

## Malvern Wells Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Environment Committee** duly convened and held in The Committee Room of Malvern Wells Village Hall- commencing at 7.30 pm on **Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2019**

**Present:** N Nimmo- Smith, P Clement, Mrs J Smethurst, P Stanier, S Atwell

**In Attendance:** D Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

**Apologies for absence:** R Winterton

### **1 Appointment of a Chairman for the Meeting**

It was agreed that Peter Clement would Chair the meeting.

### **2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on the 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting.

### **3 Matters arising from the Minutes** There were none.

### **4 Report of the Parish Paths Warden – Norman Nimmo – Smith PPW Report for Environmental Committee Meeting, 17th July 2019**

There have been no reports of any major problems since the last committee in April. With the growing season in full swing, the priority has been cutting back vegetation on paths and bridleways to ensure they remain passable with ease.

Concern has been expressed by a resident in King's Road living adjacent to bridleway **MW-551** about the state of the trees in the wood owned by Abbey College. The bridleway runs through the wood and there has been a long history of fallen trees blocking the route. Another tree recently fell and landed a short distance from the resident's house, although this time the bridleway wasn't affected. As a result, the WCC Countryside Service have asked their Highways Tree Surgeon to inspect the trees along the bridleway and assess what action needs to be taken.

The Swingfields Festival was held again this year in early July on land owned by Brickbarns Farm. Two bridleways (**MW-524 and MW-529**) run along the boundary of the Festival site and the WCC Countryside Service received a report that a walker had been stopped by security staff. I visited the site and was assured by head of security that

legitimate walkers, horse-riders and cyclists were not being prevented from using the bridleways. The Festival's main problem was journalists masquerading as walkers who were attempting to take photographs of the private event.

A spring adjacent to bridleway **MW-511** has seeped onto a section of the path, creating very boggy conditions underfoot. The landowner, Adrian Frost, has been notified and he has agreed to deal with it. Additionally, the bridleway has become overgrown and needs to be strimmed.

## **5 Review of footpaths and rights of way reports from assistant parish paths wardens (PPW)**

Peter Clement advised that he had cut back excess growth from bridleway **MW-523**. Bridleways **MW-525** and **MW-528** were in need of strimming.

Footpath **MW-526** again requires vegetation cleared and the silted stream bed dug out.

Footpath **MW-527** A crop of Barley was blocking the footpath making it impassable. The owner of Brickbarns farm would be asked to take remedial action to clear the blockage. Footpath **W-554** was very overgrown and in urgent need of strimming

Norman Nimmo Smith reported that on **MW- 534** and **MW- 537** there were damaged stiles and the landowner, and the County Council had been advised with a view to repairs being undertaken

Jackie Smethurst reported that she had undertaken work to clear brambles on **MW-508** and strimming was now required

Steve Atwell advised that part of **MW-550** was overgrown and in need of strimming

## **6 Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that future meetings would take place as far as possible on the third Wednesday of each month.

The next meeting of the Committee was then scheduled for Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 pm

Approved Chairman ----- 16 October, 2019