Malvern Hills Trust

Special Meeting of the Board
Council Chamber, Malvern Hills District Council, Avenue Road, Malvern, WR14 3AF
Thursday 8 October 2026 at 7 pm

Present: John Michael (Chair), Simon Baggaley, David Baldwin, Richard Bartholomew, Paul Bennett, Robert Berry, Jenny Burford, David Core, Allan Cottam, Mark Driscoll, David Edwards, David Fellows, Richard Fowler, Chris McSweeny, David Mead, Andrew Myatt, Cynthia Palmer, Jeremy Owenson, John Raine, Chris Rouse (arrived 7.06 pm), John Stock, Frances Victory, Malcolm Victory.

In attendance: CEO, Conservation Manager, Land and Property Manager.

1. Apologies for absence

Lucy Hodgson, David Reynolds, Felicity Robinson, Peter Rogers, Secretary to the Board.

2. Chair's Announcements

- The Chair welcomed new trustee Jeremy Owenson, who was attending his first meeting following his appointment by Malvern Hills District Council.
- It had originally been intended to hold two consecutive special board meetings on the same evening, but due to the anticipated length of debate at each of those, the second meeting had been deferred to a future date.
- Trustees were reminded to conduct the forthcoming debate in a respectful and orderly manner.
- In the absence of the Secretary to the Board, the Conservation Manager and the Land and Property Manager were in attendance to take notes.

3. Declarations of Interest

None. The Chair asked whether any trustee intended to record the meeting. He noted that Trust meetings were covered by Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972. Once the meeting moved into confidential session, trustees would need to approve any private recording. Andrew Myatt said that he was making an audio recording on a personal device. He was doing so because, in his view, there was evidence of bias in Board minutes. He pointed out that there was no standing order that prevented him from making a recording.

Chris Rouse joined the meeting at 7.06 pm.

On the proposal of Andrew Myatt, seconded by Robert Berry, it was RESOLVED, with 12 in favour, eight against and three abstentions, that Andrew Myatt be permitted to record the meeting.

Andrew Myatt asked whether this procedure would be required at future Board meetings. The CEO said it would apply when the Board entered confidential session.

4. Date of Next Meeting

12 November 2026 at 7 pm

5. Confidential

On the proposal of Robert Berry, seconded by Richard Fowler, it was RESOLVED with 22 in favour and one abstention, to exclude the public from the meeting for items 6-8 on the agenda on the grounds that public would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the exempt or confidential nature of the business to be transacted (legal privilege/matters relating to individuals).

The meeting moved into confidential session at 7.10 pm