvern at St Matthias Church on 9 April 2022 at 2.30pm-4.30pm.
56. Public Participation	None.
57. Leader's Question	Questions to the Leader were asked by Councillor P J

Time

Cumming. Details of the questions, together with the responses from the Leader, are attached at Appendix 1 to these minutes.

58. Council Tax and Budget 2022-2023

The Council considered the revenue and capital budgets for 2022/23 and the setting of the Council Tax for that year.

In accordance with Part 4, 22(b) of the Constitution, a named vote was taken as follows:

For	Against	Abstentions
Behan, B	Aksar, K	
Bruton, L		
Chambers, D		
Chan, KH		
Clarke, D.		
Cumming, P.L.		
Cumming, P.		
Davies, M		
Dyde, M		
Gallagher, J		
Godwin, D		
Harrison, D		
Jones-Williams, B		
McVey, N		
Michael, J		
Morgan, A.		
Nielsen, B		
Owenson, J.		
Palethorpe, C.		
Palmer, C.		
Raine, J.		
Rouse, S.		
Wells, K.		
Wells, T.		
Whatley, P.		
Wood, J.		

Voting: For 26, Against 1, Abstentions 0.

RESOLVED: that

- i) The Council's revenue and capital budgets for 2022/23 together with a £5 increase (at band D equivalent) in the level of the Council's element of the Council Tax; as recommended by the Executive Committee be approved.**
- ii) The calculation of the following amounts for the year 2022/23 be approved in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act):**
 - a) 32,119.11 being the amount calculated as the council taxbase for the whole of the Council's area; and**
 - b) the amounts shown in Column 2 of the attached schedule being the amounts of the council taxbase for dwellings in those parts of the Council's area shown in Column 1 of the schedule to which one or more special items relate.**
- iii) The 2022/23 Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes be approved as £5,543,758.**
- iv) The following amounts be approved for the year 2022/23, in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:**
 - a) £36,573,579 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act, taking into account all precepts issued to it by parish councils;**
 - b) £28,606,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act;**
 - c) £7,967,579 being the amount by which the aggregate at iv(a) above exceeds the aggregate at iv(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the act as its Council Tax requirement for the year;**
 - d) £248.06 being the amount at iv(c) above, divided by the taxbase at ii(a), in accordance with Section 31(B) of the Act as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year (Band D equivalent for MHDC plus average for local precepts including Parish Councils and Malvern Hills Conservators);**
 - e) £2,423,831 being the aggregate of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (total precepts and levies for Parish Councils**

and Malvern Hills Trust);

- f) £172.60 being the amount at iv(d) above less the result of dividing the amount at iv(e) by the Council Taxbase at ii(a), in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act; as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area for which no special items relate;
- g) the amounts in Column 3 of the schedule are the basic amounts of the Council Tax for 2022/23 for dwellings in those parts of the Council's area shown in Column 1 of the schedule to which one or more special items relate, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act.
- v) To note for the year 2022/23, Worcestershire County Council, Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority and West Mercia Police Authority have issued precepts to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown in the table below:

Valuation Bands	Worcestershire County Council	Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority	West Mercia Police Authority
A	931.19	59.60	166.44
B	1,086.38	69.53	194.18
C	1,241.58	79.47	221.92
D	1,396.78	89.40	249.66
E	1,707.18	109.27	305.14
F	2,017.57	129.13	360.62
G	2,327.97	149.00	416.10
H	2,793.56	178.80	499.32

- vi) The Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Act, hereby sets the aggregate amounts of Council Tax for 2022/23, for each of the areas in Column 1 of the attached Appendix A, the amounts shown in Column 4 of that schedule.

Councillor D Walton arrived at 6.17pm at the conclusion of this item

59. Treasury Management and Investment Strategy

The Council considered a Treasury Management and Investment Strategy as required by the Prudential Code for Capital Finance.

RESOLVED: that the Treasury Management and

Investment Strategy for 2022/23, be approved.

60. Local Development Scheme 2021-2024 Review

The Council considered the proposed changes to the Local Development Scheme (LDS). Specifically, the update set out the reasons for the proposed timetable changes to the South Worcestershire Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Policies and Site Allocations Development Plan Document.

Previously, the LDS had been produced on an individual local authority basis. However, the update to the LDS had also provided an opportunity to combine the three LDS into a single South Worcestershire document. Whereas previously, despite the same content, the LDS was adopted on an individual local authority basis.

RESOLVED: that

- i) Approval be given to the publication of the South Worcestershire Local Development Scheme 2021-2024, to come into effect from 1st March 2022.**
- ii) Delegated authority be given to the Director of Planning and Infrastructure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Infrastructure and Flooding to make minor amendments to the LDS prior to publication.**

61. Notice of Motion

The Notice of Motion was withdrawn.

62. Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Malvern Hills District Council

The Council considered the draft recommendations made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) on the new electoral arrangements for Malvern Hills District Council and a Council wide response to the consultation.

RESOLVED: that

- i) The draft recommendations made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on the new electoral arrangements for Malvern Hills District Council, be noted.**
- ii) The Chief Executive be asked to respond to the consultation on behalf of the Council on the following basis:**
 - That councillors are surprised and disappointed that a visit to the area by the Local Government Boundary Commission**

for England was not conducted in line with the Commission's guidance prior to the draft recommendations being published and hope that a visit can be made prior to final recommendations being made.

.....

- That the proposal for the Martley and Teme Valley 2-member ward would create a ward that would be too large, including unrelated communities, and 2 single member wards is preferred.
- That the proposals for Tenbury and Lindridge wards are supported.
- That there is no support for splitting parish councils across wards unless absolutely essential and with good justification.

iii) Parish and town councils, local ward members and other groups and individuals be encouraged to submit their own responses to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England regarding their draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Malvern Hills District Council.

63. Planning Services - Scheme of Delegation

As part of a recent review of the shared planning Service across Malvern and Wychavon, the scheme of delegation for the service across the two councils had been updated to cover all delegations across both councils

RESOLVED: that

- i) The amended Joint Planning Services Scheme of Delegation, be approved.
- ii) Delegated authority be given to the Monitoring Officer for any minor updates and adjustments.

64. Forward Plan - To Note

RESOLVED: that the Forward Plan, be noted.

The meeting concluded at 6.32 pm

Chairman

Questions to the Leader - Council 22 February 2022**Cllr P J Cumming**

The Council's website contains a notice concerning planning applications that states "In many cases it is likely to take longer than the statutory 8 or 13 weeks to determine your application."

How many weeks longer is it currently taking on average?

Leader's Response:

As included in the most recent performance update to members which was presented to the Executive Committee on 15 February.

83% of the major applications that had been determined within 13 weeks or within the agreed extensions time, which is 23 applications.

79% of minor applications had been determined within 8 weeks or within the agreed extensions of time.

84% of other applications had had been determined within 8 weeks or within the agreed extensions of time.

Only 25% of householder applications have been determined within 6 weeks. Executive Committee discussed where the issues were with this.

The January 2022 figures are, minor applications are at 11 weeks and householder applications at 8 weeks. Both of these are better than last year but if you want more detailed data this can be provided for you.

Supplementary Question:

My main concern is those which are not being done in the time. What are we doing to bring things back into line for those?

Leader's Response:

As discussed last week at Executive Committee the main issue at the moment is the lack of Planning Officers.

At the moment we are at 11 weeks and 8 weeks so we are 2 weeks out on the one and 3 weeks out on the other so actually we are not that far out. We are really focussing on getting Planning Officers in place so we can get through the work as it has increased through validation and the number of applications we're receiving are increasing but we haven't got enough staff to deal with them. It's not on target but we are reaching our targets as per the reports we get monthly. It is a focus we are not letting this slide, it is key.

However, If you have a particular issue in your ward please raise it as it may not be us causing the delay.