

TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL 2024/25 MEETING TC10

**Minutes of the meeting of TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL held on
Monday 10th February 2025 at 7.00 pm
in The Pump Rooms, off Teme Street, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8BA**

PRESENT: Cllrs S. Bowkett, E. Bunting, M. Davies, A. Gould,
F. Knight, D. Patrick, R. Perrin (Chair), S. Russell and B. Smith.

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk, the Assistant to the Town Clerk, Malvern Hills District Councillors, Cllr. L. Bruton and Cllr. A. Wilmott, a representative of the Severn River Trust, one representative of the Safer Neighbourhood Police Team and eight members of the public.

C24.206 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received apologies for absence from Cllr. R. Connolly, Cllr. L. Davies and Cllr. D. Ingram due to planned holidays.

C24.207 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A declaration of interest was made, under the Code of Conduct pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 in respect of item **C24.223 The Regal** on the agenda, by Cllr. F. Knight, who is a volunteer at The Regal.

C24.208 DISPENSATIONS

The Town Clerk stated that there had been no requests for dispensation.

C24.209 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(i) Public Question Time – General

Three members of public requested to speak.

A member of the public spoke with regards the proposed Terrills Lane planning application stating that he would be speaking at the appeal inquiry. The member of public asked if the Town Council had received a reply to their letter to Highways explaining why they had withdrawn their objections.

The Chair explained that the letter was not sent to Highways, it was for residents' information. A Member of the Council will attend the inquiry with a statement from the Council, which will be agreed at the next Planning Committee meeting to be held on 24th February. Main concerns being the flood impact to the Kyre Brook and increased traffic on Bromyard Road/Terrills Lane.

A member of the public asked if the Town Council were aware if there had ever been any investigation into the confluence of the River Teme and the Kyre Brook at their meeting point.

The Severn Rivers Trust representative stated that this was an issue that they were investigating, however landowners' permission would be required to carry out works.

A third member asked what the Town Council were doing to protect the people and businesses in the town and was there a reply to the push for a replacement wall.

The Chair stated that the Town Council were doing everything within their capabilities. Worcestershire County Council have agreed to replace the wall, and the matter was now in the hands of the Environment Agency.



TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL 2024/25 MEETING TC10

The Town Clerk stated that the Environment Agency were fast tracking the permit application, and it should be granted in the next few weeks.

(ii) Safer Neighbourhood Police Team Appendix A

Report received and circulated.

A Member asked how long it took for vehicle crime to be processed as there had been a report in the last few days of a stolen caravan.

The representative of the Safer Neighbourhood Team explained that the caravan theft would reflect in the figures for February.

There were no further questions.

(iii) Worcestershire County Council Appendix B

Cllr. Chambers report had been circulated.

(iv) Malvern Hills District Council Appendix C

Cllr. Wilmott submitted notes, which had been circulated.

Cllr. Bruton stated that the planned local government devolution has been pushed back until 2028, therefore the County Council elections will go ahead in May. The District Council has been requested by the Government to submit unitary options, which will be considered at the Council meeting in March.

C24.210 TENBURY FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEME

Members received an update from the Environment Agency's Flood and Coastal Risk Management Advisor who unfortunately was unable to attend.

On the 4 February the government announced a record £2.65 billion to build and maintain flood defences to protect lives, homes and businesses from the dangers of flooding. The announcement was published at [Record investment to protect thousands of UK homes and businesses - GOV.UK](#)

On the back of this announcement, you will have seen recent media interest in the Tenbury Wells flood risk management scheme and flooding situation. We have been working hard with partners and key stakeholders to try and secure funding to progress the scheme. We understand and appreciate the frustrations with the current funding gap of approximately £13 million, and we are working with partners to further engage with stakeholders to discuss the flooding issues in the town along with the latest position of the scheme. We are arranging a suitable date to hold an event with stakeholders and as soon as this has been confirmed we will share the details with you.

A Member asked if there was a recent breakdown of money spent so far. The Town Clerk stated that this information had been given at the previous update.

The Member asked if this could be made available to the public and asked for this to be minuted.

The Town Clerk stated that the slides for the presentation were available online attached to the minutes for the meeting.

