

Representatives of the Hall committee confirmed that in general the income meets the expenditure, the usage of the library increased by 22% last year. Volunteers cover the library; there is free intranet access but they are unable to take fines. The agreement for the Parish Council to meet the heating costs of the library were agreed around 6 or 7 years ago and the agreement was recorded in the minutes. The hall now has WiFi.

The Full meeting was opened at 20:30pm.

26-11 Apologies: No apologies were given.

27-11 Declarations of Interest: Councillor Stammers declared an interest in 11(d).

28-11 Minutes: The minutes for the previous Parish Council meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting.

29-11 Outstanding actions from previous minutes:

- The notice for the cars causing an obstruction outside Heaton House will be displayed shortly.

30-11 Progress Reports:

(a) The Clerk

- The VAS sign has been delivered, will pick up the next stage to this later on in the agenda.
- Festival have agreed to replace the tree, this will happen in September/October 2011 time.
- David Hunter will now look into the e-mail trail around the dropped curbs at Hollins Lane.
- Highways have been contacted regarding the empty grit bin on Pudford Lane.
- There is now a spreadsheet set up to record any road traffic accidents within the village. Councillors and parishioners are to advise the Clerk of any recent or future accidents within the village.
- The Parish Councils response to the SWDP document has been acknowledged.
- Tyres at Hillside and in the corner of Hollins Lane have been reported.
- The tree hanging down at Newtown opposite The Orchard has been reported.

- Martley webmasters will look to updating the pages for Martley Parish Council. The Clerk will look into setting up a page on Worcester County Councils My Parish site.
- An urgent e-mail had been received regarding the litter warden which was read out. The Clerk will terminate the employment of the current litter warden, will speak to the lengthsman and also advertise the position.
- An e-mail had been received from the Chairman at Kenswick and Wichford Parish Council requesting a donation for Nora Parsons Day Centre. The Clerk will agenda this item for the next meeting.
- The Clerk will also advertise the change in published meeting dates. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will now take place on Monday 16th May 2011, not the 9th May 2011 as this would not allow sufficient time for MHDC to notify elected Councillors. The Annual Meeting of the Parish will now take place on Saturday 21st May 2011.

PC Hood asked the Clerk to update as follows as he was unable to attend the meeting at short notice:

- Sheldon House – the lorries being used by the contractors were too big for the access, alternative lorries will be used in future where possible. Other measures were identified by Police to alleviate the blockage. If the blockage does occur again the Police have asked that they are notified immediately so they can endeavour to deploy an Officer. The Officer would need to arrive whilst the blockage was in place as the Police can't issue a penalty retrospectively.
- Ankerdine speed review is pending whilst Worcester County Council conduct their speed review. PC Hood referred to a meeting held last week on the review at Little Witley which became quite heated with strong opinion voiced against the findings of the review. PC Hood suggested it might be worth approaching Safety Camera Partnership to see if Martley could use any of their equipment.
- Youth Forum being passed to CSO Cooper.

(b) Lengthsman

The Lengthsman submitted his invoice and work schedule for the work completed in February 2011. The list for this month reads:

- 1) Clear lay-by at Hillside (monthly)
- 2) Repair grips opposite Shingledale, Hillside.

3) Clear leaves from Pudford Lane.

4) Remove low hanging branch from tree on Barbers Lane.

(c) Councillors

Councillor Gale reported that a recent meeting with the Recreation Association had gone well. The insurance has been paid by the Parish Council and fund raising was being looked into for the field.

A number of Parish Councillors met with County Councillor Davies recently to discuss the County Councils speed review. The review looks to increase speed restrictions in some areas of Martley from 30 to 40MPH. The main areas of concern were Hillside and Berrow Green. Councillor McHugh asked some of the residents who live in this area for their concerns, however, the majority of those asked did not have a concern with the proposed increase.

31-11 Committee reports, recommendations and items requiring full approval:

Finance Committee gained full approval to use the services of Iain Selkirk to conduct the internal audit for the financial year 2010/2011. The internal auditor used for the previous financial year had proved unsatisfactory.

Salaries and Personnel Committee gained full approval for the Clerk salary to match national guidelines for 2011/2012 and for full salary arrears to be paid.

32-11 District and County Councillor's reports:

District Councillor Williams reported the following:

Council's budget protects front line services – MHDC has now formally approved its budget for 2011-12, which ensures front line services are protected. With a 15.2% reduction in government grant in this year alone, the council has had to make savings of £818,610. Balancing the books, whilst maintaining core services residents need and want, has been no mean feat. The Council has managed to limit service reductions. £250,000 will be saved by working with other councils to and there will be over £300,000 saved through efficiency savings. The council will also look to boost income through some of the more specialist services it provides. We have kept our Council tax down with no increase.

Malvern Hills village halls offered £1,500 to be more energy efficient – Village halls across the Malvern Hills district could become more attractive community venues – and cheaper to run – thanks to the a scheme launched by an energy efficiency charity and funded by this council.

Act on Energy has joined forces with Malvern Hills District Council to offer free energy audits to village halls across the region – which will highlight where energy savings can be made. And they're offering £1,500 grants towards carrying out recommended energy efficiency measures.

The council funded audits will draw attention to badly insulated walls, roofs and windows, inefficient heating and lighting and point out ways to make limited funds go further.

For more information on the Malvern Hills Village Halls scheme or any other information on saving energy visit www.actonenergy.org.uk or call Allan Warnock on ext 2402.

The census is coming – Sunday March 27th – know your work postcode!

Since 1801 the nation has set aside one day every ten years to carry out a census which is effectively a count of all people and households. It helps central and local government plan housing, education, health and transport services for years to come. Census questionnaires will be arriving in the post in March, asking for information about your household and the people living or staying there on census day. You are required by law to complete the form.

County Councillor Davies had nothing to add. He thanked the Councillors for their feedback on the speed review.

33-11 Providing materials for planters in the Village:

An estimate of cost was given to be £20 each. The requirement would be for 4, a planter at each access point into the village. Councillor Gale would liaise with School Governor, Mrs Owen. Pupils will attend a Parish Council meeting in the future with more details.

34-11 Speed sign:

The Clerk will identify potential sites together with a Councillor. These will then be submitted to Worcester County Council for assessment.

35-11 Planning:

New

11/00137/FUL Tomkins Farm, Hope House Lane – Siting of static caravan

11/00196/HOU The Old Granary, Martley – Replacement patio doors, new window to ground floor, replace existing window frames and internal modifications.

11/00271/LBC 3 Lorien, Martley Court Barns - Replacement patio doors, new window to ground floor, replace existing window frames and internal modifications.

Pending

11/00098/FUL Tomkins Farm, Hope House Lane – Upgrading and alterations to farmhouse. Conversion of attached barn to form granny annexe and alterations of adjacent barn to form bat roost with storage under.

11/00073/FUL Land at The Stables, Willow Road – Conversion and extension to form live/work unit.

11/00022/HOU Bramblewood, Hipplecote – Construction of new garage and hardstanding.

Approved

11/00018/HOU Quarry Cottage, Pudford Lane – Construction of porch to existing dwelling. Demolition of existing garage and construction of 3 bay garage with home office space over.

11/00011/FUL Hawkenest Barn, Easinghope Lane – Vary condition 10 of planning permission 05/01208/FUL to allow alternate species hedge planting.

Withdrawn by applicant

10/01508/HOU Charcam Gables, Martley – Increase roof height to provide first floor accommodation above existing ground floor.

Appeal (on-going)

10/01074/HOU White Cottage, Kingswood – Erection of replacement garage and store.

(**10/01172/HOU** White Cottage, Kingswood – Erection of extensions and swimming pool approved).

36-11 Finance:

(a) The accounts for February were issued. There were 5 cheques totalling £1059.59 for payment.

(b) Payment of the invoice for the electricity for the Weighbridge was agreed. The Clerk is to request a quarterly invoice as opposed to monthly.

(c) Payment of the invoice for the speed sign and its accessories was agreed.

(d) The Village Hall Committee are in the process of seeking grant assistance for an air to air heating system. This would reduce the heating costs considerably. The Parish Council agreed to continue meeting the costs until the new heating system is in place when they will review the position. The Parish Council asked the committee to keep them updated.

37-11 Urgent decisions since the last meeting: No urgent decisions have been made since the last meeting.

38-11 Councillors reports and items for future agenda:

There were three CALC updates on display on the correspondence table for information.

The Clerk is to contact Police HQ to change the contact details for Martley Neighbourhood Watch contact.

The Clerk is to look into the possibility of arranging a litter pick day with volunteers from the village, possibly join with Wichenford. The Clerk will look into the Health and Safety guidance.

Pot holes were raised at Hope House Lane – outside New House Farm, between Tomkins Farm and Hope House Cottage, on Hollins Lane, St. Peters Drive, Ankerdine and outside Brook Court.

39-11 Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday 4th April 2011.

Meeting finished at 10:04pm.