**Minutes of the West Malvern Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 8th April 2013 in**

**West Malvern Village Hall**

**Present**

Five members of the Parish Council

County Cllr. Beverley Nielson

1. District Cllrs. John Raine & Julian Roskams

Robin Whittlestone, Footpaths Warden

Nick Hands (Malvern Hills Outdoor Centre)

1. Nathan Burlton (Colwall & Malvern Car Clubs)

Mr D Sharp (Clerk)

Eight members of the public

**1. Introduction By The Chairman**

Cllr. Shearer, chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed members of the public and introduced the guest speakers.

**2. Apologies For Absence**

Cllr. Joyce Roberts

Chris Rouse, Malvern Hills Conservators

**3. Minutes Of The Annual Parish Meeting Held On 14th May 2012.**

These were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Presentation by Nick Hands from The Malvern Hills Outdoor Education Centre.**

Mr Hands, the Centre manager, confirmed that the facility had been at risk for the past 5 years but had become self sustaining last year. It is one of three Centres owned and run by Worcestershire County Council who had decided some time ago to cease managing the projects themselves. Llanrug in Snowdonia had already been transferred to a new company, the future of Upton Warren was still in doubt, and Malvern had been likely, until recently, to be transferred to Acorn Adventure. Late last year with the help of County Cllr Beverley Nielson, staff and other interested parties formed the Malvern Hills Outdoor Education Company as a community organisation and a bid to run the centre was submitted with financial support from the Bransford Trust. The bid was finally approved last month after Acorn had withdrawn their application. A 60 year lease has been granted and the transfer was expected to take place in June.

The new management team will be able to guide the development of the Centre which will in future be known as Malvern Outdoor Elements and ensure that all profits are reinvested. Initial plans include a £1million renovation of the accommodation block.

Finally Mr Hands thanked the public for their support and invited all to an open meeting at the Elim café on 13th April. He also hoped to arrange an open day towards the end of the summer.

**5. Presentation by Nathan Burlton from Colwall Car Club**

Mr Burlton gave a brief history of the club that had started in 2009 and had since expanded with the creation of the Malvern Car Club. The clubs now owned 10 cars, parked at various locations that were available to members. Cars could be booked online and the keys obtained from a keysafe adjacent to the vehicle. A log book was completed when the car was returned and an invoice generated monthly for the user. Hire charges were levied on time and mileage and members also had to pay a £20 joining fee and £5 per month membership fee. These costs covered insurance, MOT and servicing. By running the clubs in this way members found that motoring costs were considerably reduced compared to car ownership.

Mr Burlton distributed information leaflets and the details were to be put in the Hills Echo. If the response was favourable it may be possible to start a West Malvern Car Club along the same lines.

**6. County And District Councillors Reports**

**District Cllrs. John Raine & Julian Roskams** reported that there had been three topics dominating the Council this year: Firstly a revised parking policy which would see the introduction of traffic wardens from October; secondly the South Worcestershire Development Plan whose public enquiry was due in September; and finally the introduction of wheelie bins for recycling.

1. **7. Reports From The Parish Council**

**Chairman Cllr. Bill Shearer:**

The Chairman thanked all councillors and the clerk for their hard work over the year together with County and District Councillors, tree and footpaths wardens, the allotment association committee, and all who gave up their time for the local community. Best wishes were sent to Cllr Joyce Roberts who was currently in hospital.

During the year the Council had said goodbye to District Councillor Luna Della and Parish Councillor Michelle Brown and had welcomed Julian Roskams and Andy Turner as their respective successors.

Twenty three planning applications had been considered and the council had proposed eighteen for approval and 5 for refusal, of which three had been for the Lamb Inn.

All gas lamps had been renovated and a new gas supply contract had been negotiated with British Gas. It was hoped that there would be progress this year with a central management system that would help reliability.

On the playing fields, the large bank above the bottom field had been cleared, the seesaw had been replaced and new swing seats installed. It was hoped that a train would be installed soon for the younger children.

The mini soccer pitch on the top field had been marked out and goals installed.

This year's WestFest had been a soggy affair but the team had recently made improvements to the vehicle and pedestrian access to the top field and all hoped that this years event would be a success.

A section of the Community Woodland had been cleared and a commemorative oak would soon be in place.

The Parish Council had increased allotment rents for the first time in 12 years and they were still very popular.

The events held over the Jubilee Weekend had been well attended and the Chairman thanked all the volunteers for their help. The Parish Council had marked the event by commissioning jubilee mugs which were given to all children in the village.

Little progress had been made over the freehold for the village hall, despite a meeting with the diocese in October. However a new lease had been agreed with the village hall committee.

Finally he welcomed the successful community bid to run the Outdoor Education Centre and hoped that closer ties could be forged with the local community.

**Tree Warden’s Report:**

1. John Nixon and Robert Eyre's report was presented by the Clerk. They had been marketing the 'Fruit Trees For Worcestershire' promotion and responding to enquiries. A fruit tree pruning course had been attended in North Worcestershire. They had aided David Matthews and others with planting fruit trees in the churchyard and were currently investigating a curious orange fungus.

**Parish Paths Warden’s Report:**

Robin Whittlestone reported that the majority of the143 public rights of way in the parish were in good order and accessible. One was dangerous and completely obstructed and two others were partially obstructed by barbed wire. All stiles had been replaced on the footpath below Runnings Park with gates and was now particularly easy to use. Finally he urged residents to contact him if they encountered problems on any of the local paths.

**Clerk – Financial Report:**

The Clerk presented draft accounts for the Parish Council and answered a query regarding gas

lamp costs.

**8. Questions & Comments From The Floor**

Following a query from a resident the Chairman confirmed that there were no additional plans to celebrate the coronation jubilee this year.

The Chairman thanked the public and speakers for attending and the meeting closed at 8.30pm.