



Malvern Hills Trust

Further Addendum Papers – Open

Annual Meeting of the Board

Thursday 14 November 2024 at 7.00 pm

**The Council Chamber,
Avenue Road
Malvern, WR14 3AF**

Malvern Hills Trust
Annual Meeting of the Board
Council Chamber, Avenue Road, WR14 3AF
Thursday 14 November 2024 at 7 pm

Meeting at which the Trust's accounts for the year to 31 March 2024 will be approved and the auditors for the year ending 31 March 2025 are to be appointed

Katherine Parkin from Azets Audit Services will be present at the meeting.

Agenda

Introduction

1. Election of Chair **Paper A** Pages 5-6
2. Election of Vice Chair **Paper B** Pages 7-8
3. Apologies for absence
4. Chair's report 2023/24 **Paper C** Further Addendum Page 4
5. Chair's Announcements
6. Declarations of Interest
7. Public Comments

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

8. Public Questions on the Accounts
9. To approve the Risk Management Strategy for 2024 **Paper D** Pages 9-28
10. To receive and approve the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 available from the Trust's office or online here:
https://www.malvern hills.org.uk/media/3657/annual-accounts_31032024_final-clean.pdf
11. To resolve to authorise the Chair to sign the letter of representation **Paper E** Pages 29-34
12. Appointment of Auditors for the 2024-25
 - 12.1. It is proposed to reappoint Azets Audit Services

Appointment of Committees

Further Addendum Page 5

13. Appointment of Committees
 - 13.1. Land Management
 - 13.2. Finance, Administration & Resources
 - 13.3. Governance
 - 13.4. Staffing
14. Appointment of Board members to other bodies
 - 14.1. Castlemorton Common Co-ordinating Committee (2 representatives)
 - 14.2. Recreation Advisory Panel (4 representatives)
 - 14.3. Wildlife Panel (4 representatives)
 - 14.4. Malvern Hills National Landscape
 - 14.5. Malvern Spa Association

Confirmation of Previous Board Meetings

15. To confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Board meeting held on 12 September 2024 and the Special Board meetings held on 19 September, 10 October and 17 October 2024

Pages 35-74

Confidential pages 2-9

16. Matters arising from previous Board meetings not otherwise on the agenda
16.1. Retrospective permission for publication of the Consultation outcome results

Paper K Further Addendum Page 6

Items for Decision

17. Private Parliamentary Bill Update

Paper F Pages 75-77

- 17.1. Resourcing the Bill

18. Potential electric substation on Trust land

Paper G Addendum Pages 2-13

19. Easement application

Paper H Addendum Pages 14-43

- 19.1. Brooklands, Mayfield Road

20. Urgent Business

Other Committee Business for Decision

21. **Governance Committee**

- 21.1. Chair of Committee - updates and questions, following the meeting of the Committee on 7 November 2024.

Items for Information

22. Management accounts to the end of September 2024

Paper I Pages 78-85

23. Future Meetings

Paper J Page 86

- 23.1. Next Meeting - Thursday 16 January 2025

- 23.2. Meetings Schedule for 2025

Confidential items

24. Resolution to exclude the public for discussion of items 25-28 on the agenda on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the exempt or confidential nature of the business to be transacted (legal privilege).
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CONFIDENTIAL

25. Matters arising from the confidential minutes of the previous Board meeting not otherwise on the agenda
26. Private Parliamentary Bill
27. Potential suspension of new applications for wayleaves and easements
28. Encroachment update



Chair's Annual Report to Board, 14 November 2024

There have been big changes at the Trust this year. I'm pleased to see new senior staff appointments settled in after what was a fragile situation at the end of 2023. The new CEO has not only stabilised the ship but made it a happy one and acted very positively.

I thank the public for showing such interest in the Trust this year. We had nearly 500 pieces of feedback from the public and organisations about our proposed governance changes. We met nearly 300 people at the summer drop-in sessions. Numerous individuals have taken time to make personal comments at our board and committee meetings, which are all in public. Not all of the views stated were comfortable reading for us. Indeed there has been much discussion about how the Trust communicates in recent weeks. I acknowledge our need to improve, and we will be reaching out to people even more in the coming year. Have patience with us, since with around 5,000 neighbours to the Trust's land, and many more residents and visitors, it is hard to engage meaningfully with you with the resources we have.