C24.211 SEVERN RIVERS TRUST

Appendix D

Members received a presentation from the Severn Rivers Trust on the Kyre Brook Natural Flood Management Project.



TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL 2024/25 MEETING TC10

A Member asked if he could have more information with regards the confluence of the meeting of the River Teme and the Kyre Brook.

The representative stated that modelling would have to be carried out to ascertain how far back work would need to start and how deep the angle would need to be. The Trust would be required to consult with the relevant landowners.

A Member asked if the landowners objected could the Severn Rivers Trust make a compulsory purchase. The representative stated, no, that the trust is a charity and not an enforcing agency.

A Member stated that, from the presentation, the idea of slowing the flow of the river and brook makes sense, but surely a new development would have a negative impact, would the trust have any information that could help with an objection to a new development.

The representative stated that he would be happy to support where possible, but that he would need to confirm with his management. However, new developments do have flood alleviation with sustainable urban drainage.

C24.212 MINUTES

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of Tenbury Town Council held on 13th January 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr. E. Bunting seconded by Cllr. M. Davies and unanimously

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the meeting of Tenbury Town Council held on 13th January 2025 were confirmed as a true and accurate account of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

C24.213 DRAFT MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Members received and noted the draft minutes of the following Committee meeting:

- (i) Facilities Committee – 20th January 2025
- (ii) Planning Committee – 27th January 2025
- (iii) Finance & Staffing Committee – 27th January 2025

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Russell seconded by Cllr. D. Patrick and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To note the draft minutes of the following Committee meeting:

- (i) **Facilities Committee – 20th January 2025**
- (ii) **Planning Committee – 27th January 2025**
- (iii) **Finance & Staffing Committee – 27th January 2025**

C24.214 WEST MERCIA POLICE COMMUNITY CHARTER

Members reviewed the Council's top three community issues to inform policing priorities for the following quarter.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Russell seconded by Cllr. Bowkett and unanimously



TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL 2024/25 MEETING TC10

RESOLVED:

- (i) To agree the Council's top three community issues to inform policing priorities for the following quarter to be Anti-social behaviour, drugs and speeding.**
- (ii) To agree to provide supporting information to ensure targeted response by the Safer Neighbourhood Police Team.**

C24.215 ROAD TRAFFIC ORDER – B4214 BROMYARD ROAD

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Patrick seconded by Cllr. M. Davies and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To note the proposed Prohibition of Waiting on B4214, Bromyard Road, Tenbury, with no comment.

C24.216 FLOODING ISSUES

Members discussed any flooding issues for the town. A Member stated that they believed the proposed new development at Terrills Lane would have consequences for the Kyre Brook.

C24.217 ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENT WORKS

Members discussed the accessibility improvement works for Palmers Meadow car park that were highlighted in a recent survey.

It was proposed by Cllr. A. Gould seconded by Cllr. B. Smith and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To agree the quotation from Malvern Hills District Council for accessibility improvement works to Palmers Meadow car park at cost of £1,398.00, to be funded from the General Fund Balance.

C24.218 CORONATION LIVING HERITAGE FUND

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Russell seconded by Cllr. S. Bowkett and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To agree submitting a further application to the Coronation Living Heritage Fund for tree planting on the Council's grounds.

C24.219 VE AND VJ DAY

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr. S. Russell seconded by Cllr. M. Davies and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To agree to holding two Civic events to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day (8th May) and VJ Day (15th August).

C24.220 SAFETY OF LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

It was proposed by Cllr. F. Knight seconded by Cllr. B. Smith and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To agree to support the Safety of Lithium-ion Batteries Campaign.



TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL 2024/25 MEETING TC10

C24.221 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Members received reports from the representatives on outside bodies:

- (i) **CALC Area Meeting** – Mayor & Deputy Mayor – No report.
- (ii) **Regal Tenbury Trust Ltd** – Mayor & Town Clerk – No report
- (iii) **Tenbury Area Partnership** – Deputy Mayor – No report
- (iv) **Tenbury Museum** – Cllr Patrick – No further update.
- (v) **Chamber of Trade** – Mayor – no report.
- (vi) **Philip Baylies Trust** – No report.
- (vii) **Tenbury French Twinning Association** – Cllr L. Davies – No report.
- (viii) **Tenbury Blooms** – Cllr L. Davies – No report.
- (ix) **Malvern Hills District Youth Action Network** – Cllr F. Knight – No report.

C24.222 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members agreed the exclusion of Press and Public on the grounds that the consideration of the following items may involve the likely disclosure of confidential information Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

C24.223 THE REGAL

Members discussed a response to the legal document.

C24.224 RE-ADMISSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There being no further confidential business, Members agreed a motion to readmit the press and public for the remainder of the meeting.

C24.225 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None

C24.226 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 3rd March 2025

Meeting closed at 8.36 pm

Signed

Date



On the beat in Tenbury

Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter

February 2024

Tenbury Town Council report

There have been 11 incidents reported to West Mercia Police through our Operational Control Centre.

Of these incidents 1 was a concern for safety, 1 for suspicious circumstances, 1 for highway disruption and 2 duplicated reports were made.

Safer Homes



Dwelling Burglary

There has been no reports of a residential burglary reported in February.

Safer Homes



Commercial / Other Burglary

There has been 3 non-dwelling burglary reported this month. We are working as a team to heighten our patrols and visibility over patch day and night

Crimes recorded

| December | January | February |
|----------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 1 | 0 |

| December | January | February |
|----------|---------|----------|
| 0 | 0 | 3 |

Safer People



Anti-social Behaviour

We have received 1 report of ASB this month.

Incidents reported

| December | January | February |
|----------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 3 | 1 |

Safer People



Violence

I have included this category as it is often misconstrued or miscalculated when reported in local press.

There has been 2 violence related crime reports. In this incident the people involved were known to each other..

Crimes recorded

| December | January | February |
|----------|---------|----------|
| 3 | 3 | 2 |



Shoplifting

There has been no reports to the Police of shop thefts during February.

Crimes recorded

| December | January | February |
|----------|---------|----------|
| 0 | 1 | 0 |



Vehicle crime

There has been no reports regarding vehicle crime. I would like to add this is a wide category it covers all aspects such as car theft, car seizures, criminal damage to a car etc.

Crimes recorded

| December | January | February |
|----------|---------|----------|
| 0 | 1 | 0 |

Team contact details

Email: mt.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Sign up to Neighbourhood Matters ... your brand new community messaging service



Neighbourhood Matters enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can choose exactly what type of alert you wish to receive and how you receive them; whether that be by email, text or telephone.

Sign up now at: www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk

County Councillor's Report – March 2025

1. At a meeting of the Council on 13th February, the Council approved the Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2026-2028. The main points approved were:
 - a. A net Budget Requirement of £495.598 million.
 - b. A Capital Programme of £490.854 million.
 - c. Council Tax Band D equivalent for 2024/25 be set at £1,615.71 and the Council Tax Requirement be set at £357.152 million, which will increase the Council Tax Precept by 4.99% in relation to two parts:
 - 2.99% to provide financial support for the delivery of outcomes in line with the Corporate Plan.
 - 2.00% Adult Social Care Precept, ring fenced for Adult Social care services.
2. Following the collapse of the wall due to Kyre Brook flooding prior to Christmas in Tenbury, it was found that the land registry showed no details of ownership of the land on which the wall stood. The County Council announced they would rebuild a “like for like” wall but required a permit from the Environment Agency before works could commence. This permit was eventually received on 14th February and works commenced on 24th February, with an expected build time of two weeks.
3. At the time of writing (27.02.25), the Environment Agency's statements concerning their Flood Defence Scheme for Tenbury remains, that the scheme is on pause while they attempt to seek additional funding. As you know, three years ago the EA's funding assessment was that the scheme would cost approximately £6.4 million. Today, they anticipate the cost of the scheme will be between £25 million and £30 million, goodness knows what their estimation will be this time next year.

I have stated publicly that I do not believe the flood defence scheme will go ahead for reasons I will not detail here. My public statements to this effect have been made because I want the Environment Agency to do two things:

- a. I want them to admit that they do not intend to go ahead with the scheme.
- b. I want the £17.2 million funding, which they have secured so far, to be transferred to Worcestershire County Council who will ring fence the funds for flood defence use in Tenbury. I will suggest that the monies are used to install flood defences in every property (residential and business) that have flooded in recent years. Any monies remaining can then be used for other flood defence works around the town.

