

16 February 2023

Malvern Hills Trust

Special Meeting of the Board

Council Chamber, Avenue Road, WR14 3AF

Thursday 16 February 2023 7pm

Present: Mr C Atkins, Mr R Bartholomew, Dr S Braim, Mr P Clayburn, Mr D Core, Mr M Davies (Chair), Mr D Fellows, Mr R Fowler, Mrs L Hodgson, Mr J Michael, Mrs C Palmer, Mr C Rouse, Mrs M Turner, Mr D Watkins.

No attendance: Mrs H I'Anson Dr T Parsons,

In attendance: CEO, Secretary to the Board, 2 members of the public.

Mr Davies welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Mr D Baldwin, Mr C Penn, Prof J Raine, Ms H Stace, Dr D Westbury,

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2. Chair's announcements

There were none.

3. Declarations of interest

There were none.

4. Public Comments

There were none.

5. Impact of Malvern Hills (Electoral Changes) Order 2023

A workshop had been held for trustees on Monday 13 February to deal with any questions about the situation in which the Trust now found itself. The Secretary to the Board invited any comments or questions on the paper. She clarified that a trustee had attended the briefing with Harriet Baldwin but the meeting in London was Mrs Baldwin's meeting with the Minister. Staff had only attended to deal with any technical questions which might arise. In answer to a question she confirmed that if this change to the Acts was to be made, in all probability the arrangements would be changed again when and if the Trust's proposed governance changes were progressed.

On the proposal of Mr Davies, seconded by Mr Bartholomew it was **RESOLVED** (with 2 votes against)

- a. That the CEO should file a serious incident report (SIR) with the Charity Commission setting out that the wording in the Malvern Hills Acts in relation to the conduct of elections no longer reflects the MHDC warding arrangements.
- b. That if the opportunity is presented, the Malvern Hills Act 1924 should be amended so that in section 7(2), in substitution for "Seven persons to be elected by the local government electors for the urban district of Malvern

(one person by each of the seven wards of the said district)" the Act should read:

- i. One person to be elected from the combined parishes of Malvern Wells and Little Malvern
- ii. One person to be elected from the parish of West Malvern
- iii. 5 persons to be elected from the parish of Malvern Town

The CEO confirmed he would file the SIR on Friday and make a copy available to trustees. He stressed that there was no offer at present to take these changes forward and Trust staff were not aware of any other short term options for the Trust if the options currently identified did not offer a resolution. The Secretary to the Board thanked Mrs Baldwin for her efforts on the Trust's behalf.

6. Urgent business

There was none.

7. Date of next meeting

9 March 2023.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm