

TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL 2024/25 MEETING TC11

Minutes of the meeting of TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL held on
Monday 3rd March 2025 at 7.00 pm
in The Pump Rooms, off Teme Street, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8BA

PRESENT: Cllrs S. Bowkett, R. Connolly, L. Davies, M. Davies, A. Gould, D. Ingram, F. Knight, D. Patrick, R. Perrin (Chair) 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, Malvern Hills District Council's Visitor Economy & Towns Manager and the Towns Centre Officer.

C24.227 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received apologies for absence from Cllr. S. Russell due to illness and Cllr. E. Bunting due to a work commitment.

C24.228 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A declaration of interest was made, under the Code of Conduct pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 in respect of item **C24.241 (ii) Regal Tenbury Trust Limited** on the agenda, by Cllr. F. Knight, who is a volunteer at The Regal.

C24.229 DISPENSATIONS

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

C24.230 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(i) Public Question Time – General

None.

(ii) Safer Neighbourhood Police Team

Appendix A

Report received and circulated.

(iii) Worcestershire County Council

Appendix B

Cllr. Chambers report had been circulated.

(iv) Malvern Hills District Council

Appendix C

Cllr. Bruton and Cllr. Wilmott submitted reports, which had been circulated.

C24.231 VISITOR ECONOMY & TOWNS MANAGER AND TOWNS CENTRE OFFICER

Members received an introduction to the Malvern Hills District Council's Visitor Economy & Towns Manager, Victoria Carman and the Towns Centre Officer, Alexandra Powell and their roles supporting Tenbury.

Visitor Economy & Towns Manager

Remit includes:

- Development of the Regenerative Tourism Strategy, which includes Tenbury Wells.
- Managed Malvern and Upton Tourist Information Centres and provide financial support for operational costs at the volunteer run Tenbury Tourist Information Centre.



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- Marketing and promotional activities to disperse footfall around the district.
- Visit the Malverns explore guide x 50,000.
- Visit the Malverns website.
- Social Media promotions, including reels/posts about Tenbury Wells.
- Marketing campaigns – sustainable travel campaign (spring and Local Food and Drink (summer).
- Festivals development support – for The Regal Tenbury, Tenbury Applefest and Tenbury Mistletoe Festival – potential new family festival working with The Regal.
- Tourism Grant Program – The Regal Tenbury and The Round Market.
- Product Development – New Heritage Trails App – Trail Tales

Town Centre Officer

Remit includes:

- Leading on initiatives in the Town Centre Plan for Tenbury.
- Updated information board on the Malvern Hills District Council toilets.
- New market dates arranged.
- Regular traders' meetings.

C24.232 THE ROUND MARKET

Edmund Simons, Associate Professor of Heritage Management who is undertaking a feasibility study for The Round Market, was unable to attend.

The Visitor Economy and Town's Manager stated that Mr Simons had been appointed to undertake a feasibility study to help identify alternative uses for the building to assist with fundraising.

C24.233 MINUTES

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of Tenbury Town Council held on 10th February 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr. A. Gould seconded by Cllr. D. Patrick and

RESOLVED (9 For 1 Abstention):

The minutes of the meeting of Tenbury Town Council held on 10th February 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.

C24.234 DRAFT MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Members received and noted the draft minutes of the following Committee meetings.

- (i) Planning Committee – 24th February 2025
- (ii) Finance & Staffing Committee – 24th February



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It was proposed by Cllr. M. Davies seconded by Cllr. R. Connolly and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To note the draft minutes of the following Committee meeting:

(i) **Planning Committee – 24th February 2025**

(ii) **Finance & Staffing Committee – 24th February 2025**

C24.235 PLANNING APPLICATION – MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Applications can be viewed online by following the link and searching on the application number <https://plan.malvern hills.gov.uk/>

Planning Ref: M/25/00210/LB

Proposed internal refurbishment of the listed Main Building – St Michaels College, Oldwood Road, St Michaels, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8PH.

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr. R. Connolly seconded by Cllr. D. Ingram and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To SUPPORT the application Planning Ref: M/25/00210/LB.

C24.236 THE PAVILION

Members noted The Pavilion inspection report following the flooding incidents. The Town Clerk was requested to send a letter to the bowling league to make them aware of the situation.

C24.237 REFEREE CHANGING ROOMS

It was proposed by Cllr. R. Connolly seconded by Cllr. D. Patrick and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To agree to the appointment of a structural engineer to undertake a survey of the referees changing room.

C24.238 BANK MANDATE

RESOLVED:

Cllr. A. Gould was appointed as an additional Member signatory on the Bank Mandate.

C24.239 COUNCIL TAX

Members noted the revised Taxbase for 2025/2026 to be 1,259.79 (2.97% increase) and Band D of £182.55 (1.78% increase).

C24.240 UNREASONABLY PERSISTENT AND/OR VEXATIOUS CONTACT/COMPLAINANTS

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. M. Davies seconded by Cllr. B. Smith and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To adopt the Unreasonably Persistent and/or Vexatious Contacts/Complainants Policy.



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C24.241 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr. R. Connolly seconded by Cllr. D. Patrick and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To appoint Cllr. B. Smith to represent the Town Council at Tenbury Flood Action Group.

- (ii) **To receive reports from the representatives on outside bodies:**

- (i) CALC Area Meeting – Mayor & Deputy Mayor – No report.
- (ii) Regal Tenbury Trust Ltd – Mayor & Town Clerk – Nothing to report.
- (iii) Tenbury Area Partnership – Deputy Mayor – No report.
- (iv) Tenbury Museum – Cllr Patrick – No further update.
- (v) Chamber of Trade – Mayor – Nothing to report.
- (vi) Philip Baylies Trust – Cllr. Ingram – Nothing to report.
- (vii) Tenbury French Twinning Association – Cllr L. Davies – There will be a fundraising ‘Murder Mystery Evening’ in support of the Twinning visit.
- (viii) Tenbury Blooms – Cllr L. Davies – The group received a grant of £1,000 and the planter has been moved from the entrance to Palmers Meadow car park to Bromyard Road.
- (ix) Malvern Hills District Youth Action Network – Cllr F. Knight – Nothing to report.
- (x) Tenbury Flood Action Group – Cllr. Smith – The meeting of the Flood Action Forum was very well attended. Topics for discussion included grants for property flood resilience, production of a newsletter and a website to provide information. It was suggested that the group could have a page on the Town Council website.

C24.242 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.

C24.243 DAVID & CHRISTINE LLOYD JONES FOUNDATION

Members discussed the Foundation’s concept, which was agreed in principle.

C24.244 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.



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C24.245 COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

A Member stated that the pothole in Cross Street is getting worse. This has been reported and marked for repair.

C24.246 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 7th April 2025 – Annual Residents Meeting

Monday 7th April 2025 – Council Meeting

Meeting closed at 8.33 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.



Dwelling Burglary

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



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



Anti-social Behaviour

We have received 1 report of ASB this month.



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..

Incidents reported

December	January	February
1	3	1

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.