I have raised my concerns now because I am not seeking re-election to the County Council in May and wanted this agreed before these funds, which the Environment Agency have secured, are either transferred to other flood defence schemes or clawed back by central government.

4. The government is proceeding with its devolution programme. Unfortunately, Worcestershire was not selected to take part in the first phase but have to nevertheless, submit an interim plan to the Secretary of State on or before 21st March 2025 and a full proposal by 28th November.

This is a crucial time for local government in Worcestershire and will determine how local government in Worcestershire is run, for several decades to come. As I have mentioned before there are two stages:

- a. The formation of Unitary Councils
- b. The formation of a Strategic Authority headed by an elected Mayor.

For now, the seven upper tier councils in Worcestershire, (the County Council and Malvern Hills, Wychavon, Worcester City, Wyre Forest, Redditch and Bromsgrove District Councils), will have to decide how their Unitary Council will be formed – there are many suggestions being discussed. Some want one Unitary Council for the whole of Worcestershire, some want two – one in the North and the other in the South, and some want to add on bits of other counties.

For me there is only one outcome that make any sense. We have excellent Town and Parish Councils in Worcestershire to ensure our residents have that “local” connection and so I hope colleagues will agree on a One Worcestershire Unitary Council. It seems madness to me to set up two Education Departments, two Children’s Services Departments, two Highways Departments, two Adult Social Care Departments and so on in Worcestershire. Two sets of Councillors, two sets of Officers and the cost implications would be considerable, resulting in a substantial increase in Council Tax.

David Chambers

County Councillor for the Tenbury Division

Malvern Hills District Council Report (March 2025)

Cllr Lesley Bruton (Tenbury Ward)

Council Tax

At the council meeting held on 25th February, councillors voted unanimously for a Council Tax freeze for the district council's element of the bill for 2025/26.

Following the announcement that Worcestershire will be moving to a unitary, MHDC is budgeting to the end of its expected lifetime and believes this can be funded within existing budgets.

From the bill, eight percent goes towards district council services, including waste and recycling collections, planning services, business support, housing, public toilets and more. The Band D has been calculated at £182.60.

Residents are being encouraged to access their Council Tax bill online rather than receiving a paper copy through the post. The District Council is urging people to sign up to its e-billing option, to provide a more environmentally friendly and convenient service for taxpayers. 38 percent of residents have already signed up to e-billing and the council would like to increase this percentage.

Visit www.malvern hills.gov.uk/council-tax/paperless-council-tax-bill for further information and to register for e-billing.

Planning Inquiry

The Planning Inquiry for the Terrills Lane Appeal was held on 25th – 26th February, which included a site visit by the inspector. The inspector's report and decision should be published in the next two months.

South Worcestershire Development Review (SWDPR) Examination

Public hearings to scrutinise a key planning document setting out where thousands of new homes will be built across South Worcestershire by 2041 will begin this week.

Government appointed inspectors will test whether the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review is legally compliant and meets national planning policy – known as being found sound – during the hearing sessions to be held at Worcester Guildhall.

The examination will take place over three weeks, starting from Tuesday 4th March to Thursday 27th March. Inspectors will explore a different theme each day, ranging from economic growth policies to the different housing sites identified in the Plan. Further sessions will be held at the Civic Centre in Pershore on 29th and 30th April to consider issues including climate change and transport.

Once the hearings have finished, if the inspector agrees the Plan can be found sound, then changes will likely be required to the document – known as major modifications. A consultation on these changes is pencilled in for summer 2025. All three South Worcestershire Councils will then be formally asked to adopt the Plan by the end of the year or early 2026.

Dog Fouling

The District Council is asking residents to share their views on how the council tackles dog fouling across the district.

On Monday 3rd March, a consultation will be launched to gather responses on the Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). The consultation aims to understand the experience of residents and to gather suggestions to help improve public spaces for everyone. Reports in relation to dog fouling continue to be received and the Council would like to extend the Protection Order that was previously in place to address these issues.

The current order makes it an offence if you:

- Don't clean up after your dog
- Don't keep your dog out of fenced off or enclosed children's playgrounds
- Don't place your dog on a lead when directed by authorised officer
- Can't produce the means to pick up your dog's waste.

