

**MINUTES OF MALPAS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2025
IN MALPAS COMMUNITY CHURCH, MALPAS AT 7.00PM**

	<p>PRESENT Cllrs Tony Dickenson, Charles Higgle, Alan Kirkbride, Alan Moore Oryan Lightning, Karen Meredith, Dave Parry, Kirsty Parry, Martin Shackleton, Michael Williams (Chairman). Ward Cllr Rachel Williams. The Clerk. Three members of the public attended part of the meeting.</p>																																	
235.	<p>APOLOGIES Cllrs Tina Barnett, Susie Powell, Julie James Collins.</p>																																	
236.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS Cllr Kirkbride declared a pecuniary interest in item 245.4 of the minutes as the potential land for development is located next to his property. He applied for a request for dispensation to take part in the meeting. The Council agreed to the request.</p>																																	
237.	<p>APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES <u>Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 23rd January 2025:-</u> Resolved:- The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council Business Meeting held on 23rd January 2025 as a true and proper record. Proposed by Cllr Shackleton and seconded by Cllr Dickenson.</p>																																	
238.	<p>OPEN FORUM David Blackadder, representing planning consultancy Turley, spoke to the meeting regarding his interest in wishing to understand Malpas Parish Council's approach to updating their Neighbourhood Plan and the process involved.</p>																																	
239.	<p>CASUAL VACANCY CWaC has advised that an election has not been called. The Returning Officer is to update regarding the reissue of notice of election. This will continue to happen until a candidate comes forward for election.</p>																																	
240.	<p>POLICE REPORT A joint quarterly meetings with the police and representatives of all the parish councils and parish meetings in Malpas ward was held on 27th January 2025. Notes from the meeting have been circulated. The Council is to request more visits by the traffic wardens. <i>Residents are urged to report all incidents of anti-social or criminal behaviour by calling 101.</i></p>																																	
241.	<p>ACCOUNTS 241.1 <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>£ 130.70</td></tr><tr><td>HMRC - PAYE mth 11</td><td>lga 112-119</td><td>£ 154.78</td></tr><tr><td>Then Media</td><td>s.111</td><td>£ 24.00</td></tr><tr><td>Malpas Community Church room hire (Nov, Jan, Feb)</td><td>s.111</td><td>£ 96.00</td></tr><tr><td>Jubilee Hall Room hire (27/01/25 police cluster meeting)</td><td>s.111</td><td>£ 23.00</td></tr><tr><td>My Local Solicitor Legal Fees</td><td></td><td>£2,020.00</td></tr><tr><td>Barlows (take down Christmas street lights)</td><td></td><td>£1,200.00</td></tr><tr><td>Events Committee payments</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Coverall Marquees</td><td></td><td>£2,250.00</td></tr></table> <p>The Clerk's salary was paid by standing order.</p>	Payee	Stat Power	Amount	Parish Council payments			Running Costs	s.111	£ 130.70	HMRC - PAYE mth 11	lga 112-119	£ 154.78	Then Media	s.111	£ 24.00	Malpas Community Church room hire (Nov, Jan, Feb)	s.111	£ 96.00	Jubilee Hall Room hire (27/01/25 police cluster meeting)	s.111	£ 23.00	My Local Solicitor Legal Fees		£2,020.00	Barlows (take down Christmas street lights)		£1,200.00	Events Committee payments			Coverall Marquees		£2,250.00
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Resolved:- The Council agreed to the above payments.

Proposed by Cllr Lightning and seconded by Cllr D Parry.

241.2 Receipts Received as at 31st January 2025:-

None have been received

241.3 Accounts and Bank Reconciliation:-

The summary of Receipts and Payments was previously circulated.

The reconciled balance in the current bank account as at 31st January 2025 was £275,353.04

The funds are allocated as follows:-

Parish Council - £39,971.10

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) – (£366.28)

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

Members Budget (balance after paid for road closure) - £125.00

241.4 Bank Account:-

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 has looked into setting up bank accounts with Nat West Trinity Bank, Metro Bank and the Post Office.

Resolved:- The Council is to check with Santander bank whether they offer a Community Bank account as their current rate of interest is 4.85% for personal bank accounts. If this is possible, the Council agreed to go ahead and open a savings account with Santander Bank.

