

Minutes of the West Malvern Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.45pm on Monday 14th May 2018 in West Malvern Village Hall

Present

Six members of the Parish Council, District & County Cllr. Prof J Raine, District Cllr. N McVey, Mr Duncan Bridges and Mr Simon Freeman (Malvern Hills Trust), Mr D Sharp (Clerk) and seven members of the public.

1. Introduction By The Chairman

Cllr. Shearer, chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed Mr Bridges and Mr Freeman from Malvern Hills Trust and the members of the public.

2. Apologies For Absence

Parish Cllr. Mrs C Bower & Mr C Penn (Malvern Hills Trust).

3. Minutes Of The Annual Parish Meeting Held On 8th May 2017.

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

4. Presentation by Malvern Hills Trust

Mr Freeman outlined the current constraints on the Trust: The Trust wanted to introduce new trading powers to gain additional finance from selling memorabilia, souvenirs etc. as well as from the tax payer. Fewer landowners are exercising their grazing rights as the majority of property owners are not involved in agriculture. A good deal of stock is lost due to road casualties. Additional funding would allow prevention measures to be put in place.

As well as changes to management changes in governance were to be considered. An appointed board rather than the elected/nominated process at present would allow experts in the field to be recruited, and a smaller board would be more efficient.

All these points were to be open to public consultation in the coming months.

5. County And District Councillors Reports

District Cllrs. Raine and McVey commented how smoothly the alternate weekly waste and recycling collections had been. No other major news was reported but the Broadlands Drive development just outside the parish may bring in some much welcome S106 funding. County Cllr. Raine reported that an independent company was to run the County Council's Children's Services from July. The new school warning signs were awaiting a timer to be fitted before they could be used. Also he was glad to report several footways had been resurfaced and he hoped that the entrance to Malvern Outdoor Elements would be widened to facilitate coach drop offs and protect the allotment fence from further damage.

6. Reports From The Parish Council

i. Chairman's Report: Cllr. Shearer reported that the maintenance of the bluebell field had been reviewed with help from the AONB and a Worcestershire County Council ecologist; more trees had been removed from area around the glade and the council planned to install a path across the area to join the existing network within the community woodland.

The gas lamps continue to be maintained by Brian Harper and his band of gasketeers and the council was currently getting them all repainted.

The two telephone boxes in the village had been purchased from BT. A grant from Cllr. Riane would help renovate them. The one by the village hall has had new glass installed and with help from Sara Bennet has been turned into a book share. The one at the Dingle has yet to be started but the plan is to turn it into an information centre and the AONB are onboard with producing a local map.

Finally he thanked to Cllr. Raine for getting warning signs installed by the primary school.

ii. Tree Warden's Report:

John Nixon's report was presented by the Clerk: He had spent a number of hours working on the Community Orchard by the Church. There had been damage to the fruit trees from inadvertent strimming and perhaps by muntjac deer. One tree was missing altogether and one had died. Every single tree was 'bark damaged' which had made them vulnerable to bad weather and disease. All the trees had been re-staked, and with help of Rob Smyth of Elim weed killer sprayed around the trees and special RHS damage limitation paint applied and stem guards were fitted. All costs were covered by David Matthews. Seats had been provided by residents

On his inspection last week it looked likely that two more weakened trees would be lost due to the severe weather.

He had also helped one resident liaise with a neighbour to reduce tree height to improve views.

iii. Clerk's Financial Report:

The Clerk presented draft accounts for the Parish Council. There were no queries.

7. Questions & Comments From The Floor Regarding Other Parish Matters

No further matters were raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm