

**MINUTES OF MALPAS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 23RD JANUARY 2025
IN MALPAS COMMUNITY CHURCH, MALPAS AT 7.00PM**

	<p>PRESENT Cllrs Tony Dickenson, Charles Higgle, Alan Kirkbride, Oryan Lightning, Karen Meredith, Martin Shackleton, Michael Williams (Chairman). Ward Cllr Rachel Williams. The Clerk. No members of the public attended the meeting.</p>																											
205.	<p>APOLOGIES Cllrs Tina Barnett, Dave Parry, Kirsty Parry, Susie Powell, Julie James Collins, Alan Moore.</p>																											
206.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS Cllr Higgle declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 216 of the minutes as the applicant is a personal friend. Cllr Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 237 of the minutes as he is on the Recreation Ground Committee but left the meeting when the Council considered the item. Cllr Lightning declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 237 of the minutes as he is on the Recreation Ground Committee.</p>																											
207.	<p>APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES <u>Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 28th November 2024:-</u> Resolved:- The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council Business Meeting held on 28th November 2024 as a true and proper record. Proposed by Cllr Dickenson and seconded by Cllr Higgle.</p>																											
208.	<p>OPEN FORUM Ward Cllr Williams spoke to the meeting regarding the following:- - A request is to be made to CWaC for a pavement to be installed on Wrexham Road to link up with Cuddington. - Concerns regarding visibility at the junction of Church Street with the High Street. Cllr Higgle updated the meeting regarding issues he has reported to CWaC.</p>																											
209.	<p>CASUAL VACANCY The Council currently has one vacancy The Returning Officer has sent a notice for the reissue of notice of election. This will continue to happen until a candidate comes forward for election.</p>																											
210.	<p>POLICE REPORT A joint quarterly meeting with the police and representatives of the parish councils and parish meetings in Malpas ward is to be held on 27th January 2025. <i>Residents are urged to report all incidents of anti-social or criminal behaviour by calling 101.</i></p>																											
211.	<p>ACCOUNTS 211.1 <u>To approve the following payments:-</u> The Council agreed to make the following online payments:-</p> <table><tr><th>Payee</th><th>Stat Power</th><th>Amount</th></tr><tr><td>Parish Council payments</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Running Costs</td><td>s.111</td><td>£ 62.99</td></tr><tr><td>HMRC - PAYE mth 10</td><td>lga 112-119</td><td>£ 154.78</td></tr><tr><td>Then Media</td><td>s.111</td><td>£ 48.00</td></tr><tr><td>Core Highways (road closure for Christmas Event)</td><td></td><td>£ 924.00</td></tr><tr><td>Barlows (Christmas street lights)</td><td>s.111</td><td>£1,200.00</td></tr><tr><td>C Higgle Reimburse cost of Christmas Tree for church</td><td></td><td>£ 25.00</td></tr><tr><td>CHALC (training)</td><td>s.111</td><td>£ 25.00</td></tr></table> <p>The Clerk's salary was paid by standing order. Resolved:- The Council agreed to the above payments.</p>	Payee	Stat Power	Amount	Parish Council payments			Running Costs	s.111	£ 62.99	HMRC - PAYE mth 10	lga 112-119	£ 154.78	Then Media	s.111	£ 48.00	Core Highways (road closure for Christmas Event)		£ 924.00	Barlows (Christmas street lights)	s.111	£1,200.00	C Higgle Reimburse cost of Christmas Tree for church		£ 25.00	CHALC (training)	s.111	£ 25.00
Payee	Stat Power	Amount																										
Parish Council payments																												
Running Costs	s.111	£ 62.99																										
HMRC - PAYE mth 10	lga 112-119	£ 154.78																										
Then Media	s.111	£ 48.00																										
Core Highways (road closure for Christmas Event)		£ 924.00																										
Barlows (Christmas street lights)	s.111	£1,200.00																										
C Higgle Reimburse cost of Christmas Tree for church		£ 25.00																										
CHALC (training)	s.111	£ 25.00																										

	<p>Proposed by Cllr Lightning and seconded by Cllr Meredith.</p> <p>211.2 <u>Receipts Received as at 31st December 2024:-</u> Members Budget (to pay cost of Christmas Event road closure):- £895.00</p> <p>211.3 <u>Accounts and Bank Reconciliation:-</u> The summary of Receipts and Payments was previously circulated. The reconciled balance in the current bank account as at 31st December 2024 was £279,447.14 The funds are allocated as follows:- Parish Council - £43,493.20 New Homes Bonus - £23,265.78 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):- £212,753.94 Allotment Maintenance funds (ring fenced in accounts):- £87.83 Neighbourhood Plan:- (£284.28) Christmas Tree (to be reimbursed) – (£564.28) CCTV donations (to be reimbursed) – (£200.05) Members Budget (to pay for road closure) - £895.00</p> <p>211.4 <u>Budget:-</u> The Council received and noted the budget to date at 31/12/24 and the forecast figures to 31/03/25.</p> <p>211.5 <u>Bank Account:-</u> The Council needs to look to open a bank account with another bank as the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) only protects deposits up to £85,000.00 per organisation. The Clerk is to explore setting up bank accounts with Trinity Bank, Metro Bank and the Post Office.</p>
212.	<p>VE DAY GRANT APPLICATION The grant application form has been updated and accounts for the event have been received. Cllr Williams has requested further information from the applicant regarding the bank accounts and money that was promised to be allocated to the summer fair event. Resolved:- The Council considered the request for grant; they agreed in principle to pay the cost for the road closure up to the value of £1,000.00 subject to the following conditions:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the invoice is made out the Malpas Parish Council; - a recent copy of the bank statement is provided; - the balance from the summer fair committee is transferred to the Events Committee Bank account. <p>Proposed by Cllr Shackleton and seconded by Cllr Meredith.</p>
213.	<p>BUDGET SETTING FOR 2025 – 2026 The Council considered and set the budget for the 2025 – 2026 financial year (see attached).</p>
214.	<p>PRECEPT The Council considered setting the precept for the 2025 - 2026 financial year. Resolved:- The Council agreed to set the precept for 2025 - 2026 financial year at £31,006.00. This represents an increase of £0.00 (0.00%) on the 2024 – 2025 precept amount. There will be a decrease in the Local Council Tax Charge for a Council Tax Band D property for 2025 – 2026 of £0.67 in the Parish Council's 2025 – 2026 share of the CWaC Council Tax bill. Proposed by Cllr Shackleton and seconded by Cllr Dickenson.</p>
215.	<p>BUSINESS PRIORITIES AND PROJECTS - WORK PLAN 2025 / 2026 Business priorities and projects for the next financial year 2025 / 2026 include the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Events Committee support (events); - Bio-diversity project;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - QR History Code for Malpas; - Crime prevention; - Village appearance; - Clayhole Croft (s106 funds).
216.	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>216.1 <u>Planning Applications:-</u> 24/03382/S73 - Conversion of industrial unit to a single dwelling including an open porch extension, new garage block, vehicular access and landscape works - Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans), 3 (materials), 4 (hard and soft landscaping), 5 (boundary treatment), and 7 (floor levels of garage) on planning application 22/01812/FUL at The Hough Granary Higher Wych Road Wigland Malpas Observations:- No observations were made.</p> <p>24/03556/PDQ - Conversion of the 2no. agricultural barns into 8no. Class C3 residential dwelling houses at The Hollies Farm Old Hall Street Malpas Observations:- No observations were made.</p> <p>24/03717/FUL - Retrospective application for new render finish to existing house and brick boundary walls. Timber gates to entrances and installation of new sewage treatment plant at Green Acres Whitewood Lane Overton Malpas Observations:- The Council made the following observations:- Background Factors: Open countryside Relevant Malpas and Overton Neighbourhood Plan Policies: BE3 Relevant Local Plan Part 2 Policies: DM21 DM46-48 Potential benefits to the community: None identified Potential impact on neighbours: None identified Potential impact on wider community: None identified</p> <p>Pre-consultation request – proposed upgrade to existing base station installation at (CS12414100) Bank Farm, Ebnal Lane, Malpas Observations:- The Council supported the pre-consultation request.</p> <p>24/03689FUL - Single storey rear extension at 2 Waterfield Road Malpas Observations:- The Council made the following observations:- That the conservation officer is satisfied that the proposal, work and materials are in keeping with the conservation area. The Council would request that the following conditions be included: Background Factors: Within settlement boundary; Conservation area Relevant Malpas and Overton Neighbourhood Plan Policies: BE3 Relevant Local Plan Part 2 Policies: DM21, DM46-48 Potential benefits to the community: None identified Potential impact on neighbours: None identified Potential impact on wider community: None identified</p> <p>Resolved:- The Council approved and agreed to submit the above planning observations. Proposed by Cllr Shackleton and seconded by Cllr Dickenson.</p> <p>216.2 <u>To consider any applications received after the agenda has been distributed:-</u> None have been received.</p> <p>216.3 <u>Recent decisions by CW&C:-</u></p>

	<p><u>Refused:-</u> 24/02759/FUL - Woodhouse Grange Dymocks Mill Lane Oldcastle</p> <p><u>Granted:-</u> 24/03046/FUL - 7 Penny Court Malpas 24/03382/S73 - The Hough Granary Higher Wych Road Wigland Malpas</p> <p><u>Decided:-</u> 24/03290/CAT - Cobblers Bank Tilston Road Malpas</p> <p>216.4 <u>Fisher German:-</u> The Clerk has written again to Fisher German regarding misleading and inaccurate representations in their report regarding Land off Wrexham Road and is yet to receive a response. Cllr Kirkbride is to provide an alternative email for the Clerk to write to.</p>
217.	<p>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP (NPSG) Cllrs Shackleton and Meredith are in the process of co-ordinating the work to update the Neighbourhood Plan. A consultancy firm has contacted the Council to request a meeting to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan. The Council agreed to respond and advise that the Council is in the process of reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan and that they are welcome to attend a meeting of the Council but are to be advised that the Council may or may not be in a position to respond to questions.</p>
218.	<p>MONTHLY SURGERY No residents attended the November and December surgeries.</p>
219.	<p>THE MOSSLAND Update:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An letter has been sent to Charity Commission to request to de-register The Mossland with the Charity Commission. A response is due. - The Annual Return for 2023 – 24 has been submitted to the Charity Commission. - The Clerk is to contact the Allotments Association to request for Cllrs to make a site visit. </p>
220.	<p>SLOW DOWN FOR MALPAS / SPEEDWATCH There was no update.</p>
221.	<p>MALPAS JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE (MJBC) The Clerk has carried out the following:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrangements made for a meeting of the newly formed MJBC that was held on 16/12/24 and clerked the meeting. - Placed an order with Martins Treecare to remove the tree that fell in the storms before Christmas. - Posted a message on behalf of MJBC regarding the fallen tree at Malpas cemetery. - Contacted CHALC to enquire whether any other Councils have experienced damage to headstones and if so, what action was taken regarding the situation. - Assisted with administration to recruit new clerk to MJBC. The Clerk is to arrange to have a section added to the Council's website for MJBC agendas and minutes.</p>
222.	<p>APPEARANCE OF MALPAS The Cross – the lightning works to the Cross have now been completed.</p>
223.	<p>CLAYHOLE CROFT Cllr Moore has completed the form to draw down the s106 funding from CWaC to be used to enhance Clayhole Croft. The Council agreed in principle to support the request subject to sight of the proposed plans and costings for the works at the site.</p>
224.	<p>EVENTS COMMITTEE – CHRISTMAS The accounts are due to be circulated.</p>
225.	<p>EVENTS COMMITTEE - SUMMER FAIR Work is in progress to finalise the accounts</p>

226.	DEVOLUTION Cllr Shackleton is to prepare a response to the report regarding CEC, CWaC, and Warrington Councils asking the Government to be considered for devolution priority programme stating that the Council does not support this.		
227.	WHATS APP The Council considered setting up a WhatsApp Group for Councillors and decided not to do so at the present moment in time.		
228.	CLERK'S REPORT		
	No.	Item	Update
	228.1	Bus Shelter Old Hall Street	CWaC advised clearway consultation commenced on 13/11/2024 and finished on 05/12/24. No objections were received as of 04/12/24. Designs for kerb improvements are underway with provisional completion for both elements by the end of the 2024-25 financial year.
	228.2	VAS Old Hall Street	CWaC is awaiting confirmation from street lighting to proceed with connection of VAS to lighting column. Expected completion is within the 2024-25 financial year.
	228.3	30 mph speed limit to be implemented up to Chorlton Villas, Whitchurch Road, Malpas	Highways to update.
	228.4	The Mossland: S106 & hedging	Work in progress regarding works and hedging. Invoices for rental have been sent to allotment holders.
	228.5	Fisher German	Another email has been sent regarding request to remove inaccurate report.
	228.6	Footpath to Rear of Parbutts Lane	At the last meeting a resident raised concerns regarding dog owners not picking up their dog faeces; this has affected the cattle who are in the fields. The Clerk has contacted PROW and requested that signage be put up at the footpath to request that dog owners pick up waste. The resident has been advised of the actions taken.
	228.7	St Oswalds Church	Various concerns were raised by members of the PCC and residents regarding the running of St Oswalds Church. A letter has been sent to the bishops to express the concerns on behalf of the residents. No reply has been received to date.
	228.8	Highways	Reported complaint received from resident and submitted to CWaC:- Chester Road zebra crossing by the school the paintwork is very faded and road markings poor.
	228.9	Police	Request made for data from the speed monitoring exercise.
229.	EXTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE INCLUDING SUGGESTION BOX List previously circulated to Cllrs.		
230.	UPDATES FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVES Backgammon Club:- Cllr Higgle updated the meeting regarding the celebrations of first year anniversary since the Club was set up.		
231.	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 and employment matters which are of a sensitive nature.
--

Proposed by Cllr Meredith seconded by Cllr Dickenson.
--

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

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