If this is not possible, the Council agreed to go ahead and open a savings account with Nat West Bank.

The Council agreed the following bank signatories:- the Clerk Ruth Shackleton, Cllr K Parry and Cllr Kirkbride.

Proposed by Cllr Moore and seconded by Cllr Higgie.

241.5 ICO:-

The Council noted that the ICO has written to confirm the annual fee of £35.00 will be requested by direct debit. The Clerk is to clarify the use of the CCTV with the ICO.

241.6 Internal Audit:-

Jake Gurr, has advised the cost to carry out the internal audit is £125.00 plus VAT.

Resolved:- The Council agreed to appoint Jake Gurr to carry out the Council's internal audit.

Proposed by Cllr Shackleton and seconded by Cllr Meredith.

242. GRANT PROCESS

The timetable for the grant application process is as follows:- □

Month	Action
March	Grant Application forms are to be submitted by 31 st March 2025.
April	Grant applicants maybe invited to attend the April Parish Council meeting, if necessary, and to provide additional information and answer any questions the Parish Council may have.
May	The Parish Council will consider the grant requests as previously submitted and decide on amounts for grants for current financial year.

	June	Grants are paid to organisations for the 2025 – 2026 financial year.	
243.	VE DAY GRANT APPLICATION As agreed, an email was sent to Community Links to request further information prior to approval of the grant. A reply has been received from Community Links to advise that the Summer Fair committee is completely separate organisation. This means that Malpas Community Links cannot therefore comply with the terms attached to the offer. The Council considered what action to take. Resolved:- The Council agreed to the following:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To write to Beverley Dobson, the current Chair of the Summer Fair committee, to enquire about the balance of funds that is currently in the bank account for the purpose of holding the summer village fair and the terms in their constitution for the use of such funds. - To agree to pay up to £1,000.00 towards the cost of the road closure for the VE Day event. Proposed by Cllr Shackleton and seconded by Cllr Meredith.		
244.	BUSINESS PRIORITIES AND PROJECTS - WORK PLAN 2025 / 2026 Cllr Williams previously circulated a list of Councillors allocated to current projects (see attached).		
245.	PLANNING 245.1 <u>Planning Applications:-</u> 25/00211/FUL - Single storey extension, two storey extension, conversion of existing garage, insertion of rooflights at Yew Tree Cottage Church Street Malpas Observations:- The Council made the following observations:- Background Factors: Within settlement boundary; Conservation area Relevant Malpas and Overton Neighbourhood Plan Policies: BE3, SF2 Relevant Local Plan Part 2 Policies: DM21, DM46-48 Potential benefits to the community: None identified Potential impact on neighbours: Church Street has a lot of listed / heritage buildings and the Council would wish to insure that their setting is not harmed as a consequence of this application Potential impact on wider community: None identified 24/03842/FUL - Erection of a pergola in rear garden at 9 Well Farm Close Malpas Observations:- No observations were made as the application falls within permitted development rights as the height is less than 2.5m. Resolved:- The Council approved and agreed to submit the above planning observations. Proposed by Cllr Shackleton and seconded by Cllr Lightning. 245.2 <u>To consider any applications received after the agenda has been distributed:-</u> None have been received. 245.3 <u>Recent decisions by CW&C:-</u> <u>Approved:-</u> 24/03087/FUL - Hollowood Farmhouse Mates Lane Edge Malpas 24/03689/FUL - 2 Waterfield Road Malpas 245.4 <u>Telecom Upgrade:-</u> The Council noted the proposed upgrade to existing radio base station installation at CTIL12414126 adjacent to Chester Road, Ebnal, SY14 8JE 245.4 <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. Fisher German are due to meet with the diocese and will discuss the request and advise.
246.	<p>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP (NPSG)</p> <p>Cllrs Shackleton and Meredith updated the meeting regarding the work carried out to date on the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The notes of the meetings of the NPSG were circulated previously.</p> <p>It is planned to start the six week consultation at Easter where residents and interested parties will be invited to attend and put forward their views on the draft Neighbourhood Plan. All comments will then be considered by the NPSG before the final Neighbourhood Plan is submitted to the Planning Inspector.</p>
247.	<p>MONTHLY SURGERY</p> <p>No residents attended the February surgery.</p>
248.	<p>THE MOSSLAND</p> <p>248.1 <u>Charity Commission:-</u></p> <p>The Charity Commission has replied to the request to de-register The Mossland with the Charity Commission.</p> <p>This includes details of a template Trust Document and the Charity Commission's stance on deregistering land.</p> <p>The Clerk is to prepare a report and circulate it to the Council.</p> <p>248.2 <u>Allotments Association:-</u></p> <p>The Clerk has met with the Chairman and Secretary of the Allotments Association and discussed the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential s106 – check with CWaC for potential funding for allotments. - Site visit – Allotments Association to advise dates. - Vacant Allotment plots –advertised on Facebook and Council noticeboard. - Request to Amend constitution - Allotments Association to advise - Locked gate - Allotments Association to install and the Council to reimburse costs. - Available S106 funds - AA to get quotes for sheds and equipment in preparation to draw down funds from CWaC. - Resurface car park – Clerk to obtain quotes as this is the Council's responsibility therefore suggest it could be paid out of monies held in The Mossland bank account (scraping back the stones and vegetation then putting road planings). - Skip – required to remove debris at Plot 4 (use deposit to pay costs). <p>Resolved:- The Council agreed for the Clerk to obtain quotes to carry out resurfacing the car park; this is to be paid for using funds in the Mossland bank account.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Shackleton and seconded by Cllr Moore.</p>
249.	<p>HIGHWAYS (INCL SLOW DOWN FOR MALPAS / SPEEDWATCH)</p> <p>249.1 <u>Speedgun:-</u></p> <p>Cllr D Parry updated the meeting regarding the speedgun; Speedwatch is due to resume when the weather gets warmer.</p> <p>249.2 <u>Signage:-</u></p> <p>The Clerk has contacted Highways to request for no parking signs opposite the Bishop Heber High School; Highways has advised that this is not possible as the current road markings are sufficient.</p> <p>Cllr Moore agreed to write to the Bishop Heber High School regarding parking and what can be done.</p> <p>249.3 <u>State of Roads:-</u></p> <p>Cllrs D Parry, Moore and Williams are due to attend a meeting with Highways to discuss the condition of the A41.</p>

