

**MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 14th DECEMBER 200**

Present

Councillor Dr P E Mayner	Chairman
Councillor Mr M G Huskinson	Vice Chairman
Councillor Dr E H Jones	
Councillor Mrs J E Hadley-Roberts	
Councillor Mrs E B J Hill	
Councillor Mr A W Medcalf	
Councillor Mr M S Simpson	
Councillor Mr T Wells	MHDC/WCC
Mr R Chamings	Malvern Hills Conservators
Mr M Partridge	Public Path Warden
Mrs J Lomas	Parish Tree Warden
PC S Ransome-Williams	Local Police Officer
Mr J M Skinner	Clerk

1. Public Question and Answer

1.1. There were no members of the public present.

2. Apologies

2.1. The Council accepted the apologies from Mrs Janet Lomas and PC Sarah Ransome-Williams.

3. Code Of Conduct And Declarations Of Interest

3.1. Parish Councillors were reminded that, as required by the Parish Council Code of Conduct Order 2001, they should notify the MHDC Monitoring Officer of any changes to their Register of Interests or the receipt of any unrecorded gifts or hospitality. They should also declare any personal or prejudicial interests in any of the items of this meeting.

3.2. There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest.

4. The Race Relations And Crime And Disorder Acts

4.1. All of the business carried out and decisions made at this meeting have observed the requirements of the above acts.

5. Acceptance Of Previous Minutes

5.1. The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were taken as read, approved by the Council as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Report by PC Sarah Ransome-Williams, Local Police Officer

6.1. PC Sarah Ransome-Williams had reported by e-mail that she and a colleague had recently carried out speed measurements in the village centre, however, the results were inconclusive and a further test was planned.

7. Report by Mr M Partridge, Public Path Warden

7.1. Mr Partridge said, concerning the alleged intimidation of walkers on GU506 that the guidance from the WCC is that it can only act if it has had a direct complaint from the walkers concerned. However, it is quite possible that the walkers were not actually on GU506; the access from the road is not very obvious, and the finger post there was totally obscured by the hedge (in fact I had

reported it missing), but I have since rediscovered and cleared it. Other exits from the road nearby are either marked, or are fairly obviously private. (NB. GU is the code for Guarlford footpaths)

- 7.2. I reported a collapsed stile on GU514 to the WCC, however, it was deemed not to be a problem; I think they are short of cash at present!
- 7.3. Guided Walks. Worcester has invited all PPWs to lead guided walks in their areas next year, to be publicised on their events calendar for public access. Mr Partridge said that he would try to put together a Guarlford walk before the deadline of 18th December 2009.
- 7.4. The weather recently has not been conducive to footpath maintenance; however, the landowner tells me that he will keep an eye on the state of GU504.
- 7.5. Mr Partridge ended his report by saying that he anticipated that, due to his advancing years, he would be retiring in the New Year.

8. Report by Mrs J Lomas, Tree Warden

- 8.1. Mrs Lomas reported by e-mail that she had been consulted by Noel Deam about the state of the Hawthorns in Penny Close. The intention is that some weight will be taken out of the crown of at least one of the two hawthorns in the Close; she expected that the work would take place this winter. It is believed that that Festival Housing will be the body responsible; however, Mr Lewis Farley, the Council Tree Officer, was investigating whether or not this was so.

9. Report by Mr R Chamings, Malvern Hills Conservators

- 9.1. Mr Richard Chamings gave an account of the situation concerning the renewal of the St Anne's Well's lease and reviewed the Malvern Hills Conservators plans to take control of the enterprise in order to make improvements to both the premises and the services provided.

10. Report by Cllr Dr E Jones, Chairman Guarlford History Group

- 10.1. Cllr Dr Jones said that the History Group had its last meeting on 28th October in which it reviewed its plans for the future, which included the writing and publication of a series of booklets on various themes. The next meeting, an open one, will be on Thursday 25th February in the Village Hall to review the Group's Village Archive stored there, visitors would be welcome.

11. Parish Environment

- 11.1. Request to repair and re-paint the Pond Rails. The Clerk reported that there had been no reply to-date from the Malvern Hills Partnership. It was agreed to send a photo of the repair with the incorrect posts to the Malvern Gazette. **ACTION Clerk & Cllr Dr Jones**
- 11.2. Repair of the Pond Rails and Invitation to tender. It was agreed that no action should be taken until it was known whether or not the Malvern Hills Partnership would change the posts or paint the rails.
- 11.3. Obscuration of the village sign. The Clerk reported that the Malvern Hills Conservators had very quickly and effectively removed the vegetation obscuring the village sign.
- 11.4. New BT Adopt a Kiosk campaign. The Clerk said that BT were again inviting parish councils to adopt their kiosks, however, there were no plans to remove kiosks that were not adopted.
- 11.5. David Masters had reported that one of his donated trees had died, however, the Malvern Hills Conservators were unwilling to fund a replacement for the tree, however, they had given permission to Mr Masters to plant a replacement tree in a position of his choosing.
- 11.6. Clearance of Wood Street has now been completed by The Malvern Hills Conservators
- 11.7. The Chairman said that he would like to express the Council's thanks to Cllr Tom Wells for all his work in helping to expedite the removal of the tyres from The Homestead.

12. Planning

- 12.1. 09/01140/HOU. Meadow Cottage extension – approved by MHDC.

- 12.2. 09/01514/CPU - Certificate of Lawfulness for unspecified work for Mr C Stapleton, Meadow Cottage, Rhydd. The Parish Council were unable to comment as there was insufficient information provided by the MHDC.
- 12.3. 09/01500/HOU – Single storey side extension for Mr C Stapleton, Meadow Cottage, Rhydd. The Parish Council were again unable to comment as there was insufficient information provided by the MHDC
- 12.4. Parish Council's response to the application to convert Rose Farm Barn to a dwelling. The Parish Council had objected to the proposal which had been refused by Malvern Hills District Council.
- 12.5. The Council's response to the SWJCS's public meetings and questionnaire. The Parish Council had no comments.
- 12.6. 09/01463/AGR – Steel framed agricultural building for The Homestead. Refused by the MHDC as it does not qualify for a permitted agricultural development.

13. Administration

- 13.1. Early Day Motion 1545 – The Clerk read out the reply from Sir Michael Spicer MP.
- 13.2. Review of the Financial Standing Orders. It was proposed by Cllr M Simpson to modify paragraph 11 b (i) by replacing £250 with £500, Cllr M Huskinson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

14. Liaison With Other Bodies

- 14.1. Response to MHDC's gambling consultation. The Council had no comment.
- 14.2. MHDC's housing site briefing 3/12/09. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman reported that it was a short meeting in which a number of potential sites were proposed, some without the permission of their owners.

15. Finance

- 15.1. Cllr Dr Eric Jones, the Internal Financial Monitor, reported that he had received a summary of the accounts to date from the Clerk and that every thing appeared to be in order.
- 15.2. Clerks' agreed recommended revised salary scale from 1st April 2009, for the bottom scale, SCP15, is now £8.344/hr i.e. £1735.55 pa, an increase of £5.5 a quarter. The Council approved the new salary scale.
- 15.3. The Council approved the Clerk's salary of £433.88; back pay of £15.75 and expenses of £17.68.
- 15.4. Plough & Harrow's application for Rural Rate Relief. The Council agreed that the Plough and Harrow was not a sufficient benefit to all parishioners to justify the Parish Council contributing £315.25. The Council supported Option B which results in lower relief paid entirely by the Malvern Hills District Council. **ACTION Clerk**
- 15.5. Request from the PCC for a Churchyard maintenance donation in 2010. The Council took note of the request and it was agreed that a sum would be included in the 2010/11 budget.
- 15.6. Request from the Village Hall Committee for a donation towards the running costs of the Village Hall in 2010. The Council took note of the request and it was agreed that a sum would be included in the 2010/11 budget.
- 15.7. The Council agreed the payment of the SLCC's annual subscription of £61.
- 15.8. The Council agreed that Mr David Kuun be invited to act as the Council's Internal Auditor for the forthcoming financial year. **ACTION Clerk**
- 15.9. Cllr M Huskinson proposed that the 2009/10 donation towards the Churchyard maintenance should be £400, Cllr Dr E Jones seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.
- 15.10. The Council agreed the 2009/10 donation of £40 to the Malvern Citizens Advice Bureau.
- 15.11. The Council agreed that the precept for 2010/11 should be increased by £100 to £3200.
- 15.12. The Clerk said that the 2010/11 draft budget would be circulated before the next meeting.

15.13. The Balances of the accounts before the above payments and transfers are:

Current Account	Deposit Account	Charity Account
£2670.58	£2686.12	£108.64

16. Date Of Next Meeting

16.1. The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 PM on Monday the 8th of March 2010.

J M Skinner
Clerk

Dr P Mayner
Chairman