

Malvern Hills Trust

Special Meeting of the Board

Park View Community Room, Malvern Town Council, Victoria Park Road, Malvern WR14 2JY

Thursday 3 July 2025 at 6.30 pm

Present: John Michael (Chair), Richard Bartholomew, Paul Bennett, Robert Berry, David Core, Allan Cottam, Richard Fowler, Lucy Hodgson, David Mead, Cynthia Palmer, John Raine, Chris Rouse, John Stock, Mary Turner, Frances Victory, Malcolm Victory, Mike Wilkinson, Andrew Willmott, Sheila Wren.

In attendance: Secretary to the Board, Governance Change Officer, Finance and Administration Manager, Land and Property Manager, 4 members of the public.

Absent: David Fellows.

1. Apologies for absence

Simon Baggaley, David Baldwin, Mark Driscoll, Felicity Robinson, CEO.

2. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 10 July 2025 at Colwall Park Hotel.

3. Confidential

The Chair moved to the resolution to exclude the public for the discussion of items 4-5 on the agenda on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the exempt of confidential nature of the business to be transacted (matters relating to individuals/legal privilege).

A trustee raised a point of order on the resolution to move to confidential session, asserting that the Conflict of Interest Policy did not provide for this. It was pointed out that paperwork had been withheld from eight trustees (**the relevant trustees**). The Secretary to the Board (SttB) reported that the relevant trustees had received the same email as other trustees convening the Board meeting and explaining the reason for it. The relevant trustees had also received an email from the CEO explaining why she believed them to be conflicted and advising of her preliminary decision to withhold confidential papers. Confidential papers had therefore been withheld; there were no open papers for the meeting (apart from the agenda).

The Vice-Chair said that in terms of the point of order that had been raised, the Chair had invited a proposer and seconder for the resolution. Trustees would then vote on that resolution.

Another trustee raised a point of order, stating that Paul Bennett was recording the meeting. Mr Bennett also appeared to be filming. The SttB confirmed that he was allowed to record the meeting, but she was unsure whether filming was permitted.¹

One of the relevant trustees asked whether the relevant trustees, would be required to leave the meeting at the same time as members of the public. The Chair confirmed that they would not; this was their opportunity to speak to the rest of the trustees in confidential session about conflicts of interest.

On the proposal of Malcolm Victory, seconded by Lucy Hodgson, it was RESOLVED with 12 in favour and six against, to exclude the public for the discussion of items 4-5 on the agenda on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the exempt of confidential nature of the business to be transacted (matters relating to individuals/legal privilege).

Richard Fowler asked that his name be recorded as being against this motion, together with his reasons, which were that the relevant trustees had not been provided with any information regarding the business to be discussed and that accusations had been made against trustees who had been provided with no information. He then addressed the SttB directly and she complained that he was pointing his finger at her. *There was dissent in the public gallery.*

Members of the public left the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.33 pm.

¹ S100A LGA 1972 7a While a meeting of a principal council in England is open to the public, any person attending is to be permitted to report on the meeting

(9) In this section “reporting” means—

(a) filming, photographing or making an audio recording of proceedings at a meeting,