	Cllrs are to advise of any other highways issues in advance of the meeting which are to be forwarded to Highways.
250.	<p>MALPAS JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE (MJBC)</p> <p>The Clerk to MJBC has written a precautionary letter to the Council to advise that there may be a shortfall in funding for grounds maintenance as there is it is uncertainty as to whether CWaC will continue to reimburse the costs in the future.</p> <p>Cllr D Parry advised that MJBC is looking at reducing maintenance costs (e.g. waste disposal) and ways to market the cemetery.</p> <p>A tree survey has been carried out which has highlighted a number of concerns which MJBC is looking to address.</p> <p>The Council agreed to look into combining the insurance for MJBC with the Council's policy. MJBC is due to advise of amendments to the TORs.</p>
251.	<p>APPEARANCE OF MALPAS</p> <p>PC to consider action regarding:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refilling planters– to be deferred. - Cladding the four planters in the High Street:- The Council has only received two quotes. (n.b. the planter at the top of the High Street needs attention). <p>Resolved:- The Clerk is to circulate the two quotes to clad four planters similar in style to the planters outside the Jubilee Hall to Councillors; the Council agreed to decide who to appoint to carry out the work via email up to the value of £1,000.00.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Shackleton and seconded by Cllr Meredith.</p>
252.	<p>CLAYHOLE CROFT</p> <p>Cllr Moore spoke to the meeting about the proposed plans for Clayhole Croft including drainage, landscaping and tree works.</p> <p>There is some potential s106 funding that has been allocated to Clayhole Croft. This funding will only become available when building work has commenced. The Clerk is making enquiries as to whether there are any other s106 funds that could be used towards the funding the project.</p> <p>S106 funding cannot be applied for retrospectively; however, CWaC has advised that the Council can carry out the work in phases.</p> <p>Cllr Moore advised it would cost £6,500.00 to carry out drainage and essential tree work.</p> <p>Resolved:- The Council agreed to pay up to £4,500.00 from CIL monies to carry out drainage work and essential tree work at Clayhole Croft.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr K Parry and seconded by Cllr Moore.</p>
253.	<p>EVENTS COMMITTEE – CHRISTMAS</p> <p>253.1 <u>Accounts:-</u> The Council received and noted the final accounts for the Christmas event.</p> <p>253.2 <u>Lighting:-</u> The Council agreed to defer the purchase of street and Christmas Tree lights.</p>
254.	<p>EVENTS COMMITTEE - SUMMER FAIR</p> <p>The Council received and noted the final accounts for the Summer Fair event.</p>
255.	<p>MALPAS QR HISTORY TOUR</p> <p>Cllr Lightning circulated a report regarding the proposed Malpas QR History Tour including costs for the blue plaques and the website.</p> <p>Resolved:- The Council agreed to pay £1,383.00 towards the costs for the blue plaques and the Malpas QR History Tour website.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Shackleton and seconded by Cllr K Parry.</p>
256.	<p>DEVOLUTION</p> <p>Cllr Moore spoke to the meeting about the proposed plans regarding CEC, CWaC, and Warrington Councils asking the Government to be considered for devolution priority</p>