Trustees have given an immense amount of service this year, supporting the public consultation drop-in sessions and really listening to the public alongside staff. Special thanks go to the consultation working group and those that put up hundreds of posters and leaflets and attended meetings with the new CEO to draw the consultation to people's attention. There have been other significant voluntary contributions by those on the committees and I want to thank them and the chairs of committees for all their inputs. This includes those who worked with staff to create our new Staff Trustee Protocol to improve relations, which was adopted by the Board in May. Also, I thank those that have given their expertise in a voluntary capacity, such as on land management, while we eagerly anticipate a new land and property manager commencing in post in February 2025.

Most recently, the Board made a decisive vote to submit a Parliamentary Private Bill by 27 November. Casting our minds back to November 2023, the new intake of trustees in that election year received their induction training. There were workshops to bring them up to speed on the proposals for governance changes. These changes have been in the making for 10 years. Now I want all our trustees to act collaboratively and in accordance with the principles of collective responsibility in relation to this important decision the board has made.

John Michael
Chair of the Board

Committee Applications 2024-25

Land Management Quorum: 5	Finance, Administration & Resources Quorum: 5	Governance (7) Quorum: 4	Staffing (7) Quorum: 4
1. David Baldwin 2. Richard Bartholomew 3. Mark Driscoll 4. John Michael 5. Felicity Robinson 6. Chris Rouse 7. John Stock 8. Frances Victory 9. Malcolm Victory 10. Duncan Westbury 11. Mike Wilkinson 12. Sheila Wren	1. Robert Berry 2. David Core 3. Allan Cottam 4. David Fellows 5. Richard Fowler 6. Lucy Hodgson 7. Charles Penn 8. John Raine 9. Mary Turner 10. Paul Bennett	1. Richard Bartholomew 2. Robert Berry 3. David Core 4. Mark Driscoll 5. David Fellows 6. Charles Penn 7. John Raine	1. David Baldwin 2. Richard Bartholomew 3. Lucy Hodgson 4. John Raine 5. Mary Turner 6. Frances Victory 7. Sheila Wren

Outside bodies

Recreation Advisory Panel (4)	4Cs (2)	Wildlife Panel (4)	Malvern Landscapes (1)	MSA (1)
1. David Baldwin 2. David Fellows 3. John Raine 4. <i>Vacancy</i>	1. Chris Rouse 2. Mike Wilkinson	1. Mark Driscoll 2. Felicity Robinson 3. Mike Wilkinson 4. <i>Vacancy</i>	1. Frances Victory	1. Mary Turner

Annual Meeting of the Board

To be dealt with as matters arising

14 November 2024

The Malvern Hills Trust has been analysing nearly 500 pieces of feedback from members of the public and organisations about its proposed governance changes.

Following consideration of the feedback at its three special board meetings on 19 September, 10 October and 17 October, the Trust has now published the reports from 56 Degree Insight and free text comments along with a report drafted by the working group of trustees appointed at the board meeting on 8 August. This provides a summary of the consultation process and the Trust's responses to the consultation outcomes.

It was intended to seek approval of this report from the Board at the 19 September Board meeting but it had not been finalised. In an effort to keep the public informed and provide a comprehensive suite of material at the same time in the public domain, the consultation outcomes report was published prior to the board's sign-off. The draft report was cross-referenced with the Parliamentary Agent twice and the report relied to a large degree on the material produced for the board papers of the Special Board Meetings on 19 September, 10 October and 17 October.

The suite of material now available on the Trust's website includes:

- 56 Degree Insight, Malvern Hills Trust Public Consultation: Report of overall findings dated 31 July 2024.
- 56 Degree Insight, Malvern Hills Trust Public Consultation: 13 responding on behalf or organisations dated 1 August 2024.
- Free text responses (redacted) arising in the public consultation.
- Malvern Hills Trust report following consultation undertaken from 22 May to 22 July on proposals to update the Malvern Hills Trust's governance arrangements (the 'consultation outcomes report') dated .

These are available on the Trust's website, from either the main Governance page or the Consultation page <https://www.malvern hills.org.uk/governance-changes/consultation/>

Recommendation:

That the Board approve the MHT consultation outcomes report.

Deborah Fox
CEO
14 November 2024