

Malvern Wells Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Environment Committee** duly convened and held in The Committee Room, Malvern Wells Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm on **Tuesday, 19th July, 2011**

Present: Peter Clement, Cllr Ann Cheeseman, N Nimmo-Smith, Marilyn Millen, Pam Stanier, Richard Winterton, Tom and Ros Hayes, John Lambeth, Michael Jupe

In Attendance: David Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

Apologies: Cllrs Peter Buchanan and Jim Black

1 Appointment of a Chairman for the Meeting & Welcome

It was agreed that Peter Clement should Chair the meeting.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12th April, 2011, having been previously circulated, were **approved** and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3 Matters arising from the Minutes

Footpath 553, 535 and 536 - Norman Nimmo- Smith advised that undergrowth along the footpaths at the western end of footpath 553 and the northern part of footpath 553 was still overgrown making negotiation of the paths difficult and further strimming along those sections of the footpaths was required.

Footpath 555 Pam Stanier and Richard Winterton reported that the handrail at the top of the steps on Footpath 555 had not yet been repaired.

The Clerk advised that these reports would be passed to the Parish Council's Lengthsman so that remedial works could be undertaken.

Footpath 513 - the exposed cable case on the surface of footpath 513 had still not been properly re-laid back to the correct depth required by the E-On engineer. The Clerk advised that he would contact the landowner again to ask that this work be undertaken as a matter of urgency.

Parish Paths Warden Training -Ros and Tom Hayes informed the meeting that they had now undertaken a PPW training course which County Council officers had provided at their home. Ros agreed to send Peter Cement details of the equipment which they had been given.

Malvern Walking Festival - Peter Clement advised that, whilst the attendance at the event had been slightly down when compared to the previous year, more than 300 members had attended the various and the amount of funds raised would be sufficient to help fund the promotion of the festival in 2012

4 Report of the Parish Warden

Peter Clement advised that there had been a very disappointing response to the Guided walk that he had led on behalf of Worcestershire County Council.

Peter was of the view that the County Council had not properly marketed the event with only a family of three attending. Peter had spent a considerable amount of pruning bushes and brambles overhanging the route and felt that, because of the

very low attendance on the walk the significant amount of the time he had committed to the event was not justified and he would be contacting the County Council to express his disappointment with the marketing of the event

Peter requested that all outstanding Parish Path Wardens work reports should be returned to the Clerk as soon as possible so that any remedial works necessary could be dealt with.

5 To Review Public Rights of Way in the 'Care of Each Member'

Assistant Parish Path wardens reports were submitted as follows: -

Norman Nimmo- Smith advised that the grass on footpaths 536/553 was overgrown and further strimming was required. A stile at the junction of footpath 553,535 and 536 was broken and, whilst a temporary repair had been undertaken, the stile was likely to deteriorate further with use.

John Lambeth reported that the stile at the bottom of the steps from the old railway embankment where at the junction of footpath 510 and 511 require repair or replacement. Also the handrail adjacent to the steps at the same location needs remedial work to make it more secure.

Marilyn Millen reported Path undefined in several areas, landowner needs to mow a clear path along the edge of the field

Following successful completion of their training Tom and Ros Hayes were now available to fully take on the role of Asst Parish Path Wardens. Following discussion it was decided to allocate Tom and Ros responsibility for footpaths 533,536 552 and 553

This would leave the revised responsibility for each of the footpaths agreed as follows:-

Jim Black	544, 546, 547, 550, 551
Peter Buchanan	558, 559, 530, 531
Michael Jupe	523,524,529,548
John Lambeth	504, 507, 508, 509, 664 & 665
Pam Stanier/ Richard Winterton	501,502,515,516,517,518,520,522,555,666
N Nimmo- Smith	532,534,535,537,538,539
Marilyn Millen	510,511,512,513,514
Tom and Ros Hayes	533,536,552,553

The Clerk advised that he would contact the county Council Countryside officers to ask them to undertake the necessary repairs to the stiles that had been mentioned in the footpath reports and that he would instruct the parish lengthsman to undertake further strimming work where footpaths had been reported as overgrown.

6 Shredded bark on footpaths

The Clerk advised that there was the possibility that some shredded bark material may become available following tree work that might be needed in the Cemetery. Footpaths

Footpaths 509, 523 and 550 were identified as priorities for the use of such material. The Clerk agreed to liaise with the respective Path Wardens if and when such material becomes available for use.

7. Worcestershire Wardens' Partnership – Annual volunteer Event 14th September

The Clerk had circulated details of the Worcestershire Wardens Partnership annual thank you event which was being held this year at the Wyre Forest discovery Centre in Bewdley. As spaces on the event were limited Members interested in attending were asked to contact the Clerk by no later than 29th July so that bookings could be made.

8 Date of Next Scheduled Meeting(s):

11th October 2011 and 3rd January, 2012

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.30 pm

Chairman

11th October, 2011