programme and what impact the Government plans for a Greater Cheshire Council will have on Parish Councils. He has agreed to monitor what happens and report back to the Council.

257. CLERK'S REPORT

No.	Item	Update
257.1	Bus Shelter Old Hall Street	CWaC has advised that no objections have been received. Kerb amendments are currently being completed, if not already. Lining to follow, expected prior to end of March but may be completed early 2025 – 26 financial year, subject to weather conditions.
257.2	VAS Old Hall Street	CWaC has confirmed that this is still ongoing and there are delays due to other work pressures related to drainage. Please bear with us. Expected in Early 2025-26 financial year. However, they are unable to provide an exact date at this time.
257.3	30 mph speed limit to be implemented up to Chorlton Villas, Whitchurch Road, Malpas	CWaC has advised that Ward Cllr Williams was to discuss this with Agden Parish Meeting as they are promoters of the scheme.
257.4	Fisher German	Another email has been sent to Jack Harley at Fisher German who have replied to advise they have a meeting with the diocese and will reply in due course.
257.5	Pre-consultation request	Proposed update to existing base station installation on Ebnal Lane – a reply was sent to advise that the Council welcomes the continued investment in Malpas and it's infrastructure.
257.6	The Mossland	The Annual Return has been submitted to the Charity Commission.
257.7	MJBC	A 'tab' has been added to the Council's website for MJBC.
257.8	Actions post Police Cluster meeting:-	<p><u>Illegal parking signage @ BHHS</u></p> <p>Request sent to CWaC for signage outside the Bishop Heber High School.</p> <p>CWaC replied as follows:-</p> <p><i>"We can only erect DFT approved signs as published in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016; a warning sign for illegal parking is not contained, so is not something we could install.</i></p> <p><i>The cars are illegally parked as mentioned in the enquiry, so I would suggest the best measure would be enforcement by the police. Although I am aware that limitations in resources do restrict the level of enforcement that may be carried out."</i></p> <p><u>Speedwatch signs:-</u></p> <p>Enquiry sent to CWaC for a template sign to promote Speedwatch (the Police would supply their logo for the signs).</p> <p>CWaC replied as follows:-</p> <p><i>"I sent your query to our Road Safety team and have received the following response:</i></p> <p><i>'Yes, we used to run the Community Speed Management scheme alongside Cheshire Police. This was fully taken over by Police and is now known as Community Speed</i></p>

			<i>Watch since May 2024. We used to get requests for 'Community Speed Watch Area' signs in the past. We never provided these. Areas like Elton have had them installed by Cheshire Police in the past but this was years ago. Our stance is/was that they are not prescribed signs so we would not provide these'.</i>
	257.9	Junction of Lynchet Road and Greenway Lane	Request sent to CWaC to ask if it would be possible to move the 30 sign by this junction back a bit as due to the amended road lay out it is now perfectly placed to be hit by the wing mirrors on the coaches.
	257.10	Greenway Lane	Request sent to CWaC for the give way lines by the house on the corner of Greenway Lane where it joins the lane from the bus yard, i.e. by the access only sign, to be reinstated.
258.	EXTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE INCLUDING SUGGESTION BOX List previously circulated to Cllrs.		
259.	UPDATES FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVES There was no consideration of this item.		
260.	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 Meredith seconded by Cllr Lightning.		

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

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