If approved, the PSPO will continue to allow the District Council Officers to deal with dog control offences. Currently, officers carry out regular patrols and issue fixed penalty notices if they witness someone committing a dog fouling offence.

The consultation will run for six weeks and will end at midnight on 14th April 2025.

Visit www.malvern hills.gov.uk/consultation to take part in the PSPO consultation.

UNITY – Building Brighter Futures UKSPF

The UNITY Building Brighter Futures programme is a UKSPF funded programme designed to provide support to those who are economically inactive in the Malvern Hills District. This is a hard to access cohort of constituents and requires a different set of activities.

The support has been designed to be holistic including self-confidence skills, careers advice and help accessing the correct health care or training. The programme has been delivered by a team of experienced job coaches from Community Housing. £150,000 has been invested over 2-years into the provision of advice, 1-1 support, social media and regular drop-in advice sessions in various locations across the district including The Pump Rooms at the Welcome Space on Friday mornings.

Overall, the project has so far supported 141 constituents across the Malvern Hills District including 67 people in employment or self-employment following support.

Malvern Korosten Twinning

Malvern has a new twinned town, the Municipality of Korosten in Ukraine. To learn more about the new twinning plans and the opportunity to meet new people, an open day is being held on 15th March at the Community Hub, Malvern.

To reserve a place, email korostenmalvern@gmail.com

Malvern Hills Upskilling Grant

Malvern Hills businesses can continue to benefit from the Malvern Hills Upskilling Grant.

The grant scheme provides funding of up to £1,500 to help with the business cost of training new staff (i.e. apprenticeships, trainee or other). To qualify businesses must be based in the Malvern Hills district postcode area, employ fewer than 250 people and pay at least the minimum wage to the trainee for a post of at least 30 hours a week including training leading to a recognised qualification.

Visit <https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/business/skills-and-training/training-and-upskilling-information-for-businesses> for further information.

Apprenticeship Bursaries

£500 is available to trainees and apprenticeships to help cover the cost of travel, equipment, tools and clothing necessary to access training.

The support is available to residents of Malvern Hills District who:

- Earn less than £250 per week
- Attend a qualifying course
- Are employed for a post of 30 hours a week for a minimum of 12 months.

<https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/business/grants-and-funding#:~:text=Apprentice%20Bursary%202024,-The%20council%20recognises&text=An%20Upskilling%20Bursary%20Scheme%20has, clothing%20necessary%20to%20access%20training>.

Andrew Willmott

District Councillor

Tenbury Ward

Items of interest

3 March 2025

Flood Defences, Tenbury Wells

Work is in progress on the Market Street wall re-build. We continue to press Government to come clean on their intent for the Environment Agency Flood Relief Scheme.

Local Government Reorganisation

The Worcestershire District Councils support reorganisation within the boundaries of the County. Two options for unitary structures have emerged, a whole County Unitary and a north – south split, with Malvern, Worcester and Wychavon forming the south.

Neighbourhood Planning

I continue to press for MHDC to provide an additional layer of funding for neighbourhood planning as a statutory planning protection for when devolution is enacted

MHDC Strategy, Post White Paper

MHDC is in a strong financial position with good reserves funded by the citizens and businesses of our district and successfully husbanded by MHDC Officers. Guided by the “wish list” exercise last month, it is likely that an “expressions of interest” invitation will follow to district parishes. MHDC has voted to freeze its portion of Council Tax for 2025/26.

MHDC Planning

Evidenced by their own reporting, MHDC Planning has had problems over several years. Recent changes and new staff may not wholly rectify matters. I have asked for a formal review comparing best service in the public and private sectors. I await confirmation that this has been added to the workstream in Overview & Scrutiny.

Working from Home

Working from home was a logical response to Covid – but has continued. Given varying reports on its efficacy, and the move back to offices in the private sector, I have asked for a formal review of MHDC productivity comparisons with exemplars in the public and private sectors. I await confirmation that this has been added to the workstream in Overview & Scrutiny.

Terrills Lane Development

The formal Appeal hearing was completed last week with Lesley Davies delivering a gallant critique of the scheme. MHDC having withdrawn their objections following the Highways withdrawal. We await the deliberations of the Government